

AUGUST 2, 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, Commissioner Shane Gagnon, and Commissioner Joette Woods (Chair).

COMMISSIONER GAGNON

Shane Gagnon was sworn in as Interim Commissioner of the South District of Liberty County through December 31, 2022.

ROADS

Road Foreman Justin Wickum was in to discuss the Road Department budget and inflation. If things continue to rise in cost, he is looking ahead to where he can cut services. Donnie Heimbinger was in to discuss a truck that the Road Department has and to let the Commissioners know that he is very happy with the work on Power Line Road. Tyler Streit was also in to ask about purchasing gravel to have the County spread and shape the road to his house. He was informed that it was a project for the fall after harvest.

LIBERTY COUNTY EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Commissioners attended the LEPC meeting at the fire hall.

TAXABLE VALUES

The taxable values came in from the Department of Revenue. The values increased, however the state gave tax breaks to the central assessed. The Department Heads can now finish their 2022-23 budgets.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

County Attorney Robert Padmos came to discuss transporting mental health patients. He is coordinating with the Sheriff Department to mitigate any potential issues with safely transporting these patients, both for the patients and for those providing transportation.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Justice of the Peace Holly Frederickson came in to meet with the Commissioners and update them about her office. She will be back in the office next Tuesday.

WEED DEPARTMENT/911

Jim Ghekiere came in to update the Commissioners on both the Weed and 911 Departments.

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

ATTEST: _____

Clerk

Chairman

AUGUST 3, 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 Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner Shane Gagnon, and Commissioner Joette Woods (Chair).

AIRPORT

Commissioner Hendrickson updated the notice to the Airman Authorization Form. James Dahlen is the manager of the airport.

4-H INTERVIEW

Trent Fulbright, 4-H member, came in to interview the Commissioners for his Citizenship in the Community class. He asked questions about the courthouse, the history of the building, and the problems that the county faces on a daily basis.

MSU EXTENSION

Jesse Fulbright, Extension Agent, came in to update the Commissioners on the Marias Fair and how 4-H did in the fair. He shared the number of kids that participated and the overall amount that the 4-H animals brought in this year.

WEED DEPARTMENT

Jim Ghekiere, Weed Department Head, updated the Commissioners on a new hay contract on a section of county road. Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to approve the hay contract for Thompson Livestock. Commissioners Gagnon 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 on the transit audit, which wasn't adding up. She found the problem and will correct it. She also had the compliance review, and was informed that there are a few things that must be changed which she is already correcting. The new van and buses will have a match total of \$50K. And finally, she is reposting the janitorial position as the current janitor is leaving for college.

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

ATTEST: _____

Clerk

Chairman

AUGUST 9, 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).

ROAD

Justin Wickum, Road Foreman, updated the Commissioners on where the road crew will be working and what they will be doing. Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to close access to Iron Creek Road. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. The Sheriff Office was notified and the road crew will put up signage.

FIRE RISK

Stage 1 Fire Restrictions will go into effect next week.

SENIOR CENTER

Senior Center Director Glenda Hanson reported that there was a leak in the roof at the Senior Center. It was determined to be the humidifier. It was cleaned up and repaired before any major damage was caused.

ARPA GRANT

The Commissioners completed a form for an overview of the ARPA Infrastructure Grant Program, and emailed it back.

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

The commissioners completed the Central Region Hazard Mitigation Plan Survey.

WIC

Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to renew the WIC program for Liberty County. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion passed with all in favor.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

The Commissioners spoke with the BOR about Liberty County deputies being security at Tiber Dam. The Sheriff's Office will negotiate a contract next week, but as federal funding has been cut the contract will either be for less money or less service.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 10

The Commissioners will be joining County Superintendent Kathy Armstrong at the District 10 School Board meeting tomorrow at 1 pm and will be presenting them with the bill for the 21-22 school year contract in the amount of \$23,344.98.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Justice of the Peace Holly Frederickson was in to update the Commissioners on her daily court hearings.

SENATOR RUSS TEMPEL

Senator Tempel stopped by to visit with the Commissioners and share some updates about some legislative information. He also asked if there were any items the Commissioners would like brought before the Department of Environmental Quality.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The Public Health Nurses stopped by to let the Commissioners know that they've been running vaccination clinics for Covid boosters as well as regular school-required boosters. They have also decided to cancel their landline and fax line and just use the cell number as their official contact number for the public. That change will be in effect as of September 1st.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

County Attorney Robert Padmos came in to share some contract updates with the Commissioners.

BUILDING NEEDS

Jim Ghekiere came in to let the Commissioners know that the school generator still needs parts 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

AUGUST 10, 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 Larry Hendrickson (via phone), Commissioner Shane Gagnon, and Commissioner Joette Woods (Chair).

PAYROLL

Jordan Miller, Payroll Specialist, came in to present payroll for review and approval. She shared that the PERS online system has not been working correctly, so she is working with their team to ensure that part of payroll gets completed accurately. Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to approve payroll, and Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

CLAIMS

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

SCHOOL DISTRICT 10

Commissioner Woods attended the District 10 School Board meeting with County Superintendent Kathy Armstrong and District 10 contract teacher Bonita Munson. An invoice and mileage voucher were presented to the Eagle Creek Colony, Dave Hofer believes this has already been paid. The County has not received the contracted amount. Further discussion will be had.

SENATOR JOHN TESTER

A new representative from Senator Tester's offices stopped by to introduce himself to the Commissioners and update them on some national issues as well as ask questions about local issues in Liberty County.

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

ATTEST: _____

Clerk

Chairman

AUGUST 16, 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, Commissioner Shane Gagnon, and Commissioner Joette Woods (Chair).

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Nick Erickson reported that there has been some deterioration in the structure of the jail in the last several days. The Commissioners walked over to look at the damage and decided to call in Jake Snyder, Liberty County Structural Engineer, to come and reassess the structure of the courthouse including the jail.

ROADS

Justin Wickum, Road Foreman, updated the Commissioners on the current state of county roads. With the lack of moisture, there isn't much that can be done but the crew is still mowing and maintaining county vehicles.

CLERK AND RECORDER

Clerk and Recorder Davin Buffington came in to share what she learned at the Clerk and Recorders Conference in Choteau. The state is looking to combine school and federal elections. Also, the County needs to have cybersecurity assessed to meet the requirements of H.B. 530. The Commissioners made the call to have Art Penbroke, the MACo Program Coordinator for Cybersecurity do the assessment for Liberty County. The results of that assessment will be used to create a customized cybersecurity plan for Liberty County.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, came in to update the Commissioners. The transit bus is in Billings getting a new lift put on. The Sysco truck is still running on track for deliveries. Glenda has volunteers in place delivering lunches, that system is running well.

FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to declare Stage 1 Fire Restrictions for Liberty County. Commissioner Gagnon seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. The Sheriff will announce and post notices for the public.

CEMETERY SEXTON

Mary Ann and Ted Zorn came in to discuss Ted's position as Sexton of the cemetery. The Commissioners and County Attorney Robert Padmos answered their questions.

FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS

Willie Miller, FWP, came in to update the Commissioners on some hawks in town that have been attacking people. He did have to put the hawks down.

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to approve the work order for a structural engineer to come assess the courthouse. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. The engineers will be in some time at the end of August.

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

ATTEST: _____

Clerk

Chairman

AUGUST 23rd, 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 (via phone), Commissioner Shane Gagnon, and Commissioner Joette Woods (Chair).

MSU EXTENSION

Jess Fulbright, MSU Extension Agent, updated the Commissioners on CDT meetings. He also has an article coming out this week in the Liberty County Times about wheat streak.

ROADS

Road Foreman Justin Wickum updated the Commissioners on finances related to the grader, and also discussed the budget.

WEED/911

Jim Ghekiere, Weed/911 Department, shared where his employees are located throughout the county. He will be losing staff at the end of August.

PAYROLL

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

CLAIMS

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

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Superintendent of Schools Kathy Armstrong updated the Commissioners on school budgets. She is concerned that some of the schools have not turned in their budgets on time, she is also concerned because some of the teachers have not been approved by the Office of Public Instruction (OPI).

SHERIFF

Sheriff Nick Erickson came in to discuss his department's budget. One of his deputies will be returning from National Guard service, which will help alleviate his department's overtime usage.

CEMETERY BOARD

Betty Ann Wolery, Cemetery Board Member, dropped off accounting ledgers for the Commissioners review.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

Compensation Committee will meet Tuesday August 30th at 2 pm.

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

ATTEST: _____

Clerk

Chairman

AUGUST 30th, 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 Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner Shane Gagnon, and Commissioner Joette Woods (Chair).

ROADS

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

CLERK AND RECORDER

Clerk and Recorder Davin Buffington updated the Commissioners on the County budget with the most up-to-date numbers. There is a 4.7% Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) increase for County employees due to inflation in the budget that needs approval from the Compensation Committee.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health Nurses Kayla Johnson and Melissa Kantorowicz spoke with the Commissioners about their budgets and concerns related to not having the funding they've had in the past for some of the positions that they fill.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

Compensation Committee met (by phone) at 2pm. Committee members in attendance were Mike Walstad, Ron Gleason, and Gina Allan, in addition to the Commissioners. Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to approve the 4.7% COLA increase for elected officials. Commissioner Gagnon seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. Commissioner Hendrickson also made a motion to extend the 4.7% COLA increase to all employees. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded that motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Superintendent of Schools Kathy Armstrong updated the Commissioners on District 10 issues. Although she still oversees all schools in Liberty County, the Colonies in District 10 have hired a new superintendent to come to their meetings and oversee immediate issues.

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Kayla Johnson, DES Coordinator, updated the Commissioners on the DES budget. They received a grant for \$33, 000 which includes a 50% match from the County.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Justice of the Peace Holly Frederickson provided updates on her court cases.

WEED

Jim Ghekiere updated the Commissioners on end of summer spraying; he has two employees that are currently finishing up weed control before fall.

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

ATTEST: _____

Clerk

Chairman