

**January 4<sup>th</sup>, 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 Maureen "Morb" Wicks, Commissioner Joette Woods (Chair) and Commissioner Larry Hendrickson.

**LIBERTY COUNTY EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)**

The Commissioners attended the LEPC meeting at the fire hall today. The local entities updated the committee on the goings on in each entity.

**ROADS**

Justin Wickum, Road Foreman, was in to update the Commissioners on the graders that are struggling to run in the extreme cold. The temperatures have been subzero off and on since before Christmas.

**WEEDS/911 PROGRAM**

Jim Ghekiere, Weed Dept/911 was in to discuss the issues in each of his departments. The 911 mapping system is not working so he will be working with DIS Technologies to get this resolved.

**SHERIFF**

Sheriff Nick Erickson was in to update the Commissioners on his needs at the Sheriff's Office. He would like to advertise for more deputies.

**LIBRARY**

Julie Erickson, Librarian, was in to discuss lighting in the library. She would like to add more lighting for the aisles so book titles can be more visible. She is also currently waiting on the bathroom renovation. They may have to rebid the job.

**JOPLIN SEWER PROJECT**

The Commissioners will be visiting with Robert Peccia & Associates about the grant application process for the sewer and gas project.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

Robert Padmos, County Attorney, was in to update the Commissioners on the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant and other issues in his office. The two VOCA advocates are in his office working on the grant today.

**BOARD OF RECREATION (BOR)**

Toby from the BOR was in to discuss the shelters and the possibility of taking them on. They stated that they are not interested in taking on the responsibility of the pavilions. They do have some funds available to use towards recreational improvements. The ideas are: improved boat docks, marina, better accesses.

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

The Public Health Nurses were in to discuss the updated Board of Health Recommendation for the COVID Response Plan.

**TREASURER**

Denise Wanken, Treasurer, updated the Commissioners on the invested securities report.

**RESOLUTIONS**

Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to accept resolution 22-01 that states the meeting dates for the Commissioners will be every Tuesday of the month and the first two Wednesdays. Commissioner Wicks seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

RESOLUTION 22-01

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 7-5-2122, MCA, the board of County Commissioners shall establish by resolution a regular meeting date and notify the public of that date;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Liberty County Commissioners that they shall meet every Tuesday of each month, and the Wednesdays following the first and second Tuesdays of each month.

FURTHERMORE, be it resolved, that the hours that they shall meet will be from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, excepting the hour from noon to 1:00 PM.

DATED THIS 4<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2022.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_

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

Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Davin Buffington  
Liberty County Clerk and Recorder

Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to accept resolution 22-02 that states each office shall be open for transaction of business during office hours of 8 am-5 pm except on designated holidays, excluding the County Superintendent and Justice of the Peace. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wicks. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

RESOLUTION 22-02

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 7-4-102, MCA, the board of County Commissioners shall establish by resolution regular office hours;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Liberty County Commissioners that each office shall be open for the transaction of business during the office hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on legal holidays, excepting the following offices, which are as follows:

- County Superintendent of Schools: Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, excepting the hour from noon to 1:00 PM.
- Justice of the Peace Office: Tuesdays, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, excepting the hour from noon to 1:00 PM.

DATED THIS 4<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2022.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_

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

Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_

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Davin Buffington  
Liberty County Clerk and Recorder

Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to accept resolution 22-03 that states that Liberty County Employees will be reimbursed for travel, lodging, and meals at the per diem state rate. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wicks. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

RESOLUTION 22-03

WHEREAS, the board of County Commissioners may, by resolution, establish mileage, lodging and per diem rates for business travel;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Liberty County Commissioners, that Liberty County Employees, when traveling in the normal course of their duties to designated areas, shall be reimbursed for the cost of meals, lodging and per diem within the rates established pursuant to MCA 2-18-501, 2-18-502, and 2-18-503 and in accordance with the following provisions:

- 1) Lodging must be reimbursed at actual cost, not to exceed the prescribed standard state rate per day. All claims for lodging reimbursement allowed must be documented by an appropriate receipt.
- 2) In-state meal reimbursement may not exceed \$7.00 for morning meal, \$11.00 for mid-day meal, and \$18.00 for evening meal. All claims for meal reimbursement allowed must be documented by an appropriate receipt.
- 3) The mileage will be reimbursed at the prescribed standard state rate.
  - a. Except that if the county vehicle is available for use and the choice is made not to use it, the mileage reimbursement for use of your personal vehicle for county business, will be at 60% of the state rate.

DATED THIS 4<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2022.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_

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

Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_

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Davin Buffington  
Liberty County Clerk and Recorder

Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to accept resolution 22-04 that states our governing body shall post on board in front office, the calendar in the Commissioners office, and copies shall be available upon request. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wicks. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

RESOLUTION 22-04

WHEREAS, pursuant to 7-1-2123, MCA, the Board of County Commissioners must adopt a resolution designating locations where notice is provided by posting,

NOW THEREFORE, The governing body shall post on the posting board in front of Courthouse Clerk and Recorder office area, calendar in Commissioners office and a copy of the document will be available per request.

DATED THIS 4<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2022.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER CHAIRPERSON**

Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to keep Commissioner Joette Woods as the presiding officer of the Liberty County Board of Commissioners as Chairperson (Chair). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wicks. 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**

**January 5<sup>th</sup>, 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 Joette Woods (Chair) and Commissioner Larry Hendrickson.

**ROADS**

Justin Wickum, Road Foreman was in to discuss what his road crew will be doing while the weather is so cold. They are doing shop maintenance and working on equipment and county vehicles. He changed some lights outside in the back of the courthouse. The Commissioners worked with Justin on finalizing FEMA from the 2018 flood.

**EXTENDED HUNTING SEASON**

The Commissioners wrote a letter to Leslie Robinson, Head of State Fish, Wildlife and Parks, about the extended hunting season. The Commissioners are not in favor of this extension due to disgruntled land owners and the wear and tear on roads and trails. Those concerns were expressed in the letter.

**CLAIMS**

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

**DIS TECHNOLOGIES**

The Commissioners, Sheriff's Office., Weed Department, and County Attorney were present in the Commissioner's office for a phone meeting with DIS Technologies to work out some issues with the IT support that they have been providing. DIS was asked for a recommendation on what kind of compliant

tablets the officers would need to in order to download reports and/or print them. The 911 mapping system is also not connected to the server. The calls have been made to Vision Link to help diagnose why.

**CLERK AND RECORDER**

The new hire for the Clerk and Recorders office, Monica Serrato, has started today. Her official title will be clerk/accounting specialist.

**WEED/911 PROGRAM**

Jim Ghekiere was in to update the Commissioners on the grants he's working on. He has also made some calls for the 911 mapping system to get it back online.

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**

**January 11<sup>th</sup>, 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 Joette Woods (Chair), Commissioner Maureen "Morb" Wicks, and Commissioner Larry Hendrickson.

**ROADS**

Justin Wickum, Road Foreman, called in and let the Commissioners know what his crew will be doing throughout the week.

**MSU EXTENSION OFFICE**

Jesse Fulbright was in to update the Commissioners on his Extension Office. He has been reading County minutes from the 1920's and letting the Commissioners know more about the history of the town and past commissioners.

**JOPLIN SEWER GRANT**

A motion was made by Commissioner Hendrickson to sign the sewer grant application. Commissioner Wicks seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, motion carries. The grant application was signed and scanned back to Austin Wargo/ Robert Peccia & Associates.

**FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS**

Willie Miller, Game Warden, was in to update the Commissioners on his goings on.

**CUSTODIAN**

Deb Peet, Custodian, was in to let the Commissioners know she has a procedure and will be needing a replacement for those days.

**DISASTER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (DES)**

The Commissioners received a call from the State DES Representative about finishing up FEMA flood issues from 2018.

**WHITLASH**

Residents from Whitlash called about some sewage running over the road. After investigating, it turned out to be a dammed-up water sources, not sewage.

**COUNCIL ON AGING**

Commissioner Wicks and Commissioner Woods attended the yearly Council on Aging and regular Council on Aging meeting today at the Senior Center.

**WEED DEPARTMENT/911 PROGRAM**

Jim Ghekiere, Weed Department/911 Program, was in to discuss the grant that he is writing and to let the Commissioners know that he was able to get a skid-steer for a good price. He will be going to get it while the weather permits. The County will be advertising for a Cemetery Sexton, and Weed Department employee

**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.

**LIBRARY**

Commissioner Wicks and Commissioner Woods attended the annual library meeting. They had a representative from the state to help explain to the new board members, how the board works.

**VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT (VOCA)**

Commissioner Hendrickson made some calls to Choteau, Toole, and Pondera County for the VOCA program to maintain and sustain the program.

**SENIOR CENTER**

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, was in to discuss with the Commissioners the COVID outbreak at the Senior Center. Mostly people who have been exposed and a couple positives. The Center will continue to stay open unless employees come down with it.

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**

**January 12<sup>th</sup>, 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 Joette Woods (Chair), Commissioner Maureen "Morb" Wicks, and Commissioner Larry Hendrickson.

**SMALL PARCEL LEASES**

The Commissioners will be discussing some small parcel leases in Joplin by the railroad tracks that farmers are using for storage and equipment.

**OPEN DOOR WELLNESS CENTER**

The Commissioners will have a discussion on Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, with Open Door Wellness Center about a new contract with the county.

**COUNTY CANDIDATE FILING**

The start date to file as a candidate for a county elected position is Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. The county anticipates many candidates for the upcoming year. Positions that will be open for filing include Justice of the Peace, Sheriff, Commissioner, Superintendent of Schools, Clerk and Recorder, Treasurer, and County Attorney.

**MSU EXTENSION OFFICE**

Jesse Fulbright, Extension Agent, was in to talk to the commissioners about having master gardener class starting in March. He is looking for a day of the week and a time to do it. He will reach out by social media and see how much interest there is before committing.

**SENATOR RUSS TEMPEL**

Senator Russ Tempel stopped in to visit with the Commissioners and informed them that he does plan on running for Montana State Senate again.

**NATIONAL OPIOID SETTLEMENT**

A motion to approve the participation agreement for the National Opioid Settlement was made by Commissioner Hendrickson. Commissioner Wicks seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**HEALTHY LIBERTY COUNTY**

Commissioner Wicks attended the Healthy Liberty County meeting at the Senior Center

**PUBLIC SERVICE TRAINING**

Commissioner Wicks attended the University of Montana Public Service Academy meeting via Zoom.

**JOPLIN SEWER PROJECT**

The Commissioners received confirmation that the grant application to use ARPA funds for the Joplin Sewer project has been turned in.

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**

**January 12<sup>th</sup>, 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 Joette Woods (Chair), Commissioner Maureen "Morb" Wicks, and Commissioner Larry Hendrickson.

**MENTAL HEALTH**

The Commissioners and Liberty Medical Center have decided to move forward with utilizing telehealth for mental health services from January through June. The budget will be revisited to determine if the County can help LMC bring someone up to provide in-person services. The Commissioners believe that mental health is a very important factor to address, however it cannot be the financial burden of only the County budget.

**MSU EXTENSION OFFICE**

Jesse Fulbright, Extension Agent, was in to update the Commissioners on 4H shooting sports, and is looking into grants that might help build an event center for various uses.

**SENIOR CENTER**

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, came in to have the Commissioners review her coordinating plan and transportation grant application. The Commissioners approved of both, Commissioner Wicks made a motion to sign the grant application and Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**ROADS**

Justin Wickum, Road Foreman, was in to update the Commissioners on what his crew is doing this week. They just got his skid-steer back and are going to unload it and do maintenance in the shop. The roads are currently frozen so they plan to get out when the weather is warmer.

**CYBERSECURITY**

The Commissioners sent out a notice to all employees to complete the 2022 cybersecurity training online.

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**

**January 25<sup>th</sup>, 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 Joette Woods (Chair), Commissioner Maureen "Morb" Wicks, and Commissioner Larry Hendrickson.

**FEMA**

Justin Wickum and Ashley Wickum came in to finalize the FEMA paperwork from the flood in 2018 with the Commissioners.

**TIBER WATER BOARD**

Commissioner Wicks attended the Tiber Water Board meeting. New officers were elected, the new President is Gary Buffington, Vice President is Mike Habets, and the Treasurer is Gary Goldhan. The North Central region is looking for a date to run water, they are hoping to make it happen in 2023-2025.

**LIBERTY COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

Commissioner Wicks attended the Liberty County Board of Health meeting, the topics discussed included mental health, COVID, bovine tuberculosis and community health updates.

**WEEDS/911 PROGRAM**

Jim Ghekiere, Weed Department/911 Program, was in to update the Commissioners on his departments.

**SHERIFF**

Sheriff Nick Erickson and Undersheriff Kyle Heppner updated the Commissioners on an inmate that they have to transfer from Choteau County to Hill County.

**FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS**

Willie Miller, Game Warden, came to check in with the Commissioners.

**SENIOR CENTER**

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, updated the Commissioners on her staffing needs. She is short a couple of positions and is looking for temporary help to ease the load.

**VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT (VOCA) GRANT**

Robert Padmos, County Attorney, reviewed the VOCA grant process. The Commissioners discussed the VOCA grant and how to fund the program should the full amount not be funded by the grant. The counties participating have agreed to come up with the funds to make up the difference and will sign a Memorandum of Understanding to that effect- the most each county would have to pay over the course of two years is \$4,000. Commissioner Wicks made a motion to sign the MOU to the VOCA grant. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**LIBERTY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

The Commissioners discussed renewing membership to the Liberty County Chamber of Commerce. Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to renew, and Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Commissioner Wicks chose to abstain from the vote. Hearing no public comment, the motion passed with the majority in favor.

**ROADS**

John Hofer came in to visit with the Commissioners and discuss roads.

**LIBRARY**

Julie Erickson, Librarian, was in to discuss computer usage at the library. There have been some instances of library patrons visiting inappropriate websites, for this reason the computers will be moved so that the screens are facing the main desk. The hope is that this will deter those individuals from continuing this behavior.

**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.

**LAND USE**

The Commissioners are going to have the three parcels of land south of the train tracks in Joplin surveyed and then put them up for lease. The lots next to the cemetery will be kept for cemetery plots and expansion.

**MAPS**

Bruce Jeppesen came in to share some old maps that he found with the Commissioners. He hopes to have them on display in the museum.

**OPEN DOOR WELLNESS**

The County will no longer pay travel and per diem for Open Door to come to Liberty County to provide counseling services as they will only be providing tele-health services. Liberty Medical Center and the County will continue to work to find a different solution to have a mental health come and be a permanent provider in the community. Commissioner Wicks made a motion to pay the outstanding bill for Open Door, and Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion passed with all in favor.

**SAFETY**

A safety meeting was held for all courthouse employees regarding threats and potential volatile behavior of some family members of an inmate. Staff were warned of the potential for harassing phone calls and to be aware of unknown persons coming in asking about inmates. The time of any phone calls should be noted and the sheriff's office should be notified of phone calls or in person visits immediately. In addition,

staff should be aware of colleagues who may be on the receiving end and be prepared to notify law enforcement for them. Do not engage with volatile individuals; staff safety is the first priority. Staff should remain vigilant as the expected court date is in mid-February.

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**