

NOVEMBER 7TH, 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 Larry Hendrickson (chair), Joette Woods, and Justin Wickum.

ROAD INQUIRIES

Rudy Cicon dropped in to visit with the Commissioners about some road inquiries.

The Commissioners received a request of proof of a petitioned road, this will be looked into.

The Skierka family wants to widen the approach on 223, but the County does not maintain the road that the Skierka family want to work on. Stephen came in to talk to us about the access road and was informed that this topic will be added to the Commissioner’s agenda and that he can expect a decision in two weeks.

Tom Graff came in to talk about the roads. He is not happy with the vegetation along the side of the roads, and the fact that there is no crown on the road. Because of this, the roads hold water and are getting eroded.

TREASURER

Denise Wanken, Treasurer, was in to inform the Commissioners that she is resigning her position effective December 18th of this year. She is willing make herself available to help a potential new employee. The position will have to advertised for at least 2 weeks and after candidate interviews, the Commissioners will appoint someone to fill the role through the November 2024 election. The position will be on the ballot in 2024 to fill the remainder of the 22-26 term. Filing will open on January 11th, 2024.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, was in to provide updates on the Senior Center. She also updated the Sheriff Office about some freezer food she was able to order for them for inmates.

WEED/911

Jim Ghekerie, Weed/911, was in to update the Commissioners on the county road mapping he is doing.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Robert Padmos, County Attorney, was in to visit with the Commissioners on some things he has going on in his office. He also provided updates on the VOCA program.

SHERIFF DEPARTMENT

Sheriff Nick Erickson stopped in to provide updates from his department from over the weekend to the Commissioners.

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

Deb Pete, Custodian, was in to ask the Commissioners to write a letter of recommendation for her as she is planning to move in the spring.

ZONING COMPLIANCE

Darius Wurz from Eagle Creek Colony was in to have a zoning compliance form filled out by the Commissioners. Commissioner Woods made a motion to approve and sign the zoning compliance form. Commissioner Wickum seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. The Commissioners signed the form so they can go ahead with a gravel pit.

COURTHOUSE SAFETY

The Commissioners did the monthly fire extinguisher check.

MANY RIVERS WHOLE HEALTH

The Commissioners had a zoom meeting with Many Rivers Whole Health about providing some counseling services in our community. We will provide in-kind services, which in this case is an office inside the courthouse. They would like to start providing services within 30 days. Flyers will be posted and contact information will be available on the flyers.

LIBRARY

Julie Erickson, Librarian, was in to update the Commissioners on the final details going into finishing up the new bathroom at the library.

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

ATTEST: _____

Clerk

Chairman

NOVEMBER 8TH, 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 Commissioners present were: Larry Hendrickson (chair), Joette Woods, and Justin Wickum.

DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING

Department head meeting held to update the department heads on the Commissioners office happenings and general courthouse issues, these meetings will continue monthly. In attendance were: Anne Melton, Denise Wanken, Davin Padmos, Jesse Fulbright, Nick Erickson, Chris Case, Jim Ghekerie, and Julie Gagnon.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

The Teamsters Union for the Road Department are currently negotiating some of the verbiage in the 2023-2024 contract for the employee union.

Joe Wolery was in to drop off a gravel invoice for the county.

Kim Fossen, Road Crew, was in to drop off updated maps for the road maintenance schedule. This map will be color keyed and added to the website for anyone who wants to see what maintenance gets done throughout the county. It is called the Liberty County Road Designation Map.

CLAIMS

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

SHERIFF DEPARTMENT

Kyle Heppner, Undersheriff, was in to let the Commissioners know they found a broken pipe in the Sheriff Office. The Commissioners will ensure it gets fixed today.

PROPERTY TAX CLAIM

Commissioner Woods made a motion to redo a property tax claim from the Senior Center. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, motion carried with all in favor.

ROAD ACCESS QUESTION

Stephen Skierka needs access to a field that he is looking to purchase. County Attorney Robert Padmos has been doing some research and found that there is an open section line discovered that would give access to the land owners in the vicinity. Stephen Skierka brought in an opinion from past County Attorney Hugh Brown that Thisselle Road was a County Road according to Road Petition 182. Upon review of the documents in the Hill County Courthouse, current County Attorney Robert Padmos found documentation of a plan for a State Highway in the general vicinity of the old Thisselle Road. Road Petition 182 opened up the section lines but did not include Thisselle Road, nor is there any record of the planned State Highway ever being finalized. Therefore, it is the opinion of County Attorney Padmos that the old Thisselle Road is not a county road.

JOPLIN SEWER PROJECT MEETING

Austin Wargo, Robert Peccia & Associates, was in Chester for the Joplin Sewer pre-bid bidding meeting scheduled for 2 pm in the Commissioners office. The meeting was called to order at 2 pm. In attendance were: Austin, RJ (sub-contractor), the three commissioners, and Rob Moog. No general contractors showed up. Austin will reach out and see if some general contractors are interested in bidding the Joplin Sewer Project. Meeting was adjourned at 2:40 pm. The agenda next week will be the actual bid meeting.

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

ATTEST: _____

Clerk

Chairman

NOVEMBER 14TH, 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 Commissioners present were: Larry Hendrickson (chair), Joette Woods (phone), and Justin Wickum.

ROAD QUESTION

Wayne Spicher called in and had concerns about what is called the "forgotten mile". He is hoping to get a blade across it before winter. He then had concerns about the trees at a neighbor's house.

ARPA FUNDING

Commissioner Woods made a motion to JV some funding from the Joplin Sewer district to ARPA as part of the process to receive the grant monies for this project. Commissioner Wickum seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, was in to update the Commissioners on menus and availability of certain foods. Glenda will be taking some vacation time next week.

WEED/911

Jim Ghekiere was in to update the Commissioners about his grant reporting obligations. He is finishing up some year-end items.

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

ATTEST: _____

Clerk

Chairman

NOVEMBER 15TH, 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 Commissioners present were: Larry Hendrickson (chair), Joette Woods (phone), and Justin Wickum.

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.

RESIDENT CONCERNS

Chris Kolstad called in with some concerns about road 366.

Nancy Nelson, a Joplin resident, called in about having the streets in Joplin bladed, and a water line replacement spot that needs some attention.

ELECTION CANVASS

The Commissioners will come in on Thursday November 16th to canvass the Municipal election held on November 7th to ensure that the number of ballots voted are the number that were counted and that there are no missing ballots or extra ballots, as has been noticed for public purposes.

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

ATTEST: _____

Clerk

Chairman

NOVEMBER 21ST, 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 Commissioners present were: Larry Hendrickson (chair), Joette Woods (phone), and Justin Wickum.

MSU EXTENSION

Jesse Fulbright, MSU Extension Agent, was in to update the Commissioners on some community projects he has been involved with. He is helping with 4H-shooting sports, Angel Tree, and the Youth Aware of Mental Health (YAM) program at the CJI school.

LAND SURVEYING

Rudy Cicon was in to update the commissioners on some surveying he has been doing.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

County Attorney Robert Padmos was in to update the Commissioners on the mental health options for Liberty County residents. He also believes that Judith Basin County is interested in sharing our VOCA program. There will be a meeting with the Commissioners from Judith Basin County in December.

JUSTICE COURT

Justice of the Peace Chris Case was in to update the Commissioners on a couple of individuals that will be going to substance use treatment from his court.

CLERK AND RECORDER

Clerk and Recorder Davin Padmos was in to update the Commissioners about some mental healthcare options for employees. Davin is working with MACo HCT to look at insurance options. A discussion involving worker's comp for mental health will be looked into.

SHERIFF DEPARTMENT

Dan O'Malley, MACo's Law Enforcement Representative, called and asked the Commissioners about the Lexipol Program. Dan would like to see the Liberty County Sheriff Office participate in this as a preventative measure in Law Enforcement procedures.

JOPLIN SEWER PROJECT

The Commissioners made a call to ARPA representative Austin Wargo to confirm the bid process for the Joplin Sewer project. The bid came in under the amount granted and the project may be able to add another fix. Western Municipal won the bid as the general contractor and will complete the job.

CLAIMS

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

TEAMSTER CONTRACT

Commissioner Woods made a motion to approve the teamster union contract. Commissioner Wickum seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

WEED/911

Jim Ghekerie, 911/Weed Dept, was in to update the Commissioners on some claims he had to fill out.

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

ATTEST: _____

Clerk

Chairman

NOVEMBER 28TH, 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 Commissioners present were: Larry Hendrickson (chair), Joette Woods, and Justin Wickum.

SHERIFF DEPARTMENT

Kyle Heppner, Undersheriff, was in this morning to update the Commissioners on a few things that have been happening in the Sheriff's office. He also updated the Commissioners on the radio base station.

TREASURER

Denise Wanken, Treasurer, was in to let the Commissioners know that local surrounding counties' Department of Revenue personnel would like to have a meeting in Chester at the courthouse in December.

OFFICE VISITS

Tyrel Hendrickson, Highway Patrol, was in to visit with the Commissioners.

Roger Smedsrud was in to visit with the Commissioners.

John Hofer, Sage Creek Colony, was in to talk to the Commissioners about roads and gravel.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

County Attorney Robert Padmos was in to update the Commissioners on the Superintendent of Schools issues.

CLERK AND RECORDER

Clerk and Recorder Davin Padmos was in to update the Commissioners on the audit journal vouchers required from Denning, Downing, and Associates for the County fiscal audit. There were several pages that were requested and Davin has completed them already.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, was in to update the Commissioners on the Senior Center.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT

County School Superintendent Kathy Armstrong was in to update the Commissioners on a new situation going on in the schools.

MSU EXTENSION

Jesse Fulbright, MSU Extension Agent, was in to update the Commissioners on his department. He also informed them that he had trouble with the red county pickup; they will look into this.

PAYROLL

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

JUSTICE COURT

Justice of the Peace Chris Case was in to update the commissioners on his department.

COUNTY IT SUPPORT

Commissioner Woods made a motion to approve a letter to be sent to DIS to inform them that we will no longer be using them as our computer IT company. 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