

January 3rd, 2023 TUESDAY

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date at 8:00 AM in their office at the Courthouse. Those present were Commissioner Larry Hendrickson (Chair), Commissioner Justin Wickum, and Commissioner Joette Woods.

NEW RESOLUTIONS

The Commissioners began the first meeting of the new year by dealing with the required resolutions, beginning with Resolution 23-01 setting Commissioners hours as every Tuesday and Wednesdays following the first and second Tuesday of the month. Commissioner Woods made a motion to approve, and Commissioner Wickum seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

RESOLUTION 23-01

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 7-5-2122, MCA, the board of County Commissioners shall establish by resolution a regular meeting date and notify the public of that date;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; by the Liberty County Commissioners that they shall meet every Tuesday of each month, and the Wednesdays following the first and second Tuesdays of each month.

FURTHERMORE, be it resolved, that the hours that they shall meet will be from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, excepting the hour from noon to 1:00 PM.

DATED THIS 3rd DAY OF JANUARY, 2023.



ATTEST:

Davin Buffington
Davin Buffington
Liberty County Clerk and Recorder

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Larry Hendrickson
Chairman

Justin Wickum
Commissioner

Joette Woods
Commissioner

Commissioner Wickum made a motion to approve Resolution 23-02 setting hours for the County Superintendent as Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 am to 3 pm, the Justice of the Peace as Tuesday 9 am to 5 pm, and regular business hours for all other county offices. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

RESOLUTION 23-02

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 7-4-102, MCA, the board of County Commissioners shall establish by resolution regular office hours;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; by the Liberty County Commissioners that each office shall be open for the transaction of business during the office hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on legal holidays, excepting the following offices, which are as follows:

County Superintendent of Schools: Tuesday & Wednesday, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, excepting the hour from noon to 1:00 PM.

Justice of the Peace Office: Tuesdays, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, excepting the hour from noon to 1:00 PM.

DATED THIS 3rd DAY OF JANUARY, 2023.



ATTEST:

Davin Buffington
Davin Buffington
Liberty County Clerk and Recorder

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Larry Hendrickson
Chairman

Justin Wickum
Commissioner

Joette Woods
Commissioner

Commissioner Wickum made a motion to approve Resolution 23-03 setting per diem rates for accommodations, meals, and mileage. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

RESOLUTION 23-03

WHEREAS, the board of County Commissioners may, by resolution, establish mileage, lodging and per diem rates for business travel;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; by the Liberty County Commissioners, that Liberty County Employees, when traveling in the normal course of their duties to designated areas, shall be reimbursed for the cost of meals, lodging and per diem within the rates established pursuant to MCA 2-18-501, 2-18-502, and 2-18-503 and in accordance with the following provisions:

- 1) Lodging must be reimbursed at actual cost, not to exceed the prescribed standard state rate per day. All claims for lodging reimbursement allowed must be documented by an appropriate receipt.
- 2) In-state meal reimbursement may not exceed \$13.00 for morning meal, \$15.00 for mid-day meal, and \$26.00 for evening meal. All claims for meal reimbursement allowed must be documented by an appropriate receipt. If meals are included in your activity, but you can choose to eat elsewhere at your own expense.
- 3) Out-of-state meal reimbursement may not exceed \$18.00 for morning meal, \$20.00 for mid-day meal, and \$30.00 for evening meal. All claims for meal reimbursement allowed must be documented by an appropriate receipt. If meals are included in your activity, but you can choose to eat elsewhere at your own expense.
- 4) The mileage will be reimbursed at the prescribed standard state rate.
 - a. Except that if the county vehicle is available for use and the choice is made not to use it, the mileage reimbursement for use of your personal vehicle for county business, will be at 60% of the state rate.

DATED THIS 3rd DAY OF JANUARY, 2023.

Commissioner Wickum made a motion to approve Resolution 23-04 designating the posting location for the Commissioners calendar and agenda. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

Commissioner Woods made a motion to approve Resolution 23-05 detailing the disposition of bodies and burial of persons on private property. Commissioner Wickum seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

CARBON MONOXIDE INCIDENT

On December 29th an emergency closure of the courthouse occurred due to high levels of carbon monoxide detected in the building by carbon monoxide detectors and by Northwestern Energy. Employees were sent home and offices were closed until repairs were made so that the building could be safely occupied again. Commissioner Hendrickson was on site for this incident and declared the closure. Jim Vinson, Northwestern Energy, returned today to check the carbon monoxide levels after the boiler (the cause of the leak) had been worked on. Levels were still elevated but within allowable levels.

Liberty County Emergency Declaration Resolution
Resolution No. 23-06
A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LIBERTY COUNTY, MONTANA
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY RESULTING FROM HIGH CO2 LEVELS INSIDE COURTHOUSE.

Whereas, Section 10-3-103 (8) M.C.A. defines "emergency" as the imminent threat of disaster causing immediate peril to life or property that timely action can avert or minimize; and

Whereas, Section 10-3-103 (4) M.C.A. defines "disaster" as the occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury or loss of life or property resulting from accidents involving hazardous materials.

Whereas, A high level of Carbon Monoxide gas has impacted the Liberty County Courthouse, causing the closure of the courthouse and all offices inside the building on Thursday, December 29th 2022.

Whereas, Section 10-3-103 (1) (2) M.C.A. provides that an emergency declaration may be issued by order of resolution whenever the principal executive officer determines an emergency is occurring or has occurred. And

Whereas, Section 10-3-103- (11) defines "principal executive officer" as the presiding officer of the county commissioners and

Whereas, Section 10-3-404 (1) provides that an order of resolution declaring an emergency shall indicate the nature of the emergency, the are threatened, and the conditions which have brought about the declaration, and

Whereas, the principal executive officer of Liberty County, Montana, has determined an emergency is occurring or has occurred (10-3-402) as set forth below in this resolution, and

Whereas, a disaster declaration may be terminated when the principal executive officer determines that the disaster conditions no longer exist. (10-3-402) (3)

Whereas, High levels of carbon monoxide detected due to a malfunctioning heat system, have caused the occurrence or imminent threat of toxic air quality in the Liberty County Courthouse, making the courthouse an unsafe environment for its employees and patrons. And

Whereas, the area threatened was the Liberty County Courthouse and its entirety.

Be It Further Resolved, that copies of this resolution be filed with the Liberty County Clerk and Recorder.

Now, Therefore, It is hereby resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Liberty County, State of Montana the 29th day of December 2022. That

1. Disaster Declaration. The principal executive officer having determined that a disaster is occurring or has occurred, by this resolution an emergency declaration is issued.

Effective this ___ day of _____, 2022

WEED DEPARTMENT

Jim Ghekiere informed the Commissioners that he had been awarded a free skid steer, however the County will have to pay the freight to have it delivered from Georgetown Lake.

TIBER TOWNSHIP

Chris Kolstad called the Commissioners to discuss the Tiber Township dissolution he is working on. The Commissioners provided him with a state real estate supervisor number from the Department of Transportation.

BOAT STORAGE

Dave Ghekiere and Sheriff Nick Erickson stopped by to discuss the storage of the County Search and Rescue boat. There will be a meeting on Monday the 9th to discuss further, Commissioner Hendrickson will attend.

There being no further business, the regular meeting of the Board of Liberty County Commissioners was adjourned at 5:00 PM

ATTEST: _____ Clerk _____ Chairman

January 4th, 2023 WEDNESDAY

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date at 8:00 AM in their office at the Courthouse. Those present were Commissioner Larry Hendrickson (Chair), Commissioner Justin Wickum, and Commissioner Joette Woods.

COURTHOUSE BOILER

The Courthouse boiler has been temporarily fixed, however a permanent solution will need to be in place before next winter. All carbon monoxide detectors in the Courthouse have been updated.

SEWER PROJECTS

The Commissioners called the Farm Service Agency to find out if the sewer projects in Joplin and Chester would impact FSA programs on the land that the sewage would be applied on.

ROAD ABANDONMENT PETITION

Commissioner Woods made a motion to approve Resolution 23-07 and a petition from Resident Ed Cole, both to close Road 5150 and Road 1350. Commissioner Wickum seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

Road Abandonment Petition

Resolution 23-07

The Liberty County Commissioners have been petitioned to abandon Road 5150 S. 1350 E.

Whereas, The Liberty County Commission has fully Abandon Road 5150 S. 1350 E. and

Whereas, All surrounding land owners agreed to the abandonment. and

Whereas, Road 5150 S. 1350 E. will no longer be on the county gas tax map.

Whereas, Road 5150 S. 1350E. will no longer be maintained by the county

Dated this day Wednesday January 4th 2023


Davin Buffington
Liberty County Clerk and Recorder


Commissioner (Chair)




Commissioner

Commissioner

WEED DEPARTMENT

Jim Ghekiere, Weed Department Director, informed the Commissioners that he and Charlie Thielman would be going to Georgetown in the next week to pick up the donated skid steer.

MSU EXTENSION

Jesse Fulbright, MSU Extension Agent, let the Commissioners know that he will be attending an agriculture conference and after that he will be taking some of the 4-H kids to attend the Montana State Legislature.

SHERIFF DEPARTMENT

Sheriff Nick Erickson came into provide updates on his department to the Commissioners. He also informed the Commissioners that he is looking for more storage space for search and rescue vehicles.

LIBRARY ESPRESSO SHOP

Librarian Julie Erickson informed the Commissioners that they are planning to implement a new payment system for the espresso shop at the library. The Library Board will select the system and once they approve it, Julie will let the Commissioners know.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health Nurses Kayla Johnson and Melissa Kantorowicz came in and let the Commissioners know that they are planning to apply for some new grants and will also be raising the prices of vaccines.

SEWER PROJECTS

The Commissioners spoke with Austin at Robert Peccia & Associates to update him on land owners that are interested in sludge spread on their land when the sewer projects start. Also present was Ashley Wickum, Town of Chester.

There being no further business, the regular meeting of the Board of Liberty County Commissioners was adjourned at 5:00 PM

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

January 10th, 2023 TUESDAY

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date at 8:00 AM in their office at the Courthouse. Those present were Commissioner Larry Hendrickson (Chair) and Commissioner Justin Wickum.

LEPC

The monthly LEPC meeting was held at the Fire Hall, both Commissioners Hendrickson and Wickum attended.

CLERK AND RECORDER

Clerk and Recorder Davin Buffington was in to discuss an issue with the taxes collected on the sheep producers for the control of predatory animals. The invoice that was presented to Liberty County was \$124.00 more than what had been collected, so an adjustment was made.

SHERIFF DEPARTMENT

Sheriff Nick Erickson updated the Commissioners on a situation he encountered during the week.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Justice of the Peace Christopher Case let the Commissioners know that he will be subbing for a judge in Chouteau County this week. He is still waiting for his email and computer to be set up.

PAYROLL

Payroll Specialist Jordan Miller presented payroll to the Commissioners for them to review and approve. Upon review, Commissioner Wickum made a motion to approve payroll. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

CLAIMS

Claims Specialist Monica Serrato presented claims for the Commissioners to review and approve. Upon review, Commissioner Wickum made a motion to approve claims. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

There being no further business, the regular meeting of the Board of Liberty County Commissioners was adjourned at 5:00 PM

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

January 11th, 2023 WEDNESDAY

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date at 8:00 AM in their office at the Courthouse. Those present were Commissioner Larry Hendrickson (Chair) and Commissioner Justin Wickum.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Justice of the Peace, Christopher Case, updated the Commissioners on some of his cases.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

County Attorney Robert Padmos informed the Commissioners that it would be helpful if Liberty County elected officials went to Helena during legislation in order to lobby on issues that impact the county.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Nick Erickson let the Commissioners know that he is still looking for another dispatcher.

WEED DEPT/911

Jim Ghekiere, Weed/911, updated the Commissioners on a grant that he is reporting on. He is also still working on updating the SAMS number updated for the West Liberty Rural Fire District, which needs equipment.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, let the Commissioners know that she is having issues with her computer and has ordered two new ones.

There being no further business, the regular meeting of the Board of Liberty County Commissioners was adjourned at 5:00 PM

ATTEST: _____
Clerk Chairman

January 17th, 2023 TUESDAY

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date at 8:00 AM in their office at the Courthouse. Those present were Commissioner Larry Hendrickson (Chair), Commissioner Justin Wickum, and Commissioner Joette Woods.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Justice of the Peace Christopher Case was in to update the Commissioners on a situation that occurred over the weekend.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Commissioner Woods made a motion to approve membership renewal for the Liberty County Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$170.00. Commissioners Wickum seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

INCIDENT REPORT

An incident report was completed by the Commissioners regarding the Courthouse closure at the end of December due to carbon monoxide levels.

CEMETERY BOARD

The Commissioners received a letter of resignation from a member of the Cemetery Board. As the Commissioners do not oversee this board, they will pass the letter along to the board.

LIBERTY COUNT TRANSIT PLAN

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, presented the Liberty County Transit Coordination Plan to the Commissioners for fiscal year 2024 for their review and approval. Commissioner Woods made a motion to approve the plan. Commissioner Wickum seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

PUBLIC HEALTH/DISTASTER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Melissa Kantorowicz and Kayla Johnson were in to check in with the Commissioners after the Emergency Planning Committee meeting. They are asking EMS to complete the NIMS 100 (National Incident Management System) course for incident command.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Liberty County had the option to buy out the graders instead of leasing new ones. The intent of buying graders is for the County to be able to maintain and improve County infrastructure. Commissioner Wickum made a motion to sign the buyout loan documents. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

MSU EXTENSION

Jesse Fulbright, MSU Extension Agent, updated the Commissioners on his trip to the state capital.

COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

County School Superintendent Kathy Armstrong updated the Commissioners on what is happening in District 10.

There being no further business, the regular meeting of the Board of Liberty County Commissioners was adjourned at 5:00 PM

ATTEST: _____
Clerk Chairman

January 17th, 2023 TUESDAY

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date at 8:00 AM in their office at the Courthouse. Those present were Commissioner Larry Hendrickson (Chair), Commissioner Justin Wickum, and Commissioner Joette Woods.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Justice of the Peace Chris Case visited with the Commissioners and updated them on some classes that he's taking for his position.

SENATOR TEMPEL

Senator Russ Tempel called the Commissioners to provide them updates on upcoming bills and the agenda at the State Legislature.

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Melissa Kantorowicz (Public Health) and Kayla Johnson (DES) were in to update the Commissioners on DES trainings and to provides some updates on Public Health.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

County Attorney Robert Padmos was in to provide updates to the Commissioners on CJI-District 10 issues and also a situation that came up at the County Library.

RESIDENT CONCERNS

Dan Davis stopped by to discuss some items he was concerned about with the county. Scott Swank also stopped by to discuss property taxes.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center, stopped by to share updates from the Senior Center with the Commissioners.

PAYROLL

Payroll Specialist Jordan Miller presented payroll to the Commissioners for them to review and approve. Upon review, Commissioner Wickum made a motion to approve payroll. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

CLAIMS

Claims Specialist Monica Serrato presented claims for the Commissioners to review and approve. Upon review, Commissioner Wickum made a motion to approve claims. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

BANK FEES

Commissioner Wickum made a motion to approve the bank fees associated with the grader purchases. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT

County Superintendent Kathy Armstrong stopped by to update the Commissioners on some school issues.

FIRST BANK OF MONTANA

Chris Mattson from First Bank of Montana stopped by to get a printout of minutes for the proof of sale on the grader buyouts for First Bank.

MSU EXTENSION

Jesse Fulbright, MSU Extension Agent, discussed a presentation for serving on local boards. He is hoping to invite Dan Clark to give the presentation here in March.

NEW CAT REPRESENTATIVE

Landon from Tractor & Equipment stopped by to introduce himself as the new representative from CAT. The Commissioners will be meeting with him again while in Helena for MACo.

There being no further business, the regular meeting of the Board of Liberty County Commissioners was adjourned at 5:00 PM

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

January 31st, 2023 TUESDAY

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date at 8:00 AM in their office at the Courthouse. Those present were Commissioner Larry Hendrickson (Chair), Commissioner Justin Wickum, and Commissioner Joette Woods.

MSU EXTENSION AGENT

Jesse Fulbright, MSU Extension Agent, updated the Commissioners about 4-H training for volunteers and informed them that he will be working on cleaning out the courthouse basement with the assistance of a couple of people in need of community service hours. Some items will be removed and stored elsewhere.

BEAR PAW DEVELOPMENT

Commissioner Wickum made a motion to approve the Bear Paw Development renewal. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

TRANSIT OPERATING GRANT

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, stopped by to have the Commissioners sign the Transit Operating Grant.

SENATOR DAINES

Robert Bruskotter from Senator Daines office stopped by to visit with the Commissioners on issues that the county might be facing. He also updated the Commissioners on items that Senator Daines is working on in the Senate.

HELIUM IN LIBERTY COUNTY

Daxton Yont from Thor Resources stopped in to meet with the Commissioners and interested parties with information about possible helium production in Liberty County. Bo Woods attended the meeting as a member of the public. Mr. Yont informed the group that Thor Resources would be looking for gravel, water trucks, 3-phase electricity, and hiring people as a part of this project.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

County Attorney Robert Padmos updated the Commissioners on a tax deed issue.

CLERK AND RECORDER

Clerk and Recorder Davin Buffington met with the Commissioners for a mid-fiscal year status report on budgets. At this point, departments are within their budgets for the half-year mark.

LIBRARY BOARD

The Library Board met in the Commissioners office. In attendance: Christie Lakey, Robert Padmos (County Attorney), Sheriff Nick Erickson, Julie Erickson (Librarian), Randi Violett, Chris Case (JP), Shelly Sheldon, and all three Commissioners.

There being no further business, the regular meeting of the Board of Liberty County Commissioners was adjourned at 5:00 PM

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman