

**AUGUST 6, 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.

**PUGSLEY BRIDGE**

Montana DOT informed the County that for safety reasons, the Pugsley Bridge will be closed indefinitely until repairs can be made. The Commissioners will be making phone calls to get it repaired and back open as soon as possible. The Commissioners visited with Stahly Engineering and MACo to figure out a quick fix.

**ROAD DEPARTMENT**

Road Foreman Dave Ghekiere was in to update the Commissioners on what his crew has been doing. His crew will be involved in the bridge fixes. His crew will be short over the next couple weeks due to harvest.

**SENIOR CENTER**

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, was in to update the Commissioners on the new buses that arrived finally. Glenda is really happy with them. Commissioner Woods made a motion to put the old transit bus up for bid at the local level. Commissioner Wickum seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. Glenda was asked to redo the meal claims for her employees to match the state rate on lunch reimbursement, not federal rates.

**MSU EXTENSION**

Jesse Fulbright, MSU Extension Agent and Cemetery Board Chair, was in to update the Commissioners on the pending lawsuit involving the cemetery. Jesse also let the Commissioners know that there was a water leak at the cemetery.

**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.

**TAXABLE VALUES**

Taxable values came in at less than last year. The values are down 6%. That is equal to around \$580 per mill. Treasurer Sharlys Davis was in to update the Commissioners on how the taxable values broke out in her funds. Clerk and Recorder Davin Padmos was also in to go over the taxable values. The loss in value could result in budget cuts in the coming year/years.

**JUSTICE COURT**

Justice of the Peace Chris Case was in to update the Commissioners on his office happenings. His hours will be a little different at the end of the month.

**SHERIFF DEPARTMENT**

Undersheriff Kyle Heppner was in to visit with the Commissioners about a juvenile incident that will end up costing the county money in terms of paying for the juvenile's room and board outside of the County in an appropriate facility until their court date.

**JOPLIN SEWER DISTRICT**

Joplin resident Ken Snyder stopped in to visit with the Commissioners. He is still working to talk to Joplin residents about creating a sewer district.

**WEED/911 DEPARTMENT**

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

**DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING**

The Commissioners had a Department Head meeting explaining the taxable values and updating the departments on the happenings throughout the county.

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

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

**AUGUST 13TH, 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. Joette Woods is attending the National Association of Local Boards of Health conference in Nashville.

**ROAD DEPARTMENT**

Road Foreman Dave Ghekiere was in to discuss 3700 Road, which had water wash over it at the Eagle Creek Crossing. The road crew is working on localized issues, so graders are not impeding the harvest traffic. Mowing continues.

**NEW BOILER**

Commissioners were notified that the State Boiler Inspector will be here to inspect the new boiler. The inspector did certify the new boiler. The Commissioners will reach out the Nault Plumbing and get instruction on how to get the boiler going for winter.

**SENIOR TRANSIT BUS**

The Commissioners reviewed the 2005 Chevy Aerolite Bus that the Senior Center will be putting up for bid. Commissioner Wickum made a motion to start the bid at \$4500.00. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**SEWER PUBLIC HEARING**

The Commissioners hosted a public hearing on the transfer of the sewer lagoons and water treatment properties to the Town of Chester. The City Clerk, Ashley Wickum, was in attendance. Commissioner Wickum made a motion to approve the transfer. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**PUGSLEY BRIDGE**

The Commissioners continue to be in contact with the state and Stahly Engineering for the mandatory Pugsley Bridge repairs. An inspector will be there next Thursday to see what other issues exist.

**MACO IT**

Eric Austad from MACo IT was in Chester making sure all the systems were up and working in each department. The Extension Agent laptop will need replaced. Eric will look into the cost of a new computer and set up.

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

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

**AUGUST 20TH, 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 what his crew will be doing this week. Dave has an applicant for a road grader operator. He will interview next week.

**CLERK AND RECORDER**

Clerk and Recorder Davin Padmos was to discuss the Compensation Committee meeting for next week to see the projected COLA. The Commissioners have been presented with 5%, 3%, and 2%. The DOR taxable values added no new growth money for our county. GASBY 75 has been a nightmare, this pertains to retirement.

**DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

Liberty County Treasurer Sharlys Davis was in to update the Commissioners.  
Jesse Fulbright, MSU Extension, was in to update the Commissioners on his office happenings.  
Julie Gagnon, MSU Extension, was in to update the Commissioners on the new zoom link for our audible meetings.  
Jerry Ghekiere was in to update the Commissioners on the AC issues upstairs in the courthouse.  
Justice of the Peace Chris Case was in to update the Commissioners on what his office has been dealing with.  
County Superintendent Kathy Armstrong was in to update the Commissioners on what's been happening.

**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.

**MINUTES**

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

**RESIDENT ISSUE**

Resident Kirk Skari was in to update the Commissioners on a trespassing issue with an oil and gas company that he has filed a complaint about more than once with the Sheriff Office. He would like us to talk to the Sheriff and County Attorney and see why he has not heard anything. Sheriff Nick Erickson was in later to update the Commissioners some civil issues involving land and trespassing, that have come to light. His department will look into the situation. Don Lee called and explained the rights of the surface use for oil and gas companies. Sheriff Erickson and Commissioner Woods were both on the phone call.

**SENIOR CENTER**

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, was in to update the Commissioners on the fire suppression system that was triggered this weekend. The Fire Chief responded to check it out and all was ok. Her District Manager explained there will be big cuts coming to Senior Centers throughout the state. They will see some changes in the coming year.

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

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

**AUGUST 27TH, 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.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

County Attorney Robert Padmos was in to update the Commissioners on a personnel issue and an upcoming trial.

**ROAD DEPARTMENT**

Road Foreman Dave Ghekiere was in to update the Commissioners on some issues at the shop. He is short-handed this week due to harvest. He will be mowing today and doing maintenance around the shop later.

The Commissioners received a call from Doug Demarest about mowing along the ditches up by Whitlash, he would like to have a water truck in the area.

**CLERK AND RECORDER**

Clerk and Recorder Davin Padmos was in to update the Commissioners on the Stahly Resolution and elections ballot language. After review of the Stahly/Liberty County Fee Schedule Review, Commissioner Woods made a motion to approve Resolution Number 24-16, this is an increase for fees on subdivision reviews to be pass through monies. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

Liberty County Review Fee Schedule

Resolution 24-16

(Exhibit A) Effective: August 27, 2024

**\*ADDITIONAL SUBDIVISION ADMINISTRATOR CONSULTING FEES MAY APPLY**

Pursuant to 76-3-201 and 602 MCA, the applicant shall pay the following non-refundable fees:

1. **Subdivision Review:** Applicable to all new subdivisions and amended plats going through the subdivision process. Fees are based on Subdivision type and number of lots.

	First Minor Subdivision Expedited Review (1-2 lots)	First Minor Subdivision	Subsequent Minor Subdivision Major Subdivision Planned Unit Developments
Pre-application	\$400	\$400	\$400
Preliminary Plat or Plan	\$2850	\$2000 + \$100 for each lot over 3	\$4000 + \$100 for each lot over 6
Final Plat or Plan	\$1000	\$1000	\$1000
<b>Amended Conditions of Preliminary Plat Approval Review:</b> <i>Applicable to requests made after the governing body has conditionally approved a preliminary plat.</i>	Subdivision Administrator Time & Expense	Subdivision Administrator Time & Expense	Subdivision Administrator Time & Expense

2. Exemption Criteria Review fee: \$400
3. Examining Land Surveyor (all survey documents): \$400 + Shipping & Handling if wet signatures are required by the County.
4. Recording Fees: Set by Clerk and Recorder's Office
5. Noxious Weed Management Plan: Set by County Weed Department
6. General Consulting: Subdivision Administrator's Time & Expense

\*From time to time, application reviews may exceed fee structure costs. For example, if the application is incomplete and in need of County consultation on what information is missing, or if a survey document has a complex and lengthy legal description with missing information or disclosure that takes extra time and iterations to fix. In these cases, the County's sub-consultant may exceed the fees listed above, in which case, additional fees may be charged.

DATED THIS 27<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF August, 2024.

ATTEST:

*Davin Padmos*  
Clerk



*[Signature]*  
Chairman

*[Signature]*  
Commissioner

*[Signature]*  
Commissioner

**SENIOR CENTER**

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, was in to update the Commissioners on her fire suppression system that is glitching out. Glenda said they have ordered the part and they will come put it in when they get it. She is also looking to hire a new bus driver.

**MISCELLANEOUS UPDATES**

Commissioner Woods made a motion to approve a claim to Cory Conant for an AC unit replacement in the amount of \$5500.00. Commissioner Wickum seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

The airport cameras are installed for weather viewing. Commissioner Hendrickson is working on the paperwork for the grant funding to get reimbursed for the cameras.

The Commissioners attended the Motorola Meeting at the firehall for the new console for the Sheriff Office and EMS.

Adam Hagel from Stahly called about a fix on the Pugsley Bridge. He will have plans to us tomorrow. He wants input from the Commissioners.

Justice of the Peace Chris Case was in to update the Commissioners on his court items coming up. The Commissioners will meet with Tina Woods of Woods Enterprises to re-sign and appoint her as our agent.

**COMPENSATION BOARD**

Commissioner Hendrickson re-opened the tabled Compensation Board meeting at 3:05 pm in the Commissioners office. In attendance were: Chris Mattson, Justin Wickum, Larry Hendrickson, Davin Padmos, Robert Padmos, Sharlys Davis, Joette Woods, and Julie Gagnon. It was discussed and recommended that a 2.5% COLA be given to the elected officials and employees. Chris Mattson, Compensation Board, made a motion to give an increase of 2.5% to the Liberty County Elected Officials

made by Chris Mattson. Britney Tempel, Compensation Board, seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. On the recommendation of the Compensation Board, Commissioner Woods made a motion to give the Liberty County Employees the same 2.5% COLA increase. Commissioner Wickum seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. Commissioner Woods made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Wickum seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. The meeting of the Compensation Board adjourned.

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

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