

**October 5<sup>th</sup>, 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 a gravel pit issue. The County does not sell gravel, and it was brought to the Commissioners attention that it was implied that it does. Some phone calls were made to sort it out. Justin was able to connect with the parties involved and explain the misinformation. Kent Matkin, resident, was in to discuss the gravel questions.

**LEPC**

The Commissioners attended the LEPC meeting.

**REIMAGINING**

Commissioner Wicks attended the reimagining meeting. It has been a good thing for the community.

**MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (MACo)**

Commissioner Hendrickson and Commissioner Woods attended the MACo meetings in Kalispel. The meetings were informative and had good information.

**CYBERSECURITY**

The Commissioners have required the employees take CyberSecurity Training. The Commissioners hope this will benefit the County, as it will mitigate any problems down the road.

**MENTAL HEALTH BOARD**

The Mental Health Board received a grant for \$1500.00. This will be used to further educate our community on the current mental health issues that are being faced locally.

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

The Commissioners and Liberty Medical Center have a mutual agreement to keep the Public Health Nurse as a county employee only. The hospital will no longer have any obligations to pay or have a say in her position as the Public Health Official. A motion was made to approve the mutual agreement by Commissioner Wicks. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**MSU EXTENSION OFFICE**

Jesse Fulbright, Extension Agent, was in to discuss his time at MACo. He also updated the Commissioners on his other projects.

**DISASTER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (DES)**

The Public Health Nurses were in to discuss DES position and if they might be able to coordinate the DES program. The DES position is a matching grant funded program.

**TRAP SHOOTING**

Stephen Nelson, resident, was in to discuss trap shooting sports and if there could be a local complex built in the County.

**COURTHOUSE DEVELOPMENT TEAM**

The CDT met in the Commissioners office at 4 PM. They discussed some new ideas about how to move forward and looking into other avenues of finance.

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

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

**October 6<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**COVID**

The County Department Heads met with the Commissioners on COVID conditions and budget considerations should any employees contract COVID. In attendance were: the Commissioners, Jim Ghekiere, Denise Wanken, Jesse Fulbright, Davin Buffington, Robert Padmos, Justin Wickum (phone), Julie Erickson, Kyle Heppner, Glenda Hanson, and Laurie Lyders.

**GRAVEL**

Tyler Streit, resident, came in to ask about the availability of gravel. He was informed that the County does have gravel but the main roads must be maintained before any will be available to the public.

**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.

**AIRPORT**

Carl Mattson, resident, came in to discuss an issue with new additions on a hangar he is purchasing. He will have to change some things in order to be in compliance with the rules FAA and County codes.

Terry Tyler, Chester City Manager, was in to speak with the Commissioners about an issue regarding water at the airport.

**VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT (VOCA)**

Stephanie Hurley, VOCA, was in to discuss the Victim’s Advocate program and some challenges with the program. The grant renewal to maintain this program is due in December, she is hoping to have it completed by then.

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

The Public Health Nurse, Melissa Kantorowicz, was in to discuss the decision to make the Public Health Nurse a county position only. This position has been shared with Liberty Medical Center (LMC) for many years. It will no longer be part of LMC.

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

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

**October 12<sup>th</sup>, 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 Joette Woods (Chair) and Commissioner Larry Hendrickson.

**ROADS**

Justin Wickum, Road Foreman, was in to discuss with the Commissioners a crew member who plans on retiring this year. He will be advertising for the position at a later time. He also shared some gravel fund issues.

Jerry Fenger, resident, was in to discuss gravel and crushing.

Kyle Rudolph, resident, called about roads and gravel. He mentioned seeing empty county gravel trucks going up the Joplin highway, he was reminded that it is a state highway now and the trucks won’t be loaded. He then thanked the Commissioners and road crew for working the trouble spots in his area and said they are looking good.

**CEMETERY DISTRICT**

Fern Wolery was in to discuss hiring a new Cemetery Sexton as Ted Zorn will be retiring in the spring. The County will advertise for them and help them with the process as asked. Job descriptions will be available in our office.

**FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS (FWP)**

Willie Miller, Game Warden, was in to let the Commissioners know that hunting season has started. He has also been cracking down on trespassing.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

Robert Padmos, County Attorney, was in to update the commissioners on his court proceeding. He has been very busy with cases.

**SENIOR CENTER**

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, was in to update the Commissioners on her vans. She applied for a grant for new ADA-compliant vans and received it. She is also waiting on buses. The Senior Center is down an employee right now, but Glenda is making it work by filling in herself.

**SEWER PROJECT**

A motion was made to sign the agreement to furnish engineering services for sewer project and the task order was made by Commissioner Hendrickson. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Woods. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**CENSUS**

The Commissioners discussed the results of the 2020 census. After reviewing the census data, a motion was made for the districts to remain as they currently are by Commissioner Hendrickson. Commissioner Woods seconded it. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**CLAIMS**

The Commissioners reviewed claims presented by Sarah Horel. Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to approve the claims presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Woods. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

The Public Health Nurse asked Commissioners to sign the amended IAP grant for \$23,000.00. This is COVID use money. A motion was made by Commissioners Hendrickson to accept the updated immunization prices. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Woods. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**WEEDS**

Jim Ghekiere was in to let the Commissioners know that his new county-issued phone is not working. The Commissioners will call the cell phone provider to investigate the issue.

**SHERIFF**

Sheriff Nick Erickson was in to update the Commissioners on the Sheriff Office happenings.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Clerk**

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**Chairman**

**October 13<sup>th</sup>, 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 Joette Woods (Chair) by phone, Commissioner Larry Hendrickson, and Commissioner Maureen "Morb" Wicks.

**ROADS**

The Commissioners received a letter from JLM Ranches requesting to abandon a road south of town by their place. There are no plans to do so at this time.

**WEEDS**

Jim Ghekiere was in to discuss the Weed Department. He will be looking for help next spring.

**CITY SWIMMING POOL**

The County is looking into the 501c3 held by the city swimming pool with the hopes that it can be used as a multipurpose facility.

**AIRPORT**

Jim Bridon, Airport Manager, requested security lights at the airport. The Commissioners and Jerry Ghekiere have the lights and are working out a way to stabilize them. Mercy Flight is also interested in having some kind of lighting for their landings.

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

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Clerk**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairman**

**October 19<sup>th</sup>, 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 Joette Woods (Chair), Commissioner Larry Hendrickson, and Commissioner Maureen "Morb" Wicks.

**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.

**ROADS**

Justin Wickum, Road Foreman, was in to discuss his budget and make some changes due to rising costs.

The City of Chester is planning to gravel alleyways in town. The County is facilitating the City of Chester's ability to purchase gravel from Pugsley's pit. The County has already purchased gravel and will give it to the City of Chester, and the City will then pay David Pugsley directly.

**MSU EXTENSION OFFICE**

Jesse Fulbright, Extension Agent, was in to discuss the 4H group meeting upstairs, his wife Carol will be meeting with them and he wanted to make sure it was ok that as a leader she would be in the building after hours.

**BOARD OF HEALTH/MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD**

Commissioner Wicks attended the Board of Health meeting, and the Mental Health Advisory Board.

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION (DNRC)**

The Iron Creek Crossing in the hills is still closed to dry weather. The DNRC and the Commissioners have decided that until there is a moisture changing event, it will remain closed.

**WORKER'S COMP**

Clerk and Recorder Davin Buffington was in to discuss Worker's Comp. The amount for volunteer ambulance has doubled from \$11 to \$21.

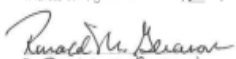
**PUBLIC HEALTH**

The agreement to finalize the Department of Public Health becoming solely a county entity which would separate it from Liberty Medical Center completely was signed.

**Mutual Agreement for Termination Agreement**

The undersigned do hereby mutually agree that County Health Nurse Service Contract between Liberty County, Montana and Liberty Medical Center, made on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of July 2012, together with any and all modifications, amendments and riders, written or oral, is terminated as of September 30, 2021. Neither party, however, is relieved from the obligation to discharge any debts or obligations to the other party incurred during the effective term of the Agreement or to carry out any other obligations under the Agreement which arose during the effective term of the Agreement.

Witness our signatures this the 13<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021

  
By RONALD A. GIESON  
Liberty Medical Center

  
Jodie Woods, Liberty County Commissioner

  
Morb Wicks, Liberty County Commissioner

  
Larry Hendrickson, Liberty County Commissioner

**MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

The County will re-issue the MACo insurance checks, due to the fact that they have not received them yet and they were mailed a month or so ago.

**SENIOR CENTER**

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, was in to update the Commissioners on the Senior Center. She is still able to get most of the food she needs from the Sysco Truck. Prices have gone up significantly, but she can get what she needs.

**HOSPITAL BOARD**

Tim Bronk, CJI Superintendent, came in to discuss some Hospital Board items with the Commissioners.

**BORDER PATROL**

Border Patrol Agents came in with our local law enforcement to review the Stone Garden Grant. This will be a grant for our law enforcement to help patrol the border.

**AIRPORT**

The Commissioners, Terry Tyler, and James Dahlen met with Carl Mattson about some issues with his additions on a hangar he purchased at the airport. The Airport Board sent him a letter explaining what would need to be changed before any lease agreement can be made.

Larry Hendrickson

From: James Briden <jbriden@itstriangle.com>  
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 10:05 PM  
To: Larry Hendrickson  
Subject: Carl Mattson Building

Liberty County Commissioners  
Liberty County Courthouse  
Chester, MT 59522

RE: Carl Mattson Construction on Hangar

Board of Commissioners:

This is the unanimous decision of the Liberty County Airport Board.

1. The construction on the south side of existing hangar or a plan was never presented to the board or commissioners. North side was partially which is probably ok.
2. Waterline into the building as a hydrant belongs to the airport and was never approved for the inside of building. This would have to be resolved.
3. Spacing to the powerhouse is not appropriate to the 10 foot spacing required. The powerhouse is of very high voltage and could cause significant damage to a building closer than the required limit. The addition would have to be reduced or move the powerhouse to specified limits.
4. There has never been any discussion about leasing the ground the hangar sits on. It is our opinion that a lease not be issued until problems are resolved by proposed lessee.

By us as a airport board and you as commissioners we would be jeopardizing our Federal Funding for airports of 90 to 95% which why we has such a nice facility! More importantly now that the agriculture application has changed so dramatically in the past few years, it has turned to Med & Mercy flights that help our community immensely. We saw what a small community does during the AmTrak derailment and the airport we have was very important in that factor. I counted no less than 8 mercy and med flights until midnight of that incident!

Respectfully,  
James Briden  
Chairman  
Liberty County Airport Board

Sent from my iPad

**PROPERTY INSURANCE**

Tina Wood from Wood Enterprises was in to discuss property insurance with the Commissioners and to ensure that everything included was correct.

**CLAIMS**

The Commissioners reviewed claims presented by Sarah Horel. Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to approve the claims presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Woods. 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.

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

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Clerk**

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**Chairman**

**October 26<sup>th</sup>, 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 Joette Woods (Chair), Commissioner Larry Hendrickson, and Commissioner Maureen "Morb" Wicks.

**ROADS**

Road Foreman, Justin Wickum, was in to discuss the road department. He will have a crew member retiring at the end of November. He did fill out the Local Project On State Systems Report. It is very precise and actual. He will send this in.

Commissioner Hendrickson joined Justin for a meeting with BNSF about railroad crossings.

Adrian Hawks, resident, informed the Commissioners and Justin that the fire that started over the weekend that the County put out has stayed out.

**SENATOR DAINES**

A representative from Senator Steve Daines's office stopped in to visit with the Commissioners today. He asked if there was anything pressing in the community currently. As always, county budget money and roads are an issue. He also asked if the supply chains have been affected by the current situation of a lack of semi-truck drivers, the Commissioners shared that there hasn't been much lacking in Chester at this point.

Jesse Fulbright, Extension Agent, was in to update the Commissioners on extension activities. 4-H may have a potential shooting sport facility. This will be great for the community.

**SENIOR CENTER**

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, was in to update the Commissioners on the Senior Center. She has still been receiving very nice correspondence on the response to the Amtrak incident.

**FEDERAL AUDIT**

A motion to approve the federal audit from Denning, Downing, and Associates for ARPA monies received was made Commissioner Hendrickson. Commissioner Wicks seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. This will cost around \$18,000.00.

**SHERIFF**

Sheriff Nick Erickson, and Undersheriff Kyle Heppner were in to discuss their current iPad situation. The tech company has concerns that the iPads will not be secure. They also discussed the Stone Garden Funding, and how they will best use the money. The Commissioners toured the jail and discussed how to make more room in the sheriff office and the garage attached to it. The proposed solution at this point is to put unnecessary items in storage, and possibly take things to our storage container to make immediate room.

**TIBER WATER DISTRICT**

Commissioner Wicks attended the Tiber Water District Meeting and updated the Commissioners on what happened.

**VACATION HOUR DONATION**

A motion was made to approve a donation of vacation hours to an employee by Commissioner Hendrickson. Commissioner Wicks seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**WEEDS/911 PROGRAM**

Jim Ghekiere was in to let the Commissioners know that the dispatch maps and new screens are up and running. He also let the Commissioners know that his weed department will be finished up this week after they spray Russian Olives.

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

Melissa Kantorowicz from Public Health was in to remind the Commissioners about the flu clinics next week. The flu shot will be available to all county residents, along with the COVID booster.

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

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Clerk**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairman**