

JULY 2nd, 2024 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 Larry Hendrickson (chair), Justin Wickum, and Joette Woods.

UPDATE ON MEETING MINUTES

A new law went into effect on July 1, 2024, requiring that County Commissioner and Board of Health meetings are recorded (audio only for counties between 1,000 and 5,000) and that those recordings are posted online within 5 days. For this reason, as of July 1, 2024, action items will only be considered at 10 AM and 3 PM during Commissioner meeting days and those will be recorded and posted on the Liberty County website as well as the Liberty County YouTube page (<https://www.youtube.com/@LibertyCountyMontana>).

Commissioner Wickum made a motion to approve June meeting minutes. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Dave Ghekerie, Road Foreman, was in to update the Commissioners on where his crew is going to be. The crew will be moving machines up north to fix some major holes.

TREASURER DEPARTMENT

Treasurer Sharlys Davis was in to let the Commissioners know that the ARPA reimbursement funds should be in today.

FIRE SAFETY

During the monthly Safety Meeting at 9 AM at the courthouse, the Fire Chief was in to update and train the employees on fire safety and the use of fire extinguishers. In attendance were: Jason Wanken, Dave Ghekerie, all three Commissioners, Kassondra May (Wood Insurance), Davin Padmos, Jordan Miller, Sharlys Davis, Julie Gagnon, Chris Case, Kayla Johnson, and Randi Violett.

ACTION ITEMS

Commissioner Woods made a motion to approve the Triangle Telephone road boring application for Hay Coulee. Commissioner Wickum seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, motion carried with all in favor.

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.

JOPLIN SEWER PROJECT

The Joplin Sewer Project is complete. Any extra funds will be used for prioritized extra projects. The extra costs will put us in to a federal audit. The contractors will be responsible for any needed maintenance for streets.

4-H LEASE

The local County 4-H is looking to lease land from the County. This will potentially be a 40-year lease. Further discussion will be a future agenda item.

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

ATTEST: _____

JULY 9TH, 2024 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 Larry Hendrickson (Chair), Justin Wickum, and Joette Woods.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Road Foreman Dave Ghekiere was in to update the Commissioners on where his crew will be for the week.

SHERIFF DEPARTMENT

Undersheriff Kyle Heppner was in to update the Commissioners on the bill for a juvenile in detention.

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 Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

TECHNOLOGY

The Commissioners had the computers for the Public Health department updated with Microsoft 365.

CJI SCHOOLS TRANSPORTATION

Commissioner Woods attended the Transportation meeting for the CJI Schools bus routes. A new route going north of Lothair instead of Whitlash Rd will be implemented. This is intended to save time and mileage in the long run.

JUSTICE COURT

Justice of the Peace Chris Case was into update the Commissioners on a couple of upcoming scheduled trials.

GOVERNOR VISIT

The Commissioners visited with Governor Greg Gianforte who came to town to visit with the school officials.

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

ATTEST: _____

JULY 10TH, 2024 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 Larry Hendrickson (Chair), Justin Wickum, and Joette Woods.

CLERK AND RECORDER

Clerk and Recorder Davin Padmos was in to update the Commissioners on upcoming fall election.

COMMISSIONER TRAVEL

Commissioner Woods will be in Tampa for NACo Annual Conferences through next Tuesday July 16th.

JOPLIN SEWER RATES

The Commissioners will be having a public meeting about the increasing the Joplin Sewer rates on July 30th at 9 AM in their office.

SENATOR DAINES

Brett, a representative from Senator Daines office, was in to visit with the Commissioners about local issues to take back to Washington DC.

RESOLUTIONS

Commissioner Woods made a motion to approve resolution 24-14 for year-end budget expansions. Commissioner Wickum seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

RESOLUTION 24-14
A RESOLUTION AMENDING BUDGETS

WHEREAS, it is fiscal year end and it is recognized that some budgets are in need of adjustment and expansion;

Fund 2235 Health Car Facilities Fund

WHEREAS, Fund 2235 received more in expenditures and revenues than originally anticipated at the time of setting budgets; the Commissioners have approved a budget expansion of \$4,957.19 expenditures & \$4,956.47 Revenues;

Fund 2290 Extension Service Fund

WHEREAS, Fund 2290 received more in expenditures than originally anticipated at the time of setting budgets; the Commissioners have approved a budget expansion of \$82.35;

Fund 2880 Library Grant

WHEREAS, Fund 2880 received more revenues and expenditures than originally anticipated at the time of setting budgets; The Commissioners have approved a budget expenditure budget expansion of \$7,000.30 Expenditures& \$7,000.00 Revenues;

Fund 2976 Immunization Grant Fund

WHEREAS, Fund 2976 received more in expenditures and revenues than originally anticipated at the time of setting budgets; the Commissioners have approved a budget expansion of \$3,755.48 Expenditures & \$32,143.76 Revenues;

Fund 2992 ARPA Fund

WHEREAS, Fund 2991 received more in expenditures and revenues than originally anticipated at the time of setting budgets; the Commissioners have approved a budget expansion of \$41,909.93 expenditures & \$281,319.15 Revenues;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Liberty County Commissioners that the expansion of the above stated eleven funds have been duly approved for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

DATED THIS 10th day of July, 2020



ATTEST:


Davin Padmos
Liberty County Clerk & Recorder

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Chairman


Commissioner


Commissioner

COMMISSIONER MEETING RECORDING

The audio recording of today's action items was uploaded to the Liberty County YouTube page at <https://www.youtube.com/@LibertyCountyMontana>.

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

ATTEST: _____

JULY 16TH, 2024 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 Larry Hendrickson (Chair) and Justin Wickum. Commissioner Joette Woods was in Tampa at NACo.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Road Foreman Dave Ghekerie was in to report what the crew will be working on this week. Three crew members took a skid steer to the Marias Fair to help prepare for fair week. The Cat grader is up and running after a new transmission was installed. The mowers will continue ahead of blades as long as the weather persists.

MSU EXTENSION OFFICE

Jesse Fulbright, MSU Extension Agent, will be out hosting a field day for spring crops.

ACTION ITEMS

Commissioner Wickum made a motion to approve the agreement for Bear Paw Development yearly dues. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

The Commissioners reviewed the request for payment to RPA for the Joplin Sewer Project updates. They will wait to see what the camera's reveal before they approve any further updates.

The Commissioners reviewed the request that was made by Logan Health Board for a mill levy to put on the November ballot. The amount of the proposed levy is \$300,000.00 per 4 years. After review, Commissioner Wickum made a motion to approve the levy being added to the ballot. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. Claims Specialist Monica Serrato presented claims for the end of Fiscal Year 23-24 as well as claims for July 2024 for the Commissioners to review and approve. Upon review, Commissioner Wickum made a motion to approve claims. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, was in to update the Commissioners on the events happening at the Senior Center.

LIBERTY COUNTY MUSEUM

The Liberty County Museum having some sewer issues. The Commissioners have First Choice Plumbing coming in tomorrow to see what needs to be fixed.

FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS

Game Warden Willie Miller was in to provide an update the Commissioners on the recovery of the drowning victim in Lake Elwell.

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

ATTEST: _____

JULY 23RD, 2024 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 Larry Hendrickson (Chair) and Joette Woods.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Road Foreman Dave Ghekerie was in to update the Commissioners on what is going on in the Road Department. One of the belly dumps is down. The crew will stop mowing for now due to the red flag weather and fire risk. Windy Ridge Road will be getting gravel this week.

CLERK AND RECORDER

Clerk and Recorder Davin Padmos was in to update the Commissioners on some departments that are running in the negative. The Commissioners will sit down and figure out how to cover debts.

PAYROLL

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

VOCA AUDIT

Robert Padmos was in on behalf of VOCA for a grant audit. The Commissioners sat in to observe and for educational purposes.

FIRE RESTRICTIONS

The Commissioners discussed current conditions and agreed to enact State 1 Fire Restrictions. Commissioner Woods made a motion to officially enact Stage 1 Fire Restrictions. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. Commissioner Woods then made a motion to approve Resolution 24-13 to Enact Stage 1 Fire Restrictions. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health Nurses Kayla Johnson and Melissa Kantorowicz were in to update Commissioners on their departments and budgets.

SHERIFF DEPARTMENT

Undersheriff Kyle Heppner was in to provide an update the Commissioners on what he has been dealing within the Sheriff office.

SENIOR CENTER

Senior Center Director Glenda Hanson was in to review her budgets.

BOARD OF HEALTH.

The Board of Health recommended to the Commissioners the appointment of Pat Armstrong to the empty board seat. This will go on the agenda for next week.

MSU EXTENSION

MSU Extension Agent Jesse Fulbright updated the Commissioners on 4-H and Marias Fair animals.

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

ATTEST: _____

JULY 30TH, 2024 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 Larry Hendrickson (Chair), Justin Wickum, and Joette Woods.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Road Foreman Dave Ghekerie was in to update the Commissioners on where his crew is going to be working this week. Next week the crew will be short due to people taking vacation and time off.

PUBLIC MEETING ON JOPLIN SWER RATES

The Commissioners held a public meeting to discuss Joplin Sewer Rate increases at 9 AM. In attendance were: all three Commissioners, Robert Padmos, Eric Ely, Ken Snyder, Rodney Swenson, and Dean Hayden. In preparation for the meeting, the Commissioners researched the rates at other districts to determine averages. The average sewer rate for Chester is \$36/ month, for Gildford rate is \$ 32/month, and for Rudyard is around \$35/month if someone is living in the home (if not half the rate). The current monthly rate in Joplin is \$20/ year. The current fund has approximately \$115,000.00, and the goal is to build up the account. The public members were updated on the Joplin Sewer Project's current standing. It was brought to the public's attention to possibly add a "hook-up" fee if new people want to build and tap into the main line and maybe start their own sewer district. The estimated tap in cost would be in between \$800-\$1200. Ken Snyder is retired and expressed frustration about the increase due to the cost of living having increased so much. Dean Hayden brought up the parcels that are not being used. The discussion was maybe half price for unused sewer. After the discussion, Commissioner Woods made a motion to set the rate at \$30/month. Commissioner Wickum seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. Commissioner Woods made a motion to adjourn the public meeting on the Joplin Sewer rates; Commissioner Wickum seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

SENIOR CENTER

Senior Center Director Glenda Hanson was in to update the Commissioners on the new buses and the one going to bid. We asked for her budgets so the Commissioners can approve any changes.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Kayla Johnson and Melissa Kantorowicz were in to update the Commissioners on their shot clinics. The Commissioners had some public comment on Public Health hours and the fact that people don't feel like they can get ahold of them in a timely manner. The hours were a concern. The Public Health Nurses explained that they are always available, even after hours by appointment only. The paperwork they do consumes a whole day. This was discussed with them and they explained that they keep a log book on all messages and get back to people the same day.

CLERK AND RECORDER

Clerk and Recorder Davin Padmos was in to discuss the Weed Budget and the money moved for different line items.

ACTION ITEMS

Commissioner Woods made a motion to approve Resolution 24-15 or the matching Bear Paw Development funds totaling \$6,250.00. Commissioner Wickum seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. Claims Specialist Monica Serrato presented for the Commissioners to review and approve. Upon review, Commissioner Wickum made a motion to approve claims. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. Commissioner Woods made a motion to approve claims for ARPA in the amount of \$903.64 to the DOR, and Western Municipal for \$89460.36. Commissioner Wickum seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. Commissioner Woods made a motion to approve a county road permit for Triangle Telephone to install a fiber optic cable along Moffat Road and 4600 Road South. Commissioner Wickum seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. Commissioner Wickum made a motion to approve Pat Armstrong for the Board of Health as a board member. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. The Commissioners will send Pat a letter letting him know about his appointment.

JUSTICE COURT

Justice of the Peace Chris Case was in to update the Commissioners on his office happenings.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

County Attorney Robert Padmos was in to update the Commissioners on his office happenings.

WEED DEPARTMENT

Jim Ghekerie, Weed/911, was in to update the Commissioners on his trip up the mountain tomorrow. He also updated the Commissioners about the Motorola radio console contract.

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

ATTEST: _____