

**APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup>, 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.

**SHERIFF DEPARTMENT**

Undersheriff Kyle Heppner was in to update the Commissioners on a situation they are dealing with in the Sheriff's office.

**ROAD DEPARTMENT**

Dave Ghekerie, Road Foreman, was in to update the Commissioners on where his crew will be this week. He discussed the problem spots in the county that they plan to work on first.

**TREASURER'S OFFICE**

Sharlys Davis was sworn in on April 1<sup>st</sup> as the Interim Treasurer. The Commissioners gave permission to Black Mountain for Sharlys to have administrative access to the assessor program in Black Mountain. She has started to train with Deputy Treasurer Taylor Marshall and will also be attending the Montana County Treasurer's Association Certification School in Great Falls this week for more in depth training.

**LIBERTY COUNTY EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Commissioners attended the monthly LEPC meeting at the firehall.

The Operational Rapid Assistance Package review was attended by Tara Hendrickson, the Commissioners, Nick Erickson, Kyle Heppner, Melissa Kantorowicz, Jim Ghekerie, Dave Ghekerie, Kayla Johnson.

Commissioner Wickum made a motion to sign the Emergency Management Performance Grant for Public Health. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

Commissioner Wickum made a motion to approve Hyperlink Emergency Notification System.

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

**NEW HIRE**

The Commissioners approved the hiring of Susan Floerchinger as a universal custodian for the courthouse, library, and senior center. She will serve on an on-call basis and will complete cross-training with Deb Peete prior to starting.

**JUSTICE COURT**

Justice of the Peace Chris Case was in to visit with the Commissioners about his department.

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

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

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**APRIL 3<sup>RD</sup>, 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) and Justin Wickum.

**SENIOR CENTER**

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, was in to update the Commissioners on the frozen meal situation (which is?). The Commissioners and Glenda decided to limit 3 frozen meals per person.

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

**SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Kathy Armstrong, Superintendent of Schools, was in to discuss getting a laptop to enable her to work remotely.

**SHERIFF DEPARTMENT**

Sheriff Nick Erickson and Undersheriff Kyle Heppner provided the Commissioners updates on radios and consoles.

**TECH SUPPORT**

Eric Austad from MACo IT came to Chester to work on computers around the Courthouse. Commissioner Wickum, made a motion to approve 2 new laptops and 1 scanner (brand new or replacements?). Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**CONCEALED WEAPONS PERMIT QUESTION**

Resident Ian Ross stopped in to speak with the Commissioners about a concealed weapons permit. The Commissioners explained that any decision on Concealed Weapon Permits lies within the Sheriff Department.

**MSU EXTENSION**

Jesse Fulbright, MSU Extension Agent was in to discuss upcoming spring projects for the Extension Office as well as upcoming 4-H programs and events. As Chair of the Cemetery Board, he also updated the Commissioners on the issues happening there.

**PUBLIC HEALTH/DES**

Melissa Kantorowicz, Public Health Nurse, was in to update the Commissioners on grant funding she is looking into. Kayla Johnson, DES, also provided updates to the Commissioners on funding and what she is intending to try and use the DES grant money for.

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

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

**APRIL 9<sup>th</sup>, 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 discuss gravel, roads, and where his crew is going to be this week after all the moisture. Resident Todd Wanken was in to discuss roads and the possibility for getting gravel. Todd has some large rock to donate to the county if they want it for fixing roads. The Commissioners received a call from Kay Jorgenson about roads in Lothair, which are on the rebuild list for summer. The Commissioners also received a call from a colony member at Riverview about flagging the rough spots in the roads down South.

**JUSTICE COURT**

Justice of the Peace Chris Case was in to update the Commissioners on issues that he has going on in his office.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

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

**SENIOR CENTER USAGE**

Residents Patty DeVries and Jenny Chelmo were in to discuss the use of the Senior Center for public events. They reminded the Commissioners that it is a "community center" however, they believe that the rental price makes it unusable and unaffordable. The Commissioners will try to work on a new idea for affordability.

**SANITARIAN**

County Sanitarian Sarah Robbin was in town working on some sanitarian projects and stopped in to visit with the Commissioners.

**SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION CLINIC**

The Public Health Nurses stopped in to report that the school immunization clinic went well and the turnout was high. As every spring, the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and senior class were given their scheduled immunizations.

**ROUTINE MEETINGS**

Commissioner Hendrickson attended the Council on Aging Committee meeting and the Transit meeting at the Senior Center.

**LOGAN HEALTH-CHESTER**

Shari Dolan, Logan Health- Chester, requested to dispose of some items at the hospital that are not being used. These items include a gastroscope and EXL analyzer. Commissioner Woods made a motion to allow the disposal of these items. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carries with all in favor.

**ROAD ACCESS REQUEST**

The Commissioners sent a letter to the Chippewa Cree Tribal Council asking for travel easements for roads up in the hills that the county uses to maintain the TV and radio equipment.

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

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

**APRIL 10<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**SHERIFF DEPARTMENT**

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

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

Public Health Nurse Melissa Kantorowicz was in to let the Commissioners know that she and Kayla Johnson will be in Fort Benton for meetings today.

**MARCH COMMISSIONER MINUTES**

The Commissioners reviewed the minutes from the month of March. Upon review, Commissioner Woods made a motion to approve the minutes and post on the Liberty County website and print a copy to post in the Courthouse. Commissioner Wickum seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**SICK TIME DONATION**

Several County employees have donated sick leave time to a fellow employee. Commissioner Wickum made a motion to approve the donation totaling 160 hours of sick leave to a County employee. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**WEED/911 DEPARTMENT**

Jim Ghekerie, 911/Weed Department, was in to update the Commissioners on the radio console prices; it will be added to the agenda for next week.

**JUSTICE COURT**

Justice of the Peace Chris Case was in to let the Commissioners know that he had some items to be dealt with this morning and will be out of the office the rest of the day.

**CEMETARY**

Ted Zorn called and requested the Commissioners get shown some cemetery valves that they should know after his resignation on March 31st. The Commissioners learned where all the water valves and turn on/off switches are.

**CLAIMS**

Claims Specialist Monica Serrato presented claims for the Commissioners to review and approve, including an overdue claim from MACo IT from January. 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.

**JOPLIN SEWER PROJECT**

The Commissioners sent Robert Peccia and Associates a copy of the check and signed invoice for final engineering services.

**SENIOR CENTER**

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, was in to let the Commissioners know she will be updating some electrical outlets in the Center garage.

**BEAR PAW DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Paul Tuss, Executive Director of Bear Paw Development Corporation, was in to visit with the Commissioners about accomplishments and thanked us for the support.

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

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

**APRIL 16<sup>th</sup>, 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 Crew Member Kim Fossen was in to update the Commissioners on the road petitions she has digitized. She has also been taking inventory on culverts and signs around the county. Road Foreman Dave Ghekerie updated the Commissioners on where his crew is going to be this week. Some of the graders are having issues, he is getting that handled today. Dave is actively looking for people that have CDL's for trucking. MDT/ELDT page is informational.

**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.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL REVIEW**

The Commissioners will be posting an explanation on the County website with information on what a local governmental review is for residents to review before the primary election on June 4 when the issue will be voted on for both the Town of Chester and for Liberty County.

**RESOLUTIONS**

Commissioner Woods made a motion to approve Resolution 24-10 "authorizing participation in the Montana Board of Investments of Short-term Investment Pool and authorizing the execution and delivery of documents related thereto". Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-10

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE MONTANA BOARD OF INVESTMENTS OF SHORT-TERM INVESTMENT POOL AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF DOCUMENTS RELATED THERETO

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Liberty County Board (the "Governing Body")  
of Commissioners (the "Participant") AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE I

DEFINITIONS

The following terms will have the meanings indicated below for all purposes of this Resolution unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

"Account" means a specific Participant Bank account to be used in conducting STIP Program transactions.

"Agreement" means the agreements of the Participant contained within this Resolution.

"Authorized Representative" means the officer or official of the Participant designated and authorized by the Governing Body to act on behalf of Participant in the STIP Program.

"Authorized Delegate" means any officer, official, or employee of the Participant delegated authority by the Authorized Representative to initiate transactions using the STIP Program.

"Bank" means a financial institution designated and authorized to send and receive money on behalf of the Participant for purposes of participation in the STIP Program.

"Board" means the Board of Investments, a state agency organized and existing under the laws of the State.

"Exhibit A" means the STIP Participation Information Sheet attached to and incorporated into this Resolution as provided in Article IV, Section 3.01.

"Exhibit B" means the Electronic Funds Transfer Authorization Form attached to and incorporated into this Resolution as provided in Article IV, Section 3.01.

"Governing Body" means the governing body of political subdivision (Participant) authorized by Montana state law to participate in the STIP Program.

"Participant" means the political subdivision requesting participation in the Board's STIP Program.

"Short-Term Investment Pool" means the Board's investment program administered under the direction of the Board of Investments as authorized by the Unified Investment Program and as more fully defined and described by the Montana Code Annotated and in the Board's Governing Policies. "Short-Term Investment Pool" is synonymous with "STIP" and "Program" as used in this Resolution and Exhibits A and B.

ARTICLE III

EXHIBITS A AND B

Section 3.01 Approval and Adoption of Exhibits A and B. Attached to this Resolution are Exhibit A, the STIP Participation Information Sheet, and Exhibit B, the Electronic Funds Transfer Authorization Form, which together provide the instructions required by the Board to enable Participant's participation in the STIP Program. The Governing Body and Participant represent that Exhibits A and B have been completed and executed by the Participant's Authorized Representative and that Exhibits A and B must be complete and accepted by the Board before participation is allowed in the STIP Program. Exhibits A and B are hereby incorporated into and made a part of this Resolution and are approved and adopted by the Governing Body as if set forth fully herein.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Liberty County Commissioners this 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024.

By [Signature]  
Its Chairman Liberty County Commissioners

Attest:

By [Signature]  
Its Clk & Recorder

Commissioner Woods made a motion to approve Resolution 24-11 "authorizing the Montana Board of Investments Short-term Investment Pool (STIP). Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE MONTANA BOARD OF INVESTMENTS  
SHORT-TERM INVESTMENT POOL (STIP)

CERTIFICATE AS TO  
RESOLUTION NO. 24-11 AND ADOPTING VOTE

Political Subdivision: Liberty County  
Governing Body: Commissioners

Type, date, time, and place of meeting: A \_\_\_\_\_ meeting held on April 16<sup>th</sup>  
at 10:30 o'clock 30 m. in Chester, Montana.

Members present:

Members absent:

I, the undersigned, being the qualified and acting recording officer for the political subdivision identified above ("Participant"), certify that the attached RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE BOARD OF INVESTMENTS SHORT-TERM INVESTMENT POOL AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF DOCUMENTS RELATED THERETO and Exhibits A and B ("Resolution");

- (1) is a true and correct copies of the original Resolution on file in the Participant's original records.
- (2) was approved and adopted by the Participant's Governing Body as required by law; and
- (3) has not been amended or repealed.

DATED this 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024

By [Signature]  
Its Liberty County Commission

Commissioner Woods made a motion to approve the Short-Term Investment Pool participation information sheet authorizing Sharlys Davis (Interim Treasurer) to handle the County investments. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**JOPLIN SEWER PROJECT**

The Commissioners held a pre-construction meeting for the Joplin Sewer project. In attendance were: The three Commissioners, Rob Moog, Chris Hayes (Robert Peccia & Associates), Dean Hayden (Joplin Resident), Kyle (Northwestern Energy), and representatives from Western Municipal Construction. Chris

Hayes facilitated the meeting which began at 11:00 am. Chris went through the agenda. There is a power pole in the path of the sewer, they are looking to move the pole to the south. Dean would prefer move it north. Northwestern would like to handle this before the actual project gets started. Meeting adjourned at 12:00.

#### **RESIDENT VISIT**

Dale Fossen was in to visit with the Commissioners.

#### **SENIOR CENTER USE POLICIES**

Following up on last week's discussion on fees for public use of the Senior Center, the Commissioners voted on an updated price for facility rental. Commissioner Woods made a motion to make the kitchen and dining room available at one price for rent for \$350.00, and just the dining room for \$150.00. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor. Glenda will update the policy to reflect this change.

#### **MSU EXTENSION**

Jesse Fulbright, Extension, was in to update the Commissioners on his excursions doing field work. Jesse also provided updates to Commissioners on Cemetery Board interviews.

#### **JUSTICE COURT**

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

#### **SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

County Superintendent of Schools Kathy Armstrong was in to update the Commissioners on issues that she has been dealing with in her office.

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

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

#### **APRIL 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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.

#### **CEMETERY BOARD**

Jesse Fulbright, Chair of the Cemetery Board and MSU Extension Agent, had a Zoom meeting with the Cemetery District attorney and the Commissioners. After Jesse updated the Commissioners on 4H and Extension issues.

#### **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

County Attorney Robert Padmos was in to update the Commissioners on the VOCA grant award. The grant is 98% fulfilled, the advocate will now have more availability to help with more physical needs such as: clothing, toiletries, travel, and more. Robert also found some policies for the Board of Health, we will review this starting in July.

#### **CLERK AND RECORDER**

Clerk and Recorder Davin Padmos was in to update the Commissioners on the election processes she is working on. Her staff are about to begin stuffing ballots in preparation for the May 10<sup>th</sup> mail date.

#### **JOPLIN SEWER PROJECT**

Commissioner Wickum made a motion to approve the Notice to Proceed with the Joplin Sewer Project sludge removal. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

#### **ROAD DEPARTMENT**

Road Foreman Dave Ghekiere was in to update the Commissioners on crew members working on getting their CDL's. Dave has his crew out spraying and maintaining the roads.

#### **CANDIDATE VISIT**

Wayne Stahl, candidate for House District 28 stopped in to visit with the Commissioners.

#### **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.

**SENIOR CENTER**

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, was in to let the Commissioners know that she has made the updates to the rental contract for the Senior Center that the Commissioners approved. Glenda will be replacing a security light in the women’s bathroom.

**RESIDENT VISIT**

Ken Snyder, Joplin resident, was in to visit with the Commissioners.

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

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

**APRIL 30<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**SCHOOL CONTRACT**

Commissioner Woods made a motion to approve the contract between Chester-Joplin-Inverness Public Schools and Hi-line Colony Schools. Commissioner Wickum seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**ROAD DEPARTMENT**

Road Foreman Dave Ghekiere was in to update the Commissioners on where his crew is going to be this week. They are hauling gravel to trouble spots both north of Chester and south by Tiber. They are working on the stretch south of Greens towards 2700 Road. Dave has had a couple of machines down, but they are now up and running. Dave has one crew member out spraying ditches and cattle guards. The mowers have been maintained and will be ready to go.

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

Commissioner Woods made a motion to sign the Department of Public Health and Human Services Immunization grant form for our local Public Health Department. Commissioner Wickum seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**SCHOOL DISTRICT 10 CLAIM**

Commissioner Wickum made a motion to approve a claim to pay for the checks that School District 10 was required to re-order per the Commissioners. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**COUNTY SANITARIAN**

County Sanitarian Sarah Robbin was in to update the Commissioners on what she is doing in the next couple of weeks here in Liberty County. Sarah will be working with local residents on some new sewer applications.

**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.

**ROAD COMPLAINT**

A member of Sage Creek Colony came in to find fault with some of the roads.

**JOPLIN SEWER PROJECT**

Commissioner Wickum made a motion pay request number 1 from Robert Peccia and Associates for professional services and to the Montana Department of Revenue for gross receipts tax, both for the Joplin Sewer Project. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE**

The Department of Revenue stopped in to update the Commissioners on a land owner looking to switch land from agriculture to grazing. Also, they will be adding new structures throughout the county to the tax rolls.

**RESOLUTION 24-11**

Commissioner Wickum made a motion to approve Resolution 24-11 for reissuing checks that were not cashed. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Hearing no public comment, the motion carried with all in favor.

**RESOLUTION 24-11**

WHEREAS, MCA 7-6-2607 states that the board of county commissioners shall cause to be canceled all county warrants that have remained uncalled for 1 year or more in the county clerk's office. The board shall cause to be entered on the record of warrants, opposite to the entry of each warrant issued, the date when the warrant was canceled and shall make a list of the canceled warrants, specifying the number, date, amount, and the person to whom the warrant was payable. The board shall cause the list to be entered on the minutes of the board.; and

WHEREAS, MCA 27-2-202 states that Actions based on contract or other obligation. (1) The period prescribed for the commencement of an action on any contract, covenant, obligation, or liability founded on an instrument in writing is within 8 years; and

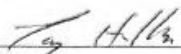
WHEREAS, MCA 70-9-802 The provisions of the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act are not applicable to property held by a local government entity. Accordingly, cancelled warrants are not considered to be abandoned property for this purpose; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Commissioners order the following checks to be cancelled:

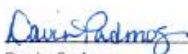
Check #	Payee #/Name	Check Amount	Date Issued	Period Rejected	Reselect Acct
37262	7680 070111 WELLS FARGO	0.00	01/29/13	_____	_____
41265	249199 JOSEPH TRER	294.83	03/22/20	_____	_____
41507	249194 DEIL PHARRE	2.39	09/27/20	_____	_____
41620	249164 KRISTLA V. DUNHAM	24.70	02/26/22	_____	_____

DATED THIS 30<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Davin Padmos  
Liberty County Clerk & Recorder

  
Commissioner

  
Commissioner

**JUSTICE COURT**

Justice of the Peace Chris Case was in to update the Commissioners on what his office has been doing.

**SENIOR CENTER**

Glenda Hanson, Senior Center Director, was in to let the Commissioners know what's been going on at 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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