

SEPTEMBER 3RD, 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 (via phone), and Joette Woods.

LEPC

Commissioners attended the monthly LEPC meeting at the Fire Hall.

SUBDIVISION REVIEW

The Commissioners met with Jay Springer of Heberly & Associates to discuss a subdivision review. Commissioner Woods made a motion to approve the subdivision plat as reviewed. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

COUNTY INSURANCE

Tina Wood of Wood Enterprise was in to collect her insurance commission check from MACo. She will continue to be our County insurance agent and will continue to collect the claims and turn them into MACo.

MSU EXTENSION/CEMETERY BOARD

Jesse Fulbright, Extension Agent, was in to ask about final budgets. Jesse also provided updates to the Commissioners in his role as Chair of the Cemetery Board on Cemetery District issues.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

The Road Department crew will be working on mowing and getting to some trouble spots on the main roads.

DISASTER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Kayla Johnson, DES, was in to update the Commissioners on what DES has been dealing with at the state level, primarily they are focusing on fires at this point.

PUGSLEY BRIDGE

MDOT will be working on paperwork to help with grant funding for Pugsley Bridge Repairs. When the paperwork is complete we will go ahead with repairs. We have been granted \$50,000.00 for some fixes and upgrades.

SENIOR CENTER BUS

The Commissioners opened the bid envelope for the bus that the Senior Center has up for bid. The only bid was from the Chester Assembly Church in the amount of \$4999.00. Commissioner Woods made a motion to accept the bid for \$4999.00 from the Chester Assembly Church. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. Someone from the Chester Assembly Church will pick up the title when they provide payment for the bus.

WEED/911

Jim Ghekiere, 911/Weed Department, was in to explain that the 2022 SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) grant had money left over and that the grant money can be used for radios. The County will use these funds to update radios throughout the County as needed.

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

ATTEST: _____

SEPTEMBER 4TH, 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.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Road Foreman, Dave Ghekiere, was in to update the Commissioners on where his crew is. He was updated on the Joplin streets. He will get someone down there as soon as all his crew is back.

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.

ROAD CULVERT

The Commissioners called the Bureau of Land Management about the Black Jack Road approach where they are putting a culvert. The Commissioners asked for a galvanized culvert rather than polymer, due weather and soil.

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

WEED/911

Jim Ghekiere, 911/Weed Department, was in to ask the Commissioners to approve a letter to the Montana Department of Commerce to recertify Bear Paw Development Corporation to continue their role as a Micro-Business Development Corporation. Jim also updated the Commissioners on current radio trunking abilities. Commissioner Wickum made a motion to send a letter to Montana Department of Commerce for the recertification by Bear Paw Development Corp to continue their role as a Micro Business Development Corporation. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

RENEWABLE FUELS

Senator Russ Tempel, Krista Evans (Calumet), and Rob Cook were in to visit with the Commissioners about renewable fuels.

PUGSLEY BRIDGE

Commissioner Wickum continues to work with Stahly and the Montana DOT for grant funding on a bridge fix for Pugsley Bridge.

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

A public budget hearing was called to order by Commissioner Chair Larry Hendrickson, at 2:05 pm. In attendance were: Justin Wickum, Joette Woods, Davin Padmos, Sharlys Davis, and Jesse Fulbright. After Commissioner review, Commissioner Wickum made a motion to approve budgets as proposed. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. Commissioner Woods made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:25 pm. Commissioner Wickum seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

BUDGET RESOLUTION 24-17

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE FINAL OPERATING BUDGET AND SETTING APPROPRIATION AUTHORITY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2024, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2025

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Sections 7-6-4024 MCA, the Board of County Commissioners, Liberty County, held a public hearing September 4, 2024, at 10:00 AM, where residents of the County were allowed to express their concerns about the proposed budget and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Sections 7-6-4020 through 7-6-4036, MCA, the Board of County Commissioners of said County has held a hearing and passed a resolution applicable under the above sections,

WHEREAS, Section 7-6-4030, MCA, provides that the governing body shall adopt the final budget by resolution. The resolution must:

- (a) Authorize appropriations to defray the expenses or liabilities for the fiscal year; and
- (b) Establish legal spending limits at the level of detail in the resolution; and
- (c) Include any increase in property taxes, including an increase authorized under 15-10-420(1) and the amount by which property taxes will increase on homes valued at \$100,000, \$300,000 and \$600,000.

WHEREAS, The Board of County Commissioners has reviewed the proposed budget, received the estimated ending cash balances for all county funds, made changes to the budget as deemed necessary following the public hearing(s) and from input by elected officials and department heads, and computed the estimated taxes, fees and assessments needed to fund the fiscal year 23-24 budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on the 4th day of September 2024 the following budgets and levies have been adopted for the operation of Liberty County for Fiscal Year 2024-2025:

This resolution authorizes:

- (a) Appropriations to defray the expenses or liabilities for the fiscal year.
- (b) It sets the legal spending limits at the county fund level. Fund level detail is stated in the formal budget document and established in the County's accounting system.
- (c) A decrease in property taxes due to (15-10-420 calculation) and SB332 was calculated and is included in this fiscal year budget.
- (d) A one-time transfer of \$152,217 from the General Fund to the Library Fund to fund the FY 24-25 Library Expenditures.

The effective date of this resolution is July 1, 2024, even if the resolution is adopted after that date.

FUND	TAX REVENUES	VALUATION	MILLS
General Fund	701,944	9,918,361	70.772
Bridge Fund	180,000	9,918,361	18.148
Weed Control Fund	0	9,918,361	0.000
Marias Fair Fund	544	9,918,361	0.055
District Court Fund	64,000	9,918,361	6.453
Ambulance Fund	0	9,918,361	0.000
Mental Health	0	9,918,361	0.000
Senior Citizens Fund	6,000	9,918,361	0.605
SC Transportation Fund	0	9,918,361	0.000
Extension Fund	74,000	9,918,361	7.461
Public Safety Fund	309,218	9,918,361	31.176

Road Fund	302,186	8,592,163	35.170
Conservation District	36,705	7,642,556	4.803
Joplin Fire District	25,710	2,035,625	12.630
West L.C. Fire District	72,843	6,556,538	11.110
Senior Citizens – voted	72,434	9,918,361	7.303
Sr Citizens Transport – voted	51,546	9,918,361	5.197
Permissive Health Insurance	549,949	9,918,361	55.448
SRS Retirement	9,803	9,918,361	0.988
Airport Commission	27,275	9,918,361	2.750
Cemetery District	30,846	9,918,361	3.110
Museum	27,970	9,918,361	2.820

DATED THIS 4TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2024.

ATTEST:

Darin Adams
Clerk



[Signature]
Chairman

[Signature]
Commissioner

[Signature]
Commissioner

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

ATTEST: _____

SEPTEMBER 10TH, 2024 WEDNESDAY

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date at 7:00 AM in their office at the Courthouse. Those present were Larry Hendrickson (chair), Justin Wickum, and Joette Woods.

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

The Commissioners read through the WIC interlocal agreement between Hill County and Liberty County. Commissioner Woods made a motion to approve the agreement and continue services here in Liberty County. Commissioner Wickum seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Road Foreman Dave Ghekiere came in to update the Commissioners on his staffing. The Road Department had two resignations, including Dave's which will be effective September 19th. This leaves 3 open positions; 2 operators and the Road Foreman. Dave updated the Commissioners on what his crew is out doing today. The crew is mowing, maintaining roads, and servicing the machines. There will be a water truck with the mowers.

Paul Wipf from the Riverview Colony called the Commissioners about Dugout Road. There are some holes that need gravel and he reminded the Commissioners about this issue in the spring.

RESIDENT VISIT

The Commissioners had a resident in to visit with about the road jobs that are posted on the website.

MSU EXTENSION CONTRACT

Jesse Fulbright, MSU Extension Agent, was in to meet with the Commissioners. The Commissioners reviewed the contract between MSU-Extension Services and Liberty County. Commissioner Woods made a motion to approve the contract. Commissioner Wickum seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. Jesse updated the Commissioners on 4-H possibly needing a new shooting sports building to practice in.

SHERIFF DEPARTMENT

Undersheriff Kyle Heppner was in to update the Commissioners on the Sheriff Office.

PUGSLEY BRIDGE

The Commissioners had a team meeting with Ryan Dahlke, Katherine Thompson, LeAnn Moyer and Davin Padmos. The meeting was a kick off meeting about how the state money works and the reimbursement process. Ryan Dahlke explained that the fix can be done by the County road crew or it can be bid out. The Commissioners went to the bridge and did some measuring for the quick fix issues. The County will be trying to use a contractor to do the work and will be using FEMA Rates. It was encouraged to have an engineer involved throughout the whole process and the Commissioners were informed to not proceed before the approval from Ryan with MDOT. Finally, a post bridge inspection will determine when the closed sign gets removed and the bridge can officially be re-opened. The Commissioners reviewed a contract proposal for a quick fix on Pugsley Bridge. Commissioner Wickum made a motion to approve the contract. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

POLLING LOCATION UPDATES

The commissioner reviewed the poll place election letter that was put together to reduce the poll place hours. Motion to approve the poll place hour reduction from 7 am- 8pm, to 12 noon to 8 pm, made by Joette Woods. Second by Justin Wickum. Hearing no public comment, motion carries. The new hours will be sent individually to voting citizens, posted on the County social media and website, and in the local newspaper.

MISCELLANEOUS

The 4-H lease agreement is getting its final touches. The Commissioners will visit with Marty Lyders about the fly away zone that will put debris in his farming field that he leases from the County. The Commissioners received a call asking to fix a drop off at the end of Highway 224 where the highway meets the gravel at the intersection of 1400 Road South. Dennis Hanson was in to ask about the responsibilities of the Cottonwood Creek, and problems with water flow. The Commissioners told him to go to the City Council Meeting tomorrow night and ask the city to clean up the stream bed.

JUSTICE COURT

Justice of the Peace Chris Case was in to update the Commissioners about his court happenings. A couple of his pending cases have been settled.

DRIVER EXAMINER SERVICES

The Commissioners received a call from the state driver examiner's office informing them that services in Liberty County will be reduced to one day a month. They will provide an extra day per month in Havre. They plan on starting the new hours on November 1st.

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.

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

ATTEST: _____

SEPTEMBER 11, 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.

DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING

In attendance were: Larry Hendrickson, Joette Woods, Justin Wickum, Robert Padmos, Chris Case, Nick Erickson, and Jesse Fulbright. Jesse updated the group on 4-H happenings and his student career readiness class and mental health awareness program. He also updated us on a shelterbelt seminar, and on September 29th will be achievement night. Nick updated the Commissioners on his Deputy who is presently attending the law enforcement academy. He will be done November. The Commissioners explained that the budgets are set, and a 2.5% COLA was given.

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

ATTEST: _____

SEPTEMBER 17, 2024 TUESDAY

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners did not meet in regular session on the above stated date due to attending the MACo Conference. Those attending the conference were Larry Hendrickson (chair), Justin Wickum, and Joette Woods.

CLAIMS

Claims Specialist Monica Serrato presented claims via for the Commissioners to review and approve. Upon review, Commissioner Wickum made a motion by phone to approve claims. 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.

ATTEST: _____

SEPTEMBER 24, 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

The Commissioners interviewed Dan Davis for Road Foreman, who was the only applicant for the vacancy. Commissioner Woods made the motion to hire Dan as Foreman. Commissioner Wickum seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

ELECTIONS

Clerk and Recorder Davin Padmos was in to update the Commissioners on the upcoming election. The poll place hour change has been noticed and to date there has been no push back.

SHERIFF COMPLAINT

Cord Ramberg, Ian Ross, and Zach Ramberg were in to visit with the Commissioners about an incident that happened over the weekend at Harvest Festival. They felt the Sheriff was out of line breaking up a party on private property. The County Attorney was present and gave them avenues to look into to file a grievance.

FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Commissioner Woods made a motion to remove the Stage 1 fire restrictions. Commissioner Wickum 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. Commissioner Woods made a motion to approve claims. Commissioner Wickum seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

PUGSLEY BRIDGE

The Road crew has been working on the Pugsley Bridge. The hole has been dug and compacted. Jeremy Siemens out of Havre will do the density test for us. The concrete work will be done by the County.

MSU EXTENSION

Jesse Fulbright, MSU Extension Agent, was in to update the Commissioners on his new 4-H appointment. He has been appointed to the National Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals in the role of State Relations Chair. Jesse updated us on his office and upcoming events.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, was in to update the Commissioners on her fire suppression system. There is a low battery alarm and a leak that is of concern. The Commissioners will call the fire suppression company again and have them come back.

SAFETY MEETING

The quarterly Safety Meeting was held in the Commissioners office at 3:00 pm. In attendance were: Joette Woods, Tina Wood, Sharlys Davis, Larry Hendrickson, Jesse Fulbright, and Anne Seidlitz-Melton. The meeting was called to order at 3:05 pm.

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

ATTEST: _____