

November 2nd, 2021 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 Joette Woods (Chair) and Commissioner Larry Hendrickson.

LIBERTY COUNTY EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Commissioners attended the LEPC meeting. Updates include that flue clinics will be taking place next week and throughout the month of November, and the Public Health nurses will be at the courthouse to administer flu shots there as well.

ROADS

Justin Wickum, Road Foreman, was in to update the Commissioners on his crew and where they are in the county. They are reclaiming the McDowell pit and that should be finished today. Blades will be coming down roads that ended up with moisture.

CLERK AND RECORDER

Clerk and Recorder Davin Buffington was in to explain a new audit issue. A new GASB (Governmental Accounting Standards Board) standard came out for 6 entities in the county. These include: TV district, Fire Departments, Museum, Cemetery, and Airport. It is unknown if it will affect the mills.

MSU EXTENSION OFFICE

Jesse Fulbright, Extension Agent, was in to update the Commissioners on 4-H buildings that may work for shooting sports. He also discussed needing some equipment for tele-meetings, one option being an "owl" which is a device that follows voices with a camera during Zoom meetings. A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson to have the extension office to look into an "owl" for zoom meetings. Commissioner Wicks seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

BOARD OF RECREATION (BOR)

BOR was in to discuss taking over the pavilions from being county property. They will look into this and find funding.

PAYROLL

Employee payroll was submitted for approval by Jordan Miller. Commissioner Wicks made a motion to approve payroll. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Nick Erickson was in to inform the Commissioners know that he will be attending the Sheriff Association Banquet. The Association would like him to talk about the Amtrak incident.

SEWER PROJECT

Austin from Robert Peccia & Associates called the Commissioners about the ARPA funded sewer project. The cost of the projected project has increased, and he wanted to talk the Commissioners through some options. They were asked to prioritize the project with the top three important issues.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Judge Frederickson was in to update the Commissioners on her office happenings. She is helping the Commissioners fill out a 1-year designated alcohol tax from DPHHS. It will be finished by November 30th.

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

November 3rd, 2021 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 Joette Woods (Chair) and Commissioner Larry Hendrickson.

REIMAGINING

Commissioner Wicks attended the “Reimagine” community meeting on November 2nd. Items discussed included updating the city with flower pots, banners, and signs on the entrances of town. The group is hoping to receive some grant money to help with these projects.

CLAIMS

Claims were submitted for approval by Davin Buffington. Commissioner Wicks made a motion to approve claims. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

BEAR PAW CREDIT UNION

The Bear Paw Credit Union across the street from the county courthouse was broken into last night, they have requested the footage from the county courthouse cameras to assist in the investigation.

WEEDS/911 PROGRAM

Jim Ghekiere, Weed Department and 911 Program, was in to update the Commissioners on what projects his departments are working on.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, was in to talk to Commissioners about her need for a driver as she will be a driver short next week. She also updated the Commissioners about Senior Center activities.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Robert Padmos, County Attorney, updated the Commissioners on his trial proceedings.

GRAVEL/4-H

Jerry Fenger, resident, was in to speak with the Commissioners about gravel and 4H shooting sports.

COURTHOUSE ROOF

Commissioner Hendrickson toured the rooftop of the courthouse. The courthouse is in need of new coverage as one of the protective layers is disintegrating. The Commissioners will discuss this with the Courthouse Development Team meeting today. He also checked the basement and reported that there is no water is present down there at this time.

COURTHOUSE DEVELOPMENT TEAM (CDT)

The CDT meeting held in the Commissioners office at 4 pm. In attendance: Jesse Fulbright, Damon Lalum, Jill Streit, Camon Hunnewell, Jerry Kulpas, Tyler Streit (guest), Chad Hedges, Cindy LaSorte, Patty DeVries, Rhonda Peterson, online (Jeremy Fadness and Scott Cromwell). Not in attendance: Kristi Olson. Next meeting TBA.

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA)

The Federal Aviation Administration emailed the Commissioners to let them know the that Carl Mattson’s additions are not invading air space. The issue that the Commissioners have is that the new additions are too close to airport structures such as the power box that controls the runway lights, the hydrant owned by the county, and the power board that controls the airport. He has been asked to correct these issues before a lease would be formed.

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

November 9th, 2021 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 Joette Woods (Chair) and Commissioner Larry Hendrickson.

“HOT WASH” DEBRIEFING

The Commissioners attended the “Hot Wash” debriefing at the fire hall. This was a meeting to discuss the Amtrak derailment incident in Joplin, the response, and recovery.

ROADS

Justin Wickum, Road Foreman, was in to update the Commissioners on the road crew and what they will be working on this week.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Robert Padmos, County Attorney, was in to update the commissioners on the attempted bank robbery that took place last week. Investigators are still looking at camera footage and following leads.

AMTRAK DERAILMENT BOOK

Connie Anderson was in to ask the Commissioners If they would be interested in adding to a book that one of the high school students is looking to write about the Amtrak derailment incident in October.

MSU EXTENSION OFFICE

Julie Gagnon, MSU Extension, asked the Commissioners about a website security program. The person who contacted her called the Commissioners to set up a time to visit about the program.

Jesse Fulbright, Extension Agent, was in to update the commissioners on 4H and extension projects he has going on.

COUNCIL ON AGING

Commissioner Wicks attended the Council on Aging meeting at 1:20 pm.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, was in to discuss radios for her buses with the Commissioners.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Nick Erickson was in to talk to the Commissioners about the "Hot Wash" debriefing from earlier in the day. He also wanted to discuss the Courthouse Development Team meeting from last week.

WEED/911 PROGRAM

Jim Ghekerie, Weed Department and 911 Program, was in to discuss radio repeaters with Sheriff Nick Erickson. He also updated the Commissioners on his departments.

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

November 10th, 2021 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 Joette Woods (Chair) and Commissioner Larry Hendrickson.

VETERANS DAY

The Courthouse will be closed for Veterans Day.

PUGSLEY BRIDGE

Engineer Dennis Nottingham was in to look at and research the designs on the Pugsley Bridge. He said it's the only one of its kind that he knows of.

HEALTHY LIBERTY COUNTY

Commissioner Wicks attended the Healthy Liberty County Meeting. The new concern is a disposable vaping tool called the "puff bar" geared towards kids and teens. It contains 50 times the nicotine of a cigarette which is why it is concerning.

MSU EXTENSION OFFICE

Jesse Fulbright, Extension Agent, was in to have the Commissioners look over his summary of the Youth Aware of Mental Health (YAM) program, a mental health class for young teens. It was well written, with quotes from current students.

BEAR PAW CO-OPERATIVE

Sue from Bear Paw Co-Op was in to discuss the ARPA funding with the Commissioners. A motion to sign Bear Paw Grant Application, Chester System Water Improvements, was made by Commissioner Wicks. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Woods. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

CLAIMS

Claims were submitted for approval by Davin Buffington. Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to approve claims. Commissioner Wicks seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

ATTEST: _____

Clerk

Chairman

November 16th, 2021 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 Joette Woods (Chair) and Commissioner Larry Hendrickson.

ROADS

Road Foreman Justin Wickum was in to check in with Commissioners and let them know he has some maintenance that needs to get done before the cold snap anticipated later in the week.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, was in to update the Commissioners on the weekend Amtrak Community Lunch. The Center and buses have been running well.

CPR RECERTIFICATION

The Commissioners are emailing county employees about the 2-year recertification of CPR. There will be three dates and employees must recertify.

PAYROLL

Employee payroll was submitted for approval by Jordan Miller. Commissioner Wicks made a motion to approve payroll. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

The Commissioners had a phone call with Holly Frederickson, Justice of the Peace. She called in to update the Commissioners on some allocated money for drug/alcohol counseling.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Robert Padmos, County Attorney, was in to update the Commissioners on an arrest made in Washington State. This is an individual that has been wanted for the last 6 months in Montana, including Liberty County.

HERD DISTRICT

The Commissioners had a call from Julie Meissner about the herd district and where the borders for range cattle are. She was informed the county webpage had the maps on it. She said that it is not very good quality on the webpage; the Commissioners said that it would be worked on today.

NUTRIEN AG SOLUTIONS

Commissioner Hendrickson met with Tim Hartwell from Nutrien Ag Solutions to look at some county property for a lease. This will be in the agenda for a couple weeks and have to be advertised.

ARPA GRANT FUNDING

A motion to go forward with the second wave of grant funding for ARPA wastewater was made by Commissioner Wicks. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. The cost of this project will be approximately \$5000.00 to receive \$2.2 million. The Commissioners contacted Chris Hayes from Robert Peccia & Associates and emailed a confirmation on the motion to go forward.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Melissa Kantorowicz, Public Health Nurse, was in to let the Commissioners know she will have to decline a Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant due to not having enough space or a room for an office manager.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

The Commissioners will be meeting with Brendan Beatty (DOR) on Thursday to go over some properties in Liberty County.

AMTRAK GIFT MONIES

The Commissioners will be connecting with Chester Mayor James Dahlen about the gift money received from Amtrak to the communities of Chester and Joplin. The Commissioners believe the monies should be split between the two communities.

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

November 23rd, 2021 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 Joette Woods (Chair) and Commissioner Larry Hendrickson.

ROADS

Justin Wickum, Road Foreman, was in to discuss the road department. The road crew will be doing some pre-winter maintenance on some trouble spots. He has the full crew going, some working in the shop on equipment.

MSU EXTENSION OFFICE

Jesse Fulbright, Extension Agent, was in to update the Commissioners on his office. Julie is out of the office this week. Jesse was in Tennessee last week for a conference and reported that it was a successful conference.

AMTRAK GIFT MONEY

Chester Mayor James Dahlen and Treasurer Ashley Wickum were in to discuss the Amtrak gift money with the Commissioners. They discussed giving Joplin some of the donation as many Joplin residents and responders were a part of the incident response.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Melissa Kantorowicz and Kayla Johnson from Public Health were in to discuss their jobs and grants that they are working on as well as the Disaster and Emergency Services position they are sharing. They would like to reschedule Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant. They also had questions about how vacation time will be divided up.

UNIVERSAL WORKERS

The Commissioners have contracted Alyssa Tyler and Paula Hull as universal workers (fill-in staff) for the county. This pertains to all county entities: courthouse, senior center, and library.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, was in to update the Commissioners on one of her employees quitting last week. She will be putting an ad out in the next few days to open the search for candidates to fill that position.

CYBERSECURITY

The Commissioners had a cybersecurity zoom meeting today with Art Penbroke. The Commissioners are making cybersecurity a mandatory training. All employees are required to train and test annually.

ARPA

Austin Wargo, Robert Peccia & Associates, called about going forward with the competitive ARPA monies. He thinks this will be something that will get granted. The money will be used for the Joplin Sewer Project.

RESOLUTION 21-14

A motion to approve Resolution 21-14 for budget expansion was made by Commissioner Wicks. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

RESOLUTION 21-14
A RESOLUTION AMENDING BUDGETS

WHEREAS, it is fiscal year end and it is recognized that some budgets are in need of adjustment and expansion;

Fund 1000 General Fund
WHEREAS, Fund 1000 received more in expenditures than originally anticipated at the time of setting budgets; the Commissioners have approved a budget expansion of \$21,916.38;

Fund 2235 Health Care Facilities
WHEREAS, Fund 2380 received more expenditures than originally anticipated at the time of setting budgets; The Commissioners have approved a budget expenditure budget expansion of \$1,323.36;

Fund 2281 Sr Citizens Transport
WHEREAS, Fund 2281 received more expenditures than originally anticipated at the time of setting budgets; The Commissioners have approved a budget expenditure budget expansion of \$34,219.94;

Fund 2290 Extension Service
WHEREAS, Fund 2830 received more in expenditures than originally anticipated at the time of setting budgets; the Commissioners have approved a budget expansion of \$8,290.00;

Fund 2820 Gasoline License Tax
WHEREAS, Fund 2820 received more in expenditures than originally anticipated at the time of setting budgets; the Commissioners have approved a budget expansion of \$195.56;

Fund 2821 BarSAA/HR 473 Fuel Tax Allocation
WHEREAS, Fund 2821 received more in expenditures than originally anticipated at the time of setting budgets; the Commissioners have approved a budget expansion of \$22,864.00;

Fund 2986 Council On Aging
WHEREAS, Fund 2986 received more in charges than originally anticipated at the time of setting budgets; the Commissioners have approved an additional budget expansion of \$2,676.64;

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Holly Frederickson, Justice of the Peace, called in to discuss the alcohol tax comp plan. Funding will now go to Bullhook Community Health Center for the next four years, they have provided the better services for Liberty County.

GRANT WRITING

Clark Diemert, resident, was in to ask the Commissioners about grant writing. He is working to get his meat business/processing plant up and going. The Commissioners connected him with Bear Paw Development Corporation in Havre to see if someone could meet with him from their Small Business Development program.

BNSF

The Commissioners made a call to BNSF regarding the grant monies they are looking to give to the city, the county, and the hospital for the Amtrak incident. No amount has been decided. They will call the Commissioners next week.

WESTERN FEDERAL HIGHWAYS

The Commissioners had a zoom call from Western Federal Highways. They discussed Rd. 366 south of Chester. We will be working with them on this road project. They will be sending us the paperwork next week.

INDUSTRIAL LAND LEASES

The Commissioners have requested some information on industrial land leases from other counties.

BACKUP CLOUD STORAGE

Denise Wanken, County Treasurer, was in to discuss Black Mountain backup cloud storage. The current system glitches and there are enough problems that this would be a good upgrade. The Commissioners will look into this and decide before the end of the year.

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

November 30th, 2021 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 Joette Woods (Chair) and Commissioner Larry Hendrickson.

MSU EXTENSION OFFICE

Julie Gagnon, MSU Extension, was in to update the Commissioners on her office happenings.

ROADS

Justin Wickum, Road Foreman, was in to let the Commissioners know where his crew will be. Also, looking to get some grass seed to reclaim the McDowell pit.

JOPLIN SEWER BUDGET

A motion was made to approve the Joplin Sewer Budget by Commissioner Hendrickson. Commissioner Wicks seconded it. Hearing no public comment, motion carried with all in favor.

ROBERT PECCIA & ASSOCIATES BILL

A motion was made to pay the RPA bill for the sewer project and grant writing projects was made by Commissioner Wicks. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

PAYROLL

Employee payroll was submitted for approval by Jordan Miller. Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to approve payroll. Commissioner Wicks seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

ALCOHOL TAX MONEY

A motion to approve the alcohol tax money to go to Bullhook Community Health Center for substance abuse prevention and treatment was made by Commissioner Wicks. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. The County will retain some of the money for travel vouchers to help people get to treatment.

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman