

Week of March 1, 2022

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners did not meet this week as they were in attendance at MACo in Billings.

March 8, 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.

LEPC

All three Commissioners attended the LEPC meeting and noted that the attendance is improving.

LIBRARY

Julie Erickson, Librarian, was in to ask permission to spend money from the Library Community Improvement Fund account for new energy efficient lighting in the library. Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Woods seconded the request. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

SHERIFF DEPARTMENT

Sheriff Nick Erickson was in to discuss budget issues within his department with the Commissioners.

CLERK AND RECORDER

Davin Buffington, Clerk and Recorder, was in to discuss the current budgets as well as to look ahead at the upcoming fiscal year and the needs the County will have.

ROADS

Justin Wickum, Road Foreman, came in to update the Commissioners on plans for spring maintenance. His crew are in the shop this week working on equipment.

COUNTY CAR

The county car is being taken to Conrad for maintenance this week; employees have been notified to adjust travel plans accordingly.

TRI-AGENCY TASK FORCE

Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to approve the Tri-Agency Task Force Memorandum for 2022-23. Commissioner Wicks seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

FLAGS

Some members of the public have come to the Commissioners to request new American flags as the current ones are very tattered and torn due to the excessive wind in the area. The Commissioners agreed and have ordered new flags.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, was in to let the Commissioners know that she still has some sick staff members but they are making things work. The staff are still able to get deliveries out, provide lunch, and the cleaning is getting done. The only thing that has suffered a bit is transit.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Robert Padmos, County Attorney, came in to ask the Commissioners about some law enforcement grants.

COUNCIL ON AGING

Commissioner Wicks attended the Council on Aging meeting and the TAC meeting at the Senior Center.

PAYROLL

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

MSU EXTENSION

Jesse Fulbright and Julie Gagnon, Liberty County Extension Office, came in to discuss the MSU Extension Statewide Needs Assessment. They will be requesting community feedback that will be sent back to MSU for review.

COUNTY HEALTH INSURANCE

Due to an increase in insurance claims, MACo has increased the cost of health insurance. The County portion will increase from \$840 to \$936. Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to approve this increase, and Commissioner Wicks seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Kathy Armstrong, County Superintendent of Schools, came in to discuss the Colony schools that she serves.

SAGE CREEK COLONY

John Hofer from the Sage Creek Colony came in to request the County help with the Colony's turn off from the main road. They are looking for help equalizing a water problem on each side of their approach. The Commissioners explained that the County has already provided the two loads of large rock that was agreed upon previously, however the Colony is responsible for spreading and fixing as they see fit.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

March 9, 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 Maureen "Morb" Wicks, Commissioner Joette Woods (Chair) and Commissioner Larry Hendrickson.

MSU EXTENSION

Jesse Fulbright was in to discuss some Extension issues with the Commissioners

PUBLIC HEALTH/DISASTER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Melissa Kantorowicz and Kayla Johnson, PH/DES, were in to discuss wages for DES and WIC/immunization grant funding.

CLERK AND RECORDER

Davin Buffington, Clerk and Recorder, was in to discuss ballot language and budget issues.

SENATOR TEMPEL

Senator Russ Tempel stopped by to discuss some meetings the Commissioners plan on attending with the Office of Public Instruction and the Department of Revenue.

SHERRIF DEPARTMENT

Sheriff Nick Erickson and Undersheriff Kyle Heppner were in to discuss a new reporting system that would be grant funded to set up, the only cost would be maintenance. They also shared that the department has hired Bill Hicks as a Deputy. He will be heading to Law Enforcement Academy in April. Deputy Bruce Tempel has been called away for Air Force Reserve duty for three months, so they will be shorthanded.

HEALTH LIBERTY COUNTY COALITION

Commissioner Wicks attended the Healthy Liberty County Coalition, which meets monthly to discuss the newest topics that could affect people's health. This month's topic was synthetic tobacco.

LIBERTY MEDICAL CENTER

The Commissioners visited LMC to attend a meet and greet with a potential MD candidate that is interested in coming to Chester and working at LMC.

CLAIMS

Monica Serrato, Claims Specialist, presented claims for review and approval to the Commissioners. Commissioner Wicks made a motion to approve, and Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing to public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

WEEDS/911 DEPARTMENT

Jim Ghekiere, Weed Department Director, came in to discuss the staff shortage within the department. He is now investigating the possibility of combining some positions with the cemetery. He also updated the Commissioners that he received the 911 grant in full, which will be very helpful in the upcoming fiscal year.

COURTHOUSE DEVELOPMENT TEAM

The Courthouse Development Team met in the Commissioners office. In attendance were: Cyndy LaSorte, Jesse Fulbright, Gerry Kulpas, and all three Commissioners.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

March 15, 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.

ROADS

Justin Wickum, Road Foreman, was in to discuss maintenance maps. There is also a mandatory flag training in Chinook that the crew will be attending.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

The Commissioners will be meeting with Brendan Beatty from the Department of Revenue on Monday, March 21st. The goal is to create a plan to get taxable values up where they should be with the new developments happening in the county. In addition to the Commissioners, the Clerk and Recorder, Treasurer, and County Attorney will all be attending the meeting as well.

SAFETY MEETING

The Safety Meeting was held in the Commissioners Office. In attendance were: The Commissioners, Treasurer, Clerk and Recorder, Justin Wickum, Jesse Fulbright, Kathy Armstrong, Nick Erickson, Bruce Tempel, Jim Ghekiere, Julie Gagnon, and Glenda Hanson. Melissa Kantorowicz and Kayla Johnson joined the meeting late. The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 8th at 1:30 PM.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, was in to update the Commissioners on the Center. They are still experiencing a staffing shortage; however all services are still being offered.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 10 BOARD MEETING

The Commissioners and County Superintendent of Schools Kathy Armstrong attended the monthly meeting at the Eagle Creek Colony.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Holly Fredrickson was in to update the Commissioners on her courtroom, which is continuing to be very bust.

SENIOR CENTER MILL LEVY

The Commissioners reviewed a proposal for the continuation of the mill levy for the Senior Center.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

March 22, 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.

CLERK AND RECORDER

Davin Buffington, Clerk and Recorder, was in to discuss the Montana Cadastral and share some Department of Revenue information.

MSU EXTENSION

Jesse Fulbright, Extension Agent, was in to update the Commissioners about the needs assessment he has been working on. He also wants to renew the 4-H contract for the horse arena. The 4-H shooting sports have misplaced a couple of pistols that they believe were mistakenly taken home by one of the leaders. Jesse's District Supervisor is in town interviewing, the interviewer was able to visit with the Commissioners as well.

WEED DEPARTMENT

Jim Ghekiere was in to update the Commissioners about his staffing; he will have some employees returning over the summer.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, came in to let the Commissioners know that she needs a temporary janitor at the Senior Center. The Commissioners will re-advertise for this position.

CLAIMS

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

PAYROLL

Jordan Miller, Payroll Specialist, presented the period's payroll to the Commissioners. Upon review, Commissioner Wicks made a motion to approve the claims, and Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

SHERIFF DEPARTMENT

Kyle Heppner, Undersheriff, came in to update the Commissioners about issues in the Sheriff's office.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Melissa Kantorowicz and Kayla Johnson from Public Health came in to discuss a grant relevant to hazardous materials and to get assistance from the Commissioners in filling out the application. The Commissioners will be asking the Sheriff's Department if they would like to participate in this grant.

FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS

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

RESOLUTIONS

Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to approve Resolution 22-05 for the Senior Center Levy. Commissioner Wicks seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

Resolution 22-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE LIBERTY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS CALLING FOR A MILL LEVY ELECTION FOR THE SENIOR CITIZENS ACTIVITIES AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION MILL LEVY

WHEREAS, Section 7-6-2527(2), Mont. Code Ann. provides that a Board of County Commissioners may annually fix and levy a tax upon all property within the county to operate county-owned or county-operated senior citizens and public transportation programs as provided in Sec. 7-14-111; and,

WHEREAS, the Liberty County Senior Center operates a public transportation program; and,

WHEREAS, in order to continue to provide this service to the community, Liberty County Public Transportation Program must have additional revenue per year to meet its financial obligation; and,

WHEREAS, Section 7-6-2527 (3), Mont. Code Ann. Provides that a Board of County Commissioners may annually fix and levy a tax upon all property within the county to provide for recreational, educational and other activities of the elderly as provided in Sec. 7-16-101; and,

WHEREAS, the Liberty County Senior Citizens Activities Program operates out of the property owned by Liberty County; and,

WHEREAS, in order to continue to provide these services to the community, the Liberty County Senior Citizens Program must have additional revenue per year to meet its financial obligations; and,

WHEREAS, the voters of Liberty County approved the prior mill levy request and this is a continuation of said mill levy request;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following mill levy request shall be placed on the ballot for election by the registered voters of Liberty County:

SENIOR CITIZENS ACTIVITIES AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION MILL LEVY

SHALL THE COUNTY GOVERNING BODY BE AUTHORIZED TO CONTINUE TO MAKE A PERMANENT SPECIAL LEVY OF 12.50 MILLS (APPROXIMATELY THE SUM OF \$120,000) PER YEAR TO FUND CONTINUED OPERATION OF SENIOR CITIZEN SERVICES INCLUDING CONGREGATE MEALS, HOME DELIVERED MEALS, OPERATION OF SERVICES FOR THE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM AND OTHER ACTIVITIES?

THESE FUNDS (TOTALING APPROXIMATELY \$120,000) WILL BE USED FOR BOTH OPERATING AND CAPITAL NEEDS. PASSAGE OF THIS PROPOSAL (CONTINUING THE INCREASE OF APPROXIMATELY 12.5 MILLS OVER THE ORIGINAL MILL

LEVY) WILL CONTINUE THE CURRENTLY INCREASED TAXES OF APPROXIMATELY \$14.88 PER YEAR (\$1.41 PER MONTH) ON A HOME WITH A MARKET VALUE OF \$100,000 AND APPROXIMATELY \$13.75 PER YEAR (\$1.31 PER MONTH) ON A HOME WITH A MARKET VALUE OF \$200,000.

- FOR THE CONTINUED LEVY
 AGAINST THE CONTINUED LEVY

DATED AND PASSED FOR FINAL ADOPTION this 15th day of March 2022

[Signature]
Liberty County Commissioner

[Signature]
Liberty County Commissioner

Attest: [Signature]
Clerk

[Signature]
Liberty County Commissioner



Commissioner Hendrickson also made a motion to approve Resolution 22-06, authorizing assistance in district and justice court cases. Commissioner Wicks seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

LIBERTY COUNTY, MONTANA
RESOLUTION 22-06

AUTHORIZING PROSECUTORIAL ASSISTANCE
IN DISTRICT AND JUSTICE COURT CASES

WHEREAS, the Liberty County Attorney has requested prosecutorial assistance in a certain cause in Liberty County Justice Court and the Twelfth Judicial District Court, Liberty County, and as deemed necessary; and

WHEREAS, it is desired and deemed appropriate that a special deputy county attorney be appointed to assist in the prosecution of the aforementioned case; and

WHEREAS, Montana Code Annotated §7-4-2705 authorizes the board of county commissioners to employ special counsel to assist in the prosecution of any such criminal case pending in the county on request of the county attorney; and

WHEREAS, the Liberty County Attorney has requested that a special deputy county attorney be appointed to prosecute the cause pending in the Liberty County Justice Court and represent the State in any forfeiture proceeding in the Twelfth Judicial District Court; and

WHEREAS, the Cascade County Attorney's Office has agreed to act as a Special Deputy Liberty County Attorney in a pending cause;

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:

That John Brothers, Esq. and Preston Rammell, Esq. of the Cascade County Attorney's Office shall be appointed special deputy county attorneys for Liberty County for the purpose of assisting in the prosecution of a pending cause and that they can fulfill the functions set out in Montana Code Annotated §44-4-103.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED:

That under the terms of this agreement, no fee will be charged for attorney time provided by the special prosecutor of this case. Mileage will be paid at the current state-approved rate. Witness fees and expense, jury costs and other normal costs associated with the trial will be the county's responsibility as with all other prosecutions.

Adopted this 22 day of March, 2022 as moved by Commissioner

Hendrickson, seconded by Commissioner Wicks, and passed on a Unanimous vote of the full board. Effective on passage and approval.

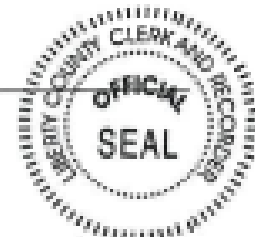
LIBERTY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Liberty County, Montana

John Wicks via Phone
Chairman

Wicks
Vice-Chairman

ATTEST: Davin Buffington
Davin Buffington, Clerk & Recorder

[Signature]
Member



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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

March 29, 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.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Justin Wickum, Road Foreman, was in to update the Commissioners on the Laird Road project. The crew is working to keep water off, the ditches are being cut, and the put run will go on and as traffic continues, the rocks will be worked in.

Robert Hall, new road crew member, stopped by to introduce himself to the Commissioners.

MSU EXTENSION

Jesse Fulbright came in to discuss the needs assessment he will be conducting this evening. He has a list of people that have confirmed attendance.

CLERK AND RECORDER

Clerk and Recorder Davin Buffington came in to discuss budgets and ARPA funds. Bob Denning from Denning, Downing and Associates was called to discuss the exit for the June 30, 2021 audit. There were no findings related to federal monies received, which is excellent.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, came in to update the Commissioners on happenings at the Senior Center. She is low on employees and is looking for help with delivering meals, in the kitchen, and with janitorial duties. There is also a problem with birds on the north side of the building. Owl decoys will be purchased in the hopes that they will get rid of the birds.

COMMUNITY MEMBER

Resident Kaitlyn Lyders came in to discuss the Community Development Planning Board. She received a list of people on that board and was informed that some of the duties required for building and surveying are outsourced. She is interested in finding land or property to expand or build on.

PUGSLEY BRIDGE

Commissioner Wicks made a motion to approve the Pugsley Bridge historical write up and signs. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. The county fee is \$62.

PUBLIC HEALTH/DES

Melissa Kantorowicz (Public Health) and Kayla Johnson (DES) came in to have the Commissioners sign off on grants they are receiving for the coming year.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT

Kathy Armstrong, County Superintendent, came in to discuss an interlocal agreement between the County and School District 10. There needs to be further discussion before committing to next year's agreement.

RESOLUTION 22-07

A motion to approve Resolution 22-07, budget amendments, was made by Commissioner Hendrickson. Commissioner Wicks seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

SENATOR TEMPEL

Senator Russ Tempel stopped in to visit with the Commissioners about setting up a meeting with the Office of Public Instruction.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman