

February 1st, 2010 ♦ Monday

SENIOR CITIZENS BUILDING PROJECT MEETING

Present for the meeting conducted on the above stated date were: Commissioner Rockman, Commissioner Hendrickson, Rodney Keith, Russ Wolfe, Carol Aitken, Harry Heimbigner, Jane Allen, Pat Ludwig, Annmarie Robinson, Gary Jensen, Dallas Denter, and Betty Marshall. The group met in the Commissioners office to discuss ideas for the new senior center. The committee explored many different ideas and gave WAG ideas to bring in the next drawing. WAG will do some cost estimates.

February 2nd, 2010 ♦ Tuesday

LEPC

Commissioner Hendrickson and Commissioner Rockman, as well as many other community members, were in attendance at the regular monthly LEPC meeting held at the Liberty County Emergency Services Building at 8:30 AM.

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were: Chairman Larry Hendrickson and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

LIBERTY COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING

Commissioner Rockman attended the monthly meeting held at the Senior Center. Russ Wolfe (WAG) highlighted suggested revisions to the center project. Commissioner Rockman updated the group on the NCAAA meeting last month. Rod Keith discussed putting the Senior Citizen's special levy on the ballot this year.

ROAD

Shawn Norick was in to update the Commissioners on current road matters.

Equipment items to delete from County Shop Inventory:

1. Coats 20-20 tire changer
2. 4-ton floor jack
3. Appollo washer
4. wheeled tool chest (now broken down & moved to work pick-up)
5. Century 225 amp mig
6. 14 Halide lights/fixtures (replaced at the county shop)

An old county pick-up was given to the Liberty County Sheriff's Office to be used as a Rural Fire rig. The Commissioners will talk to Sheriff Richard Burrows about the transfer of liability insurance on this pick-up.

The LTAP Road Grader Certification training is being held in Liberty County on Monday & Tuesday (April 12th and 13th, 2010). Commissioner Hendrickson will reserve the Fire Hall for this training. Shawn will call John Deere and Caterpillar about interest in participating.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Commissioner Hendrickson attended a meeting with Dr. Gladys Young, Public Health Nurse Karla Kulpas, and Public Health Coordinator Penny Walston to discuss the funds in the H1N1-flu grant (PHER monies).

LIBERTY MEDICAL CENTER

Ron Gleason asked the Commissioners for permission to declare an old physical therapy bed obsolete. Commissioner Rockman made the motion to grant permission. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

COURTHOUSE MAINTENANCE MAN

Jacob Knapton offered his resignation on January 25th with a 2-week notice, making his last day February 9th, 2010. The Commissioner's accepted his resignation.

UNION ISSUE

Commissioner Hendrickson telephoned Jerry Ghekiere at the Road Department to inquire if the Road Crew is accepting of the proposed 1% salary increase, as the Commissioners have never received any information from the union. Jerry says the guys are satisfied without further bargaining.

SENIOR CITIZEN / TRANSIT SPECIAL LEVIES

Rod Keith was in to discuss continuing the special levies regarding the Liberty County Senior Center and the Liberty County Transit. After discussion, the Commissioners will have County Attorney Hugh Brown draw up the recommended ballot terminology for consideration by the Board. The Commissioners will put the ballot issue on this year's Primary Election to get early voter input and to save money on a special election in 2011. The information was given to Hugh Brown.

WEED DEPARTMENT

Jim Ghekiere reported that a survey will be coming to the Commissioners from the Governor's office regarding the regulation of Russian Olives.

UNION

The Commissioners mailed a letter to Max Halfrisch and Jeff Minckler informing them of the 1% raise awarded to the Road Department.

SENIOR CENTER PROJECT

Annmarie Robinson e-mailed the Commissioners a proposed letter to Triangle Telephone that confirms our guarantee on the Triangle Telephone loan that may be available for our use on the new Center. It states our guarantee is the money from the upcoming "special levy". If the levy fails, the guarantee will be funds in our reserve account (the Fulton funds).

DENNIS HANSON / HAN BROTHERS PROPERTY

Dennis Hanson has never received any notification from the Department of Revenue regarding his tax payments on property sold to/owned by Han Brothers. Commissioner Hendrickson telephoned Barbara Han, who has not received any information either. Her husband, Al Han, will call the Commissioners later.

CLAIMS

Commissioner Rockman made the motion to pay the end of the month claims as they have been presented. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

RAISE

Clerk & Recorder Rhonda Pimley visited briefly with the Commissioners regarding the pay raise for Rod Keith. For payroll purposes, she is needing clarification from the Commissioners whether or not the 1% pay raise for Rod is to be applied to his base salary only –or- if their wishes are for him to receive the 1% on his additional Transportation grant money as well. The Commissioners have decided that Rod will receive the 1% raise on both his base and his additional grant money pay.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

February 3rd, 2010 ♦ Wednesday

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were: Chairman Larry Hendrickson and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

HANSON / HAN PROPERTY

Jeff Han stopped in to visit with the Commissioners about the property tax issue. He explained what had taken place and said he would settle the issue with Dennis Hanson.

RETROACTIVE PAYROLL

Commissioner Rockman made the motion to approve for payment this week, the retroactive 1% pay increase, as it has been presented. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

NEW EXTENSION AGENT

The Commissioners visited with the new Extension Agent, Jesse Fulbright, about county policies, department head meetings, the use of the county vehicles, etcetera.

ROAD

Shawn Norick visited with the Commissioners regarding the old welder and tire-changer, which they have "cleaned-up" for sale. The Commissioners will place an advertisement in the Liberty County Times offering these 2 items up for bid to local taxpayers. A minimum bid on the welder will be set at \$200 and the minimum bid on the tire-changer will be set at \$400.

The group also re-visited some paperwork regarding road-crossing issues with the Chippewa-Cree Water Project, which Shawn will do a follow-up on.

NORTH CENTRAL AREA AGENCY ON AGING

Rod Keith has received some correspondence from NCAAA regarding budget cuts recommended by the Governor for next year.

CLAIMS

Commissioner Rockman made the motion to approve for payment the claims as they have been presented. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

ROBERT PECCIA & ASSOCIATES

The Commissioners have received a letter form Robert Peccia & Associates detailing the pavement condition of the runway at the Liberty County Airport.

MINUTES

The Commissioner's minutes dated December 2nd, 8th, 9th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th of 2009 were reviewed, as were the minutes of January 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 12th, 13th, 19th of 2010. A few corrections were noted / made. The motion to accept these minutes with corrections was made by Commissioner Rockman. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

DNRC TRUCKS

Commissioner Hendrickson spoke with Tina Wood of Wood Insurance Agency regarding liability insurance on the DNRC trucks. A letter was sent to Quannah Bailey and Butch Tempel requesting action on this matter.

MAINTENANCE MAN UPDATE

1. The Liberty County Times advertisement is set to run on 2-10-2010 and 2-17-2010 for application for the County Maintenance Man position. Applications must be submitted by 5:00 PM on 2-22-2010.
2. RuthAnn Norick will fill-in on custodial duties beginning 2-9-2010.
3. Jacob Knapton is willing to come in periodically to do some "maintenance" projects.

Commissioner Tempel telephoned to check-in. He will be back in the office on 2-09-2010.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were: Chairman Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner Russ Tempel and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING / SAFETY MEETING

In addition to all three Commissioners, present for the monthly department head meeting were Tina Wood, Shawn Norick, Rod Keith, Rachel Ghekiere, Rhonda Pimley, and Anne Seidlitz-Melton. Tina visited with the group about the recent MACo Risk Management Loss Control / Safety Conference she and Shawn Norick attended in Missoula last month. The conference has outlined some of the things that Tina now believes Liberty County needs to work on for it's Safety Program:

1st: Get all of the employees involved with training; including first aid, CPR, ergonomics, slips and falls, etc. We will probably have to split the training(s) into two shifts. It has been determined that Department Heads do not "trickle down" the Safety trainings very well, so we need to have the employees complete the safety trainings.

Tina also noted that Montana is the second highest in the nation in workman's comp claims. It has been observed that new employees are the most likely to have an accident within the first 90 days of employment.

Another issue that is beginning to cause some problems for Montana is the medical marijuana cards. People are obtaining these cards without receiving much education about them. Also, Montana laws are not up to speed to compensate for the newly legalized medical marijuana cards. Basically, Tina reiterated that even if an employee has a medical marijuana card, it is still illegal for them to operate county equipment while under the influence.

Tina addressed personnel problems from the perspective of the County's liability insurance. Suggestions to the department heads included: follow the policy manual, take whistle blowers seriously, and document everything. She also suggested that it is not a good idea for department heads to handle substandard employees by trying to make them so miserable that they will quit, thinking that this will keep the County safe from a lawsuit. She also pointed out that if an employee is asked to quit, it is still considered a discharge. And she reminded the department heads that it is not legal to withhold money from a termination check for anything.

ROAD

Shawn Norick updated the Commissioners on installing the new tire changer / balancer. The group also discussed graveling the roads with a partial crew.

CUSTODIAL POSITION / FILL-IN

Ruth Ann Norick stopped by to visit with the Commissioners regarding the fill-in custodial work. She also presented some ideas to the Commissioners regarding how they might be able to make the job better.

HOSPITAL / EMERGENCY ROOM

Ron Gleason was in to visit with the Commissioners regarding an issue that has arisen regarding the Emergency Room; and to whom he should send the bill.

PAYROLL

Commissioner Tempel made the motion to approve for payment the payroll as it has been presented. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

LIBRARY BOARD

Commissioner Tempel made the motion to accept the Library Board's recommendation to appoint Sandy Anderson to the Library Board. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

MINUTES

Commissioner Tempel made the motion to approve the minutes of January 26th through February 3rd. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

WEED

Jim Ghekiere was in to visit with the Commissioners regarding a weed department issue, and about the Bear Paw annual meeting, which Commissioner Rockman agreed to attend.

HRDC

Matt Twedt stopped by to visit with the Commissioners. He has been hired by HRDC for Adult Basic Literacy and Education instruction.

Commissioner Tempel left early on this day, to attend the HRDC Executive meeting in Havre.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

February 10th, 2010 ♦ Wednesday

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were: Chairman Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner Russ Tempel and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

COUNTY TAX APPEAL BOARD

The Commissioners telephoned Bob Mattson and inquired about the current status of hearings for the County Tax Appeal Board. Bob said they would be starting within a month.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Richard Burrows was in and visited with the Commissioners about the wage scale for the dispatchers. It was decided to raise Ellen Gage's wages up to \$12.28/hour beginning February 7th until July 1, and then up to \$12.86/hour. Ellen has assumed the Dispatcher's Supervisory position since the retirement of Karen Knorr.

SENIOR CITIZENS BUILDING PROJECT

Two bids have been received for the geotechnical work for the Senior Citizen's building project. The two bids received were from Big Sky Subsurface of Belt and SK Geotechnical of Billings.

After review and discussion Commissioner Tempel made the motion to accept the bid for \$4,900 from SK Geotechnical of Billings. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The Commissioners faxed the signature page back to the company.

CLAIMS

Commissioner Tempel made the motion to approve for payment the claims as they have been submitted. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

SENIOR CITIZENS BUILDING PROJECT

The Commissioners went to the building site of the Senior Citizen's project and stacked the corners for SK Geotechnical to come and take the necessary core sample.

WEED GRANT

Jim Ghekiere was in and updated the Commissioners on weed grants and proposed weed issues on the lake.

UNION NEGOTIATIONS

The Commissioners have received an e-mail from Jeff Minckler acknowledging that Union negotiations are over.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

February 15, 2010 ♦ Monday

SENIOR CITIZENS BUILDING PROJECT

Present for the meeting conducted on the above stated date were: Commissioner Rockman, Commissioner Hendrickson, Commissioner Tempel, Rodney Keith, Russ Wolfe, Harry Heimbigner, Jane Allen, Pat Ludwig, Annmarie Robinson, Inez Keith, Julane Jensen, Priscilla Pimley, Shirley Rudolph, Norma Layton, Sheila Duncan, Mary Rudolph, Harley Rudolph and Betty Marshall. The group met in the Commissioners office to discuss updated plans for the senior center and the bus barn.

Updated cost estimates on the project follows:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|--|
| 1. Senior Center = | \$1,081,579 | |
| 2. Bus Barn = | \$ 467,626 | |
| TOTAL | \$1,549,206 | Average cost of the two projects = \$184/sq. ft. |

After much discussion and dollar calculations we decided that Russ needs to "cut back the total project to approximately \$1.2 million" (our max budget). We looked at reduction in "site preparation", square-footage on west end of the center (multi-purpose room and offices), elimination of patio/fence, and square-footage on east end of garage (storage area).

Russ will work on these changes, and then meet with the committee on February 16, 2010 with his recommendations. Meeting adjourned at noon.

Russ and Rod continued to work on the kitchen details after the meeting.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

February 16, 2010 ♦ Tuesday

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were: Chairman Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner Russ Tempel and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

SENIOR CITIZENS BUILDING PROJECT

Russ Wolfe met with Commissioner Rockman, Commissioner Hendrickson, Commissioner Tempel, Harry Heimbigner, Pat Ludwig, Betty Marshall, Jane Allen, Rod Keith. Russ made the following recommendations to reduce the costs on the project:

1. Create a list of alternative bids (i.e., on part of the site work, etc.)
2. Reduce the center size to 5,000 sq. ft. the actual dining area will be reduced to 1,760 sq. ft.
3. Reduce the "storage" area on the east end of the bus garage by 288 sq. ft. (8x36) plus two overhead doors.

We will meet again on March 9 & 10, 2010.

ROAD

Doug Riggan (undersheriff) and Shawn Norick (road supervisor) came in to discuss an accident that occurred on the Lake Elwell spillway on the early morning of February 14, 2010. A pickup containing 3 occupant apparently lost control, hit the built-up berm on the east side of the spillway road, flew over the guard railing and traveled down the dam to the bottom. Photos and report were provided for our consideration. Potential liability issues must be addressed. This berm with frozen snow buildup makes the road edge like a "ramp" (to projectile the vehicles over the guard rail). Shawn reports that the BOR has requested this berm to assist drainage towards the lake side of the dam. We put a call into Mike LaFrentz to get clarification on this issue.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS ISSUE

Hugh Brown produced a draft of a letter to be sent to Utah regarding unemployment benefits being requested by Ron Weimer (former road crew employee who voluntarily resigned to take another job). Shawn reports that Ron is presently employed, so the benefits are no longer an issue, but we decided to send the letter just the same to document the research done by Mr. Brown.

COOP-COG EXERCISE

Commissioner Hendrickson attended the Coop-Cog DES exercise from 10:00 to 2:00 at the fire hall.

INSURANCE ISSUES

Tina Wood was in with the renewal application for our insurance with MACO/JPIA. Commissioner Tempel motioned to accept the renewal and Commission Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

A few facts were pointed out:

1. The Liberty County Museum is under a 501-C3 and does not fall under our insurance program, they have their own association.
2. With an additional deputy at the Liberty County Sheriffs Office, there will be some increase in our insurance.
3. Current values of buildings will be increased by 2% and property by 1%.
4. Tina needs a copy of Liberty County's agreement with the Marias Fair Board.

BEAR PAW DEVELOPMENT CORP

Commissioner Rockman attended the annual meeting of Bear Paw Development Corp. on Thursday, February 11, 2010 in Havre. Highlights of the meeting follow:

1. Executive Director Paul Tuss said 2009 was a great year. Total investment for fiscal year 2009 was \$19,000 plus.
2. Through partnerships and loans with local businesses and agencies, Bear Paw was able to save or add 170 jobs in our service area in 2009.
3. Income was received at 92% of budgeted and expenses were used at 99% of budgeted. Still Bear Paw Development Corp. had a net operating profit of \$91,600.
4. Since they are doing good, all dues will remain the same (have been the same since 1988). Liberty County's annual dues are \$5,000. The total of all member dues are \$90,000.
5. Bear Paw Development Corp. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (C.E.D.S.) has been converted from cumbersome manuals to computerized, so each member was given a CD of the C.E.D.S.
6. Officers for 2010 are: Shaud Schwarzback, President, Wayne Wardell, Vice President, Sheri Nicholson, Secretary and Dough Kaercher, Treasurer.
7. A copy of the annual report was provided.

The speaker for the meeting was Dr. Frank Tocki, Chancellor of MSU-Northern.

LIBERTY COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Commissioner Rockman attended the Board of Health meeting on Friday, February 12, 2010. The Clear Air Act was discussed. H1N1 vaccine is readily available and free. The pandemic exercise was discussed and action items were identified and delegated. The next meeting will be April 23, 2010.

PROPANE TANK

Don Koon from Taylor Fuels in Shelby called to discuss finalizing the installation of a propane tank in Liberty County (we had several meetings on this about a year ago with Greg Taylor). Don will meet with us on March 3, 2010.

TRIANGLE COMMUNICATIONS

We sent Anne Boothe at Triangle Communications a copy of our trial balance showing the Fulton Fund of \$281,244, which she needs as our "guarantee" for the Senior Center loan.

RUSSIAN OLIVE

Robert Pugsley Jr. (representative for Liberty County Conservation District) came in to discuss new information on Russian Olives. They are asking that Russian olives be listed as a "regulated plant", not as a noxious weed. A survey will be forthcoming from the Montana Department of Agriculture.

SK GEOTECH

SK Geotechnical of Billings was in Chester on February 12 and 13, 2010 to take the four requested core samples at the Senior Center project site.

KENFIELD WIND PROJECT

A letter of support for this project was written by the Commissioners. In addition we removed the "Confidentially" clause on the wind data report as requested by Bret Kenfield. Commissioner Rockman motioned to send a letter and Commission Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

MINUTES

Commissioner Rockman made the motion to approve the minutes of February 9th through February 10th. Commissioner Hendrikson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Karla Kulpas was in with the IAP contract to be signed. Commissioner Tempel motioned to sign the contract and Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Funding went up this year from \$1475 to approximately \$2500. The extra \$1000 is to go toward adolescent immunizations.

HRDC

Commissioner Tempel attended a special meeting of HRDC in Havre on the evening of March 16, 2010 regarding a personal grievance.

EMS

Commissioners Hendrickson and Rockman attended an EMS meeting Tuesday evening, March 16, 2010 to visit with the volunteers about replacing Dave Hunnewell. They discussed updating the job description and other issues of importance. The commissioners will research our 911 phone system and new pagers/radios. We thanked the EMS for their excellent community work and spirit. There being no further business, the regular meeting of the Board of Liberty County Commissioners was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

February 17, 2010 ♦ Wednesday

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were: Chairman Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

AIRPORT

A phone call was made to Bill Burkland of Pecchia & Associates; they are presently surveying the runway for the potential resurfacing project.

HOSPITAL BOARD MEETING

Commissioner Hendrickson attended a Liberty Medical Center board meeting on the evening of February 17, 2010.

MACO MEETINGS

All three commissioners will be out of the office on the week of February 22 through February 25, 2010 to attend the Mid-Winter MACO conferences in Great Falls.

REAPPRAISAL INFORMATION

Loren Hawks stopped in to update the commissioners on the Department of Revenue Reappraisal appeals. We discussed with Loren the current law suit filed by the Montana Taxpayers Association and Montana Farm Bureau. The report has it that some of the "Production" appeals have been denied, but no word has yet come from the "in-phase" appeals. There being no further business, the regular meeting of the Board of Liberty County Commissioners was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

February 23, 2010 ♦ Tuesday

Commissioner Tempel, Commissioner Hendrickson and Commissioner Rockman were not in today they were attending the Mid-Winter Conference in Great Falls.

PAYROLL

Commissioner Hendrickson called in and approved the payroll for this week. Commissioner Tempel seconded the motion, the motion passed.

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman