

JULY 5, 2022 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 Maureen “Morb” Wicks, and Commissioner Joette Woods (Chair). Commissioner Larry Hendrickson was out of the office.

MUSEUM BOARD

The Museum Board met and Commissioner Wicks attended on behalf of the Commissioners. The Museum Board hired a new Clerk 2 at the library as Diane Gunderson has resigned effective July 17th. Rhonda Peterson will be the new Clerk 2 and Gloria Benham is Clerk 1. Commissioner Woods will be taking over signing checks on the Museum account from Commissioner Wicks as she is resigning. The Board also discussed new equipment to go into the Museum.

CLAIMS

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

BOARD REPLACEMENTS

Commissioner Woods will be replacing Commissioner Wicks on the Mental Health Board and the Board of Health.

PER DIEM RATES

Commissioner Wicks made a motion to approve Resolution 22-10, raising the per diem rates to the state rates for travel, lodging, and meals for county employees on county business. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

ROADS

Road Foreman Justin Wickum was in to update the Commissioners on crew placement for the week and the maintainers. Todd Wanken came in to ask if he could put some pit run on the road they use to get to their property. It is an east/west road, not a main road. The Commissioners said to go ahead and put rocks in the holes on that road.

PREDATOR CONTROL FUND

Commissioner Wicks made a motion to approve the Predator Control Fund for the 22-23 fiscal year to \$1.00/head for sheep and \$0.50/head for cattle. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, came in to update the Commissioners about the Senior Center. Price increases for meals went into effect on July 1st.

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

ATTEST: _____

Clerk

Chairman

JULY 6, 2022 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 Maureen “Morb” Wicks, and Commissioner Joette Woods (Chair). Commissioner Larry Hendrickson was out of the office.

ROADS

Road Foreman Justin Wickum called in to inform the Commissioners that the road crew is working on 2100 Road north of town.

MSU EXTENSION

Jesse Fulbright, Extension Agent, came in to update the Commissioners on his recent travels for Extension work.

CLERK AND RECORDER

Davin Buffington, Clerk and Recorder, came in to update the Commissioners on the Public Health budget and expenditures. There is concern with grants coming in and the cost of inflation. The Commissioners will be meeting with the Public Health Department next week.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Robert Padmos, County Attorney, updated the Commissioners on job interviews and some documents that the Commissioners need to review.

HEALTHY LIBERTY COUNTY

Commissioner Wicks attended the Healthy Liberty County meeting at the Senior Center.

RESIDENT INQUIRY

Rob Laas, Liberty County resident, came in to discuss with the Commissioners where he could get some gravel for a grain dryer. It was explained to him that the County does not sell gravel and that he would have to speak with gravel pit owners personally.

FIRE SAFETY IN COUNTY BUILDINGS

Jerry Ghekiere updated the Commissioners on annual Fire Safety inspections. All county fire extinguishers are up to code. There are two at the Liberty County Museum that will be replaced. Jerry is recommending central air for the Museum, and is going to meet with Cory Conant of Conant Heating and Cooling for a quote. The fire suppressor over the stove at the Senior Center will have to be maintained by someone else in order to meet code; the Commissioners informed Glenda, Senior Center Director, of this so that she can find someone. Jerry also had all the county-owned generators checked. The generator for the Sheriff’s Office needs some parts

but is functionable until they come in. The school generator has a line that is getting air in it, check valves are being installed. The Senior Center generator is also working well but does need some replacement parts which have been ordered.

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

ATTEST: _____

Clerk

Chairman

JULY 12, 2022 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 Maureen “Morb” Wicks, Commissioner Larry Hendrickson, and Commissioner Joette Woods (Chair).

ROADS

Road Foreman Justin Wickum checked in with the Commissioners; the heavy rain washed out some roads so his crew will be spending some time working on those. To reduce the potential for fire, Windy Ridge Road will be mowed before the hot weather sets in.

WEED DEPARTMENT

Jim Ghekiere, Weed Department, updated the Commissioners on the side-by-sides that had some work done. He also shared that he has enough crew to keep up this year. He is hoping to get to the top of the Sweetgrass Hills to check radio towers and look for obnoxious weeds.

AMBULANCE

Tara Hendrickson and Julie Erickson came in to discuss the annual rate of transfers and payments for EMS/Ambulance. The number of transfers has increased quite a bit.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, updated the Commissioners on the Sysco truck and food availability. Her staff have been staying healthy and transit is going well. Due to staff shortage, there will not be bus service on Sundays.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Justice of the Peace Holly Frederickson came in to update the Commissioners on her office which has been relatively quite with not many cases coming through thus far this summer.

JOPLIN SEWER

Austin Wargo of Robert Peccia and Associates called in to let the Commissioners know when they will be surveying the Joplin sewer and to let the Commissioners know the stipulations of sewage spreading once they dredge the pond.

PAYROLL

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

COUNCIL ON AGING

Commissioner Wicks attended the Council on Aging meeting. They discussed putting a vehicle in the Homecoming Parade with the “Senior of the Year” riding inside. They are also planning to participate in the Harvest Festival possible selling soup or pie.

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

ATTEST: _____

Clerk

Chairman

JULY 13, 2022 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 Maureen “Morb” Wicks, Commissioner Larry Hendrickson, and Commissioner Joette Woods (Chair).

COMMISSIONER WICKS

This will be Commissioner Wicks’ last day as a Liberty County Commissioner. The Commissioners will be at the District 4 & 5 meetings at the Senior Center for the majority of the day.

CLERK AND RECORDER

Clerk and Recorder Davin Buffington let the Commissioners know that the cash report for each department was good for the start of the fiscal year.

RESIDENT INQUIRY

Ed Cole, Liberty County Resident, called to ask the Commissioners if Road 5150 South could be abandoned- this road goes from 223 to Moffit Bridge. The Commissioners informed him that it cannot be abandoned due to it being an access road for the Bureau of Land Management and the State of Montana.

FINANCIALS

The Commissioners transferred some CARES Act monies into a CIP fund.

CLAIMS

Claims Specialist Monica Serrato presented claims to the Commissioners for review and approval. Upon review, Commissioner Wicks made a motion to approve claims. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no 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

JULY 19, 2022 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, and Commissioner Joette Woods (Chair).

ROADS

Road Foreman Justin Wickum informed the Commissioners that the road crew are in Shelby doing Liberty County’s in-kind share of work for the Fair. They will be returning in the afternoon.

COMMISSIONER REPLACEMENT

The Commissioners received the list of names to consider as replacement for the South District Commissioner position from the Democratic Committee. The names are Casey Buffington, Shane Gagnon, and Harriet Marble. The Commissioners will review and consider the list.

MSU EXTENSION

Jesse Fulbright, MSU Extension Agent, came in to update the Commissioners on his office; he’s been focused on the fair and attending educational trainings.

MACO DUES

MACo dues in the amount of \$4,548.00 are due. These dues pay for services the County gets from MACo officials, and includes NACo dues. Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to approve the payment of dues. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

HAZARD MITIGATION

Kayla Johnson, Public Health/DES, and Ashley Wickum, Chester City Clerk, met with the Commissioners to complete the Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Commissioners assisted with proving some needed information.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

Commissioner Woods will be in Colorado this week attending the NACo conference.

WEED

Jim Ghekiere, Weed Department, came in to update the Commissioners on the purchase of a new heater for one of the snow-plowing side-by-sides. He is also looking into purchasing another Polaris side-by-side as the Weed Department needs another one.

CLAIMS

Monica Serrato, Claims Specialist, presented claims to the Commissioners for their review and approval. Upon review, Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to approve claims. Commissioner Woods 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

JULY 26, 2022 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, and Commissioner Joette Woods (Chair).

ROADS

Road Foreman Justin Wickum came in to discuss updates on graders and part orders. Parts have been difficult to get in a timely manner. He shared that CAT Finance is offering a buyout of the graders, which will be considered. If the County is to purchase them, they would finance them through the local Glacier Bank.

They also discussed putting a new speed limit sign on a stretch of 1500 Road East. Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to approve placing a 25 MPH sign on that road. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. Justin will also be putting dust suppressant on that stretch of road.

FIRE WARDEN

Dick Burrows has served as the Fire Warden for the County since his retirement as Sheriff. He has agreed to let the position back to the County. Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to appoint Sheriff Nick Erickson to be the new County Fire Warden. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, came in to let the Commissioners know that the air conditioners at the Senior Center are not working currently and she is waiting on maintenance. She is also still looking for bus drivers but help seems scarce.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT

County Superintendent Kathy Armstrong updated the Commissioners on the continuing issues that the teachers in School District 10 are having with their contracts.

SOUTH DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to appoint Shane Gagnon as the replacement for the South District Commissioner Position. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. This appointment will be in effect until December 31st, 2022. The Democratic Party will be notified by letter, and they will submit his name to be put on the ballot for the General Election in November. The Republican Party will also have the opportunity to have someone on the ballot. The winner of the General Election will take office on January 1st, 2023. The Commissioners called Shane to inform him of his appointment and he accepted. He will take the oath of office and begin his new position on August 2nd, 2022.

PAYROLL

Jordan Miller, Payroll Specialist, presented payroll to the Commissioners for their review and approval. Upon review, Commissioner Wicks made a motion to approve. 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