

**February 1<sup>st</sup>, 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.

**MSU EXTENSION**

Jesse Fulbright, MSU Extension Agent, came in to meet with the Commissioners about an issue he was having with cleaning out the courthouse basement. He also asked the Commissioners about fair dates and discussed GIS mapping.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

County Attorney Robert Padmos was in to discuss some issues in the library with the public computers.

**SHERIFF OFFICE**

Undersheriff Kyle Heppner stopped in to let the Commissioners know that there are some wiring issues with a couple of light switches in the Sheriff Office Garage. The wiring is reversed and he concerned about the potential hazard that may cause. This will be corrected as soon as an electrician can come in to get it done.

**CLERK AND RECORDER**

Clerk and Recorder Davin Buffington informed the Commissioners that an error was discovered with the MACo Health Insurance payment and let them know what the corrective action is in order to rectify the issue.

**HELIUM IN LIBERTY COUNTY**

John, a representative from Avanti, stopped in the meet with the Commissioners and let them know what their company is about and the needs that they may have if they build a helium plant in Liberty County. Similar to Thor, they will be looking for 3-phase electrical, dirt work, gravel, trucking, etc.

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

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

**February 7<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**LEPC**

The Commissioners attended the monthly LEPC meeting at the fire hall.

**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 INQUIRY**

Resident Scott Swank called to inquire about information regarding his properties in Liberty County. He was referred to the County Attorney.

**COURTHOUSE SECURITY**

Commissioner Wickum attended the Courthouse Security Assessment meeting at 2:30 pm. Judge Katie Snipes Ruiz led the meeting and handed out an informational survey on security measures at the courthouse as of February 7, 2023. Sheriff Nick Erickson, Commissioner Justin Wickum, and Clerk and Recorder Davin Buffington will complete the survey. Once returned to Judge Snipes Ruiz and Homeland Security, they will schedule a date for a walk-through to determine the possibility of grants that could be administered to the County for security improvement at the Courthouse.

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

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

**February 8<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**CEMETERY BOARD**

Jesse Fulbright, Cemetery Board, updated the Commissioners on happenings and explained the GIS system as well as reviewed some maps with the Commissioners.

**CYBERSECURITY**

The Commissioners met with Art Penbroke via Zoom to discuss the cybersecurity issues that Liberty County needs to take corrective action on in order to reduce the risk of a cyber-attack.

**ARMED INTRUDER TRAINING**

The Commissioners called and spoke with Montana Highway Patrol Office Jason Wickum to discuss setting up armed intruder training for courthouse staff this spring. The plan is to have a couple of different trainings.

**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE**

Justice of the Peace Chris Case stopped by to discuss a legislative bill and to apprise the Commissioners of a case involving a juvenile that could have a large cost that the County would be responsible for.

**ROAD DEPARTMENT**

The Road Crew are out in the north County roads clearing snow.

**AMTRAK RESPONSE MEETING**

Tara Hendrickson, Liberty County EMS Director, will be hosting an Amtrak Response meeting on February 14<sup>th</sup> open to emergency services, hospital staff, and county responders. The meeting is to review incident command policies and available trainings.

**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.

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

Liberty County Public Health Nurses Melissa Kantorowicz and Kayla Johnson came in to inform the Commissioners that they received a grant in the amount of \$5000 and will use some of those funds for community bike safety awareness. They will also be hosting a vaccination clinic this spring for kids going into junior high and another for kindergarten round up.

**TREASURER**

Treasurer Denise Wanken asked the Commissioners about some funds that came in without information about which department it was meant for. This has been a recurring problem with state and grant funds.

**SHERIFF DEPARTMENT**

Sheriff Nick Erickson updated the Commissioners on recent incidents. Newly hired dispatcher Marcie Foskett stopped in to introduce herself to the Commissioners

**COMMISSIONER SCHEDULE**

Commissioner Woods will be in Helena attending legislation next week on behalf of MACo as the newly elected Second Vice President of MACo. Commissioner Hendrickson will be attending NACo next week and will be out of the office as well.

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

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

**February 14<sup>TH</sup>, 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 Justin Wickum; Commissioner Larry Hendrickson (Chair), and Commissioner Joette Woods via phone.

**MSU EXTENSION OFFICE/CEMETARY BOARD**

Jesse Fulbright, MSU Extension Agent, stopped by to provide an update on the status of the courthouse basement project that he has been working on with a couple of youth. He also provided an update on the Cemetery Board roster and a claim that has been filed with MACo pertaining to a claim against the Cemetery Board.

**INSURANCE INVENTORY FORMS**

Department heads have reviewed the inventory forms for insurance purposes and returned them to Davin Buffington, Clerk and Recorder. She will turn them all in to Tina Wood at Wood Enterprises.

**CLERK AND RECORDER**

Clerk and Recorder Davin Buffington reminded the Commissioners about the MACo Health Care Trust meeting to review and update the new plans that will be available for employees during open enrollment. She also discussed the state wage in House Bill 13.

**GALATA STORE**

Tracy Kinyon and Sue Smith from the Galata Store have some forms for the Montana Department of Transportation that they need to have signatures from the Commissioners on in order to get their new billboard put up on highway 2 west of Chester.

**EMPLOYMENT INQUIRY**

Cody Goulding inquired about openings in the Road Department in the near future.

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

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

**February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 TUESDAY**

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners were all in attendance at MACo. Payroll and Claims were emailed to them for approval and the Commissioners met by phone to review. Commissioner Wickum made a motion to approve both claims and payroll, and 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

**February 28<sup>TH</sup>, 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.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

County Attorney Robert Padmos stopped by to update the Commissioners on a trial he is preparing for.

**NEW BILLBOARD**

The Commissioners reviewed the paperwork that Sue Smith brought in to have signed in order to have a billboard for her store put up along Highway 2 on county property. Commissioner Wickum made a motion to approve of the billboard and sign the paperwork. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**MONTANA NATURAL RESOURCES COALITION**

Commissioner Wickum made a motion to join the Montana Natural Resources Coalition. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**ROAD DEPARTMENT**

The Commissioners held a meeting with the Road Crew to check in with them and see how the crew is functioning without the presence of Commissioner Wickum, formerly the Road Foreman. The crew noted that there are financial struggles they are all facing. The meeting was productive as the Commissioners were able to hear concerns from the crew and work through some of their issues.

**CLERK AND RECORDER**

Clerk and Recorder Davin Buffington stopped in to discuss the new choices MACo is offering for health insurance.

**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE**

Justice of the Peace Chris Case came in to discuss some issues he is seeing in his office, and to update the Commissioners on a couple of cases that are coming up soon.

**SENIOR CENTER**

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, came in to update the Commissioners on bus drivers and the new buses. She also shared that her audit had showed some discrepancies and she is working to get those corrected.

**GAS TAX MAP**

Commissioner Woods made a motion to approve the new Gas Tax map for 2024. Commissioner Wickum seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**COUNTY INVENTORY FOR INSURANCE**

Now that all inventory forms have been returned from department heads, Commissioner Woods made a motion to approve the signature form to return to Wood Enterprises. Commissioner Wickum seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**PUBLIC HEALTH GRANT**

Public Health Nurses Melissa Kantorowicz and Kayla Johnson stopped by to have the Commissioners sign off on a grant. Commissioner Wickum made a motion to approve signing the grant. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT**

County Superintendent Kathy Armstrong updated the Commissioners on School District 10 happenings.

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