

MAY 7TH, 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 DEPT

Road Foreman Dave Ghekerie was in to update the Commissioners on some parts he has had to replace and the jobs that his crew did last week.

LIBERTY COUNTY EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)

The Commissioners attended the LEPC meeting at 8:30 am at the Fire Hall.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

County Attorney Robert Padmos was in to update the Commissioners on what's been happening in his office. He would like to keep the Hi-line Advocate money local.

JUSTICE COURT

Justice of the Peace Chris Case was in to update the Commissioners on a couple of upcoming trials in his court.

SHERIFF DEPARTMENT

Undersheriff Kyle Heppner was in to update the Commissioners on crime star reporting.

CLERK AND RECORDER/ELECTIONS

Clerk and Recorder/Election Administrator Davin Padmos provided updates to the Commissioners on the absentee election ballots, test ballots, and dates. She also updated the Commissioners on the tax appeal board. Logan Health has asked for the old permissive levy resolution for the hospital. She is also asking about switching computers out from her office to the Treasurer's office.

RESIDENT INQUIRY

Steven Skierka, was in to discuss a road petition.

TREASURER'S OFFICE

Treasurer Sharlys Davis was in to discuss the upgrade of computers needed in the Treasurer's Office. She also reminded them about the DMV switchover to a program called CARS by next March. This program will be the complete responsibility of the counties. The Commissioners added her as an account representative for the opioid settlement money.

JOPLIN SEWER PROJECT

Rob Moog, Joplin Sewer Manager, was in to discuss a possible change order for the sewer project.

COUNTY COMPENSATION COMMITTEE BOARD

The Commissioners will be looking for Compensation Committee Board Members.

MSU EXTENSION OFFICE

Jesse Fulbright, MSU Extension Agent, was in to update the Commissioners on what his office has been doing.

COUNTY BRIDGES

The Commissioners have talked to LeAnne Moyer, Montana Department of Transportation, about bridge projects in Liberty County. The Commissioners explained that we do NOT have any projects lined up for the year. However, we are looking into the Pugsley Bridge deficiencies and how to proceed with those, considering the County is not equipped financially to repair a historical bridge in the manner required.

COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

Kathy Armstrong, County Superintendent, was in to update the Commissioners on issues going on in her office.

WEED/911

Jim Ghekerie, Weed Dept/911, was in to visit with the Commissioners about the radio consoles that need to be updated.

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

ATTEST: _____

MAY 8TH, 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 (via phone).

RADIOS

The Commissioners made a call to Steve at Hi-Line Communications. The radio council will support all the radio repeater entity's in the County and will also be tied in with Homeland Security. The Commissioners called Commissioner Woods to let her know the different ideas proposed on the payment plans. The plan is to have all the departments pitch in and pay for the console over a 5-year plan. If necessary there are other funds available if this is not sufficient for the full five years. Commissioner Wickum made a motion to purchase the radio console. Commissioner Hendrickson 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. Upon review, Commissioner Wickum made a motion to approve claims in the amount of \$110,252.21. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Road Foreman Dave Ghekiere was in to get some information on the GIS system for Kim Fossen.

TREE REMOVAL

Wille Miller was in to discuss tree removal in Joplin and next to the Courthouse.

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

ATTEST: _____

MAY 14TH, 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 let the Commissioners know where his crew will be throughout the County and what they will be working on. South of town the rain is minimal, so they will be maintaining down there today.

MSU EXTENSION/CEMETERY BOARD

Jesse Fulbright, MSU Extension and Cemetery Board Chair, was in to discuss 4-H issues and the new hires for the Cemetery District.

SHERIFF DEPARTMENT

Undersheriff Kyle Heppner was in to introduce the new deputy hire, Frank Zuccala.

JUSTICE COURT

Justice of the Peace Chris Case was in to update the Commissioners on his office happenings. He will be out of state the last week of May.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, was in to update the Commissioners on the Council on Aging meetings she attended in Conrad. The federal government has cut commodities to counties and schools.

CLERK AND RECORDER

Clerk and Recorder Davin Padmos was in to discuss raise projections at a 5%, 3%, and 2% increase. Davin also went over entitlement share funds. The Commissioners discussed that the budgets are healthy and 5% could be doable.

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

The Commissioners will be discussing adding a dispatcher to the Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Chester.

RESIDENT INQUIRY

Bruce Jeppesen was in to ask the Commissioners about right of ways from the center of the road. It was explained to him that they are all different but for the most part it is 60 feet from the center, and some are 30' from the center depending on where the road is.

FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS

Game Warden Willie Miller was in to update the Commissioners on a vehicle somewhere in between Joplin and Inverness that is shooting at a moose. The potential crime is on video. He will keep us informed.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health was in to update the Commissioners on what they have been doing in their office.

RIVERVIEW COLONY

Paul Wipf, Riverview Colony, called in to ask why the CJI School District 48 was on the agenda, Commissioner Wickum explained it will be until June 1st in case another interlocal school agreement comes to the commission.

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

ATTEST: _____

MAY 15TH, 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 (via phone), and Joette Woods.

DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING

The Commissioners held a Department Head meeting in the Commissioners office. In attendance were: Joette Woods, Julie Gagnon, Kathy Armstrong, Davin Padmos, Sharlys Davis, Jesse Fulbright, Kayla Johnson, Chris Case, and Melissa Kantorowicz. Topics included:

- Updates on Joplin sewer
- MACo IT
- Jury room door has been fixed
- Roofing material ordered to fix courthouse roof
- Radio console payment ideas
- Budgets,
- New Cemetery Sexton hires
- Plans for the new boiler plumbing
- A concern for the upstairs employees is a fire escape ladder of some kind. The Commissioners will continue to look into this.

MOBILE HOME IN JOPLIN

The Commissioners wrote a letter to a Joplin Resident to let them know that there is an issue with a mobile home in the right of way on Norman Ave and to please remove it. Commissioner Wickum made a motion to approve the letter. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. The letter was sent May 15th, 2024. The deadline for removal is May 27th, 2024.

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

ATTEST: _____

MAY 21ST, 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 Ghekiera was in to update the Commissioners on road issues. He has his crew spread out working on the worst spots first. A couple of the John Deere graders are having problems with gears and filters. The Lothair Road is getting rebuilt as a new bus route for Liberty County. Dave went over budget changes with the Commissioners. The budget will remain the same as last year.

MSU EXTENSION

Jesse Fulbright, MSU Extension Agent, was in to update the Commissioners on Julie Gagnon's retirement. He wanted to start thinking about how to go forward in terms of budget and a new hire in the next fiscal year.

CLERK AND RECORDER

Clerk and Recorder Davin Padmos was in to present the current budget and the 24-25 budget. The amount of new money will be minimal, so budgets will remain the same.

TOWN OF CHESTER

The Commissioners will be working with the Town of Chester on an updated interlocal agreement for law enforcement.

HR MEETING

The Commissioners, Road Foreman, Clerk and Recorder, and County Attorney had a follow-up HR meeting.

CLAIMS

Claims Specialist Monica Serrato presented claims 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.

COURTHOUSE LAWN

The Commissioners discussed a budget for improvement and maintenance for the lawn next to the Courthouse. Commissioner Woods made a motion to approve a lawn maintenance budget for \$1500.00. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. Julie Gagnon, Extension Office, will organize the purchase of the necessary items

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

ATTEST: _____

MAY 28TH, 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 Justin Wickum and Joette Woods.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Road Foreman Dave Ghekiere was in to update the Commissioners on the grader that needs a new transmission and a grader that needs some filter work. The transmission will cost around \$48,000.00. The repair is necessary and will put the crew out a couple graders for a couple weeks.

RESIDENT ISSUES

Commissioner Wickum met with Vince Mattson about a couple of approaches to his new elevator off Laird Road (west side of Laird adjacent to EGT 48 31 07 N. 110 57 04 W. No county culvert needed as Vince will be putting his own culvert back at his North/South road off corner to take water to the pre-existing North culvert). Commissioner Woods made a motion to approve the approaches requested. Commissioner Wickum seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

Karen Hadford was in to discuss some issues in Joplin.

Mark Lakey stopped in to visit with the Commissioners about the predatory increase on the tax bill.

JOPLIN SEWER PROJECT

The Joplin Sewer Project is underway and 2 water lines have been hit and have caused problems. The Commissioners are looking into whose responsibility it is to look at the line finds. The Commissioners have requested the line find tickets and will go from there.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

County Attorney Robert Padmos was in to update the Commissioners on an HR issue with a Corrective Action Plan response. The Commissioners will review this and follow-up.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, was in to update the Commissioners on the new buses that have just arrived after a 4 year wait. The Commissioners told her to have cameras installed in all of them before arrival and in the back up bus. The cameras provide safety for our employees and patrons who ride the transit bus.

COMMISSIONER MEETING MINUTES- APRIL

After reviewing the meeting minutes for the month of April 2024, Commissioner Woods made a motion to approve them. Commissioner Wickum seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS

Commissioner Wickum met with FWP to discuss some grant funding for 4-H trap shooting land and building opportunities. It turns out FWP do not need to own the land for grant funding and can lease land. The Commissioners will discuss a 99-year lease with a buyout option.

COURTHOUSE BOILER

Rusty Wells was in to work on the boiler in the Commissioners office.

CLERK AND RECORDER

Clerk and Recorder Davin Padmos was in to update the Commissioners on Election Day. The Commissioners who are not on the ballot (Commissioner Woods and Commissioner Wickum) will come and help where needed throughout the day. Commissioner Hendrickson is on the ballot this election so he will not be involved with any aspect of Election Day. Commissioner Woods will serve as an Election

Judge at the Senior Center and Commissioner Wickum will be a runner and help with setup and breakdown of the polling places as well as being on-site until the office is closed.

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

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