

January 6, 2009 ♦ Tuesday

LEPC

Commissioner Tempel, Commissioner Hendrickson, Commissioner Rockman and Clerk & Recorder Pimley, 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 date in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were Chairman Russ Tempel, Commissioner Larry Hendrickson and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

ROAD

Shawn Norick was in to update the Commissioners on current road matters. Snowfall and snow drifting is currently a large issue. The crew has been very busy and many overtime hours are being put in. Shawn reported that the road supervisor from Hill County is willing to assist us with some of the blading close to the county line. Shawn also reported that he desperately needs to purchase a small mobile telephone. The telephone calls and messages have been immense this passed week and a cell phone would have been very helpful.

A public complaint about one of the road crew members has been lodged. The group discussed the issue in detail. The Commissioners will further look into this matter and if necessary Shawn will take the appropriate disciplinary action.

RDO is having some difficulty locating the wing for the new grader. Mike Pallett will be calling the Commissioners with an update later today.

Wood's Insurance was contacted regarding the County liability insurance and miscellaneous minor damages that have recently been caused by graders moving snow.

DES

Yvonne Hunnewell and Darrell Stafford were in to visit with the Commissioners. It has been recommended that the Commissioners consider passing a resolution declaring the recent abundant amount of snow an emergency situation. The (LIGDM) Local Government Information Disaster Manual was consulted to locate the appropriate form. Darrell informed the Commissioners that the emergency 2 mill levy must be implemented before receiving any state financial assistance in this process. Commissioner Rockman made the motion to pass a resolution declaring that a severe winter storm has occurred that has resulted in an emergency situation; and that this resolution be submitted to the State DES office. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The resolution was faxed to the appropriate State DES office.

FIREHALL

It has been brought to the attention of the Commissioners that back-up / additional heating may be necessary at the firehall. The new boiler is not always reliable, and it is difficult to reheat the building each time it is necessary to open one of the garage doors. The Commissioner's intend to look into the matter further. They will consider radiant heat, as well as other options. Also, the West Liberty County Rural Fire District board will be contacted and informed of the matter.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to re-elect Commissioner Russ Tempel to serve as chairman of the board another year. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

RESOLUTION SETTING COMMISSIONER MEETING DATES

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to set the Commissioner meeting dates to every Tuesday of each month, and the Wednesdays following the first and second Tuesdays of each month. Furthermore, that the hours shall be established as 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, excepting the hour from noon to 1:00 PM. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING OFFICE HOURS

Commissioner Rockman made the motion that each office shall be open for the transaction of business during the office hours of 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on legal holidays, and except the following offices, which are as follows:

County Superintendent of Schools: Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM,
excepting the hour from noon to 1:00 PM

-and-

Justice of the Peace Office: Tuesdays, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM,
excepting the hour from noon to 1:00 PM.

Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING PER DIEM RATES

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to adopt a resolution establishing mileage, lodging and per diem rates for business travel. When traveling in the normal course of their duties to designated areas, employees shall be reimbursed for the cost of meals, lodging and per diem within the rates established pursuant to MCA 2-18-501, 2-18-502, and 2-18-503 and in accordance with the following provisions:

- 1) Lodging must be reimbursed at actual cost, not to exceed the prescribed standard state rate per day. All claims for lodging reimbursement allowed must be documented by an appropriate receipt.
- 2) Meal reimbursement may not exceed the prescribed standard state rate per meal per day.
- 3) The mileage will be reimbursed at the prescribed standard state rate.
 - a) Except that if the county vehicle is available for use and the choice is made not to use it, the mileage reimbursement for use of your personal vehicle for county business, will be at 60% of the state rate.

Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

COUNTY CLASSIFICATION / BOND INSPECTION

As suggested by MACo, the topics of county classification and bond inspection were briefly discussed. Due to the fact that these subjects had been discussed thoroughly at a September meeting as prescribed by Montana law, they were only briefly re-visited on this day.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

As recommended by MACo, the subject of the board meeting minutes was discussed. According to Montana Code, the board meeting minutes must be available within 21 days. The Commissioners feel this requirement is being met. The Commissioners also discussed whether or not to place the minutes in the newspaper or to begin posting the minutes onto the County website. The Commissioners will explore these options further at a later date.

BUDGET RESOLUTION

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to adopt the following budget resolution. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

RESOLUTION 09-04

WHEREAS, in the current Fiscal Year the Liberty County Immunizations Grant Fund has received to date \$20,857.49 in charge for services revenues;

WHEREAS, at the time of setting budgets only \$15,000 was anticipated;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Liberty County Commissioners that the additional amount of \$5,857.49 in revenues received from charges for services in Fiscal Year 2008-2009, be entered into the Liberty County Immunizations Grant Fund budget to be expended.

DATED THIS 6th day of January, 2009

RECORDED IN LIBERTY COUNTY MONTANA

ATTEST:

J. J. P. P. P.
Clerk

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Paul Kemp
Chairman

[Signature]
Commissioner

Dylan Rockman
Commissioner

HEALTH INSURANCE

The Commissioners discussed the need to begin the process of seriously looking at the health insurance options.

ALERT SECURITY ALARM SYSTEMS

Sheriff Richard Burrows was in to discuss the bid from Alert Security Alarm Systems for new security cameras and supporting software. They discussed the plans for placement of the security cameras. Options for the panic buttons were discussed as well.

Sheriff Burrows also discussed the snow storm and the conditions of the roads with the Commissioners.

Jim Ghekiere briefly joined the group to discuss the security system. He is very confident that after he submits the proper paperwork to the state, that 9-1-1 will pay for the entire new system.

COUNTY BOARDS

The Commissioners reviewed and updated the list of members currently serving on the County Boards. Re-appointments and new appointments were made as necessary. Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to accept the realignment of the County Boards as discussed. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

CDBG GRANT / COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Craig Erickson telephoned the Commissioners to discuss the current status of the CDBG grant. We are required to complete two community needs assessment hearings. He would like to schedule the first of these two hearings for January 27th at 1:00 PM. Craig is willing to take care of the notice in the newspaper as well as all the other necessary details. The Commissioners discussed this with Rod Keith and the group agreed the 27th would be fine.

CLAIMS

Commissioner Hendrickson made a motion to accept for payment the monthly claims as submitted. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

January 7th, 2009 ♦ Wednesday

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above date in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were Commissioner Larry Hendrickson and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman. Chairman Russ Tempel was attending a MACo Montana Early Childhood Advisory Council meeting in Helena on this day.

DEPARTMENT HEAD / QUARTERLY SAFETY MEETING

In addition to Commissioner Larry Hendrickson and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman, present for the monthly department head / quarterly safety meeting were: Gayle Dahlen, Shawn Norick, Jim Ghekiere, Rachel Ghekiere, Teresa Fenger, Anne Seidlitz-Melton, Rhonda Pimley, and Safety Coordinator Tina Wood. After each department head was given time to give their office update, a brief informational safety workshop was held in regards to slips and falls. Tina Wood informed the department heads that between January 15th and February 14th she will be visiting each and every county office and work place. She will be looking for any situation that may pose as a potential for creating slips and falls. Tina also passed out handouts regarding slip and fall hazards to the Department Heads requesting that they share these with their employees.

9-1-1 FUNDING REQUEST

Jim Ghekiere visited briefly with the Commissioners about funding from 9-1-1. He had e-mailed the Commissioners earlier this day with the list of approved expenditures from 9-1-1. He noted that the security system has been approved for payment by 9-1-1.

ROADS

Shawn Norick visited with the Commissioners about road matters. He attempted to get his new cell phone yesterday, but was unable to get it. Shawn told the Commissioners that Thisselle's have requested the County to plow the snow out by their place. Shawn has some safety concerns about the steepness of the hills in that area, but he will have the crew attempt it. There have been some other requests as well that Shawn is hoping they now have time for.

ALERT SECURITY ALARMS SYSTEM

Commissioner Rockman made the motion to accept the bid and approve the purchase of the security system from Alert Security Alarm Systems. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Commissioner Hendrickson telephoned ASAS to confirm the bid. The Commissioners were asked by ASAS to submit partial payment in advance. They agreed to the advance.

Jerry and Helen Shettel stopped by to see the Commissioners. They are requesting the County to come out and plow their road.

OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to declare obsolete an old slide projector and a non-working printer, both from the Extension Office. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Craig Erickson telephoned to request that the scheduled public hearing for the CDBG grant be held in the Courthouse rather than the Senior Citizens building.

Shawn Norick stopped in to update the Commissioners on the current location of all of the graders.

Rod Keith stopped to visit with the Commissioners briefly on the status of the CDBG grant.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

January 8th, 2009 ♦ Thursday

Commissioner Rockman attended the monthly Cemetery Board meeting on this day.

January 13, 2009 ♦ Tuesday

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

ROAD

Shawn Norick was in to update the Commissioners on current road matters. He reported that the roads are very slippery currently. The crew is out working on the areas that are most in the need of attention. Commissioner Rockman reported that he has received some compliments on the work the crew has completed out south through all of the snow storms.

Commissioner Hendrickson reported there is a yield sign that needs to be repaired out by Lakey's. The road department is currently in the process of inventorying the county road signs.

Shawn has his new cell phone now, and it is working well.

The gentleman that has the walk-n-roll packer telephoned the road department last week but, Shawn missed his phone call.

Mike Pallett and Dace Smith from RDO joined the group to visit with the Commissioner's about the financing for the road grader. The Commissioners have already completed the purchase order paperwork. Mike looked it over and thought it all seemed to be in order.

A personnel issue was briefly revisited.

Commissioner Hendrickson and Shawn* plan on attending the road/signage portion of the Risk Management workshop in Helena tomorrow. Commissioner Hendrickson will stay an extra day to attend the DES portion as well.

The minimum requirement for the reflectivity of road signs was discussed. Shawn also discussed the replacement of the signs. The cost is around \$20 and up to replace an engineer grade sign. Setting up a line item in his budget that is specifically for road signs has been very helpful.

**(Shawn did not go to the meeting)*

WEED DEPARTMENT

Jim Ghekiere telephoned from the Weed Conference in Billings. Bear Paw Development is looking for five new non-governmental committee members. Jim has checked with the list of possible people that Commissioner Tempel had given to him earlier and one of them is willing to serve on the committee. Jim would like permission to go ahead and recommend that Rob Moog of Joplin be chosen to serve on this committee. The go ahead for the recommendation was granted. Jim also reported that Wayne Wardell will be given the Agency Weed Fighter of the Year Award* at the conference tomorrow evening.

**(As in turned out, Wayne came in second)*

CDBG GRANT / SENIOR CITIZENS PROJECT

Rod Keith stopped by to touch base with the Commissioners on the status of the grant process. He shared with the Commissioners, a copy of the article Craig Erickson has prepared for the newspaper. Rod also had a copy of the draft of the proposed community survey. The Commissioners looked the survey over and thought it looked reasonable.

LIBRARY

Teresa Fenger was in to visit with the Commissioners about a breaker at the Library that she is having some trouble with. The Commissioners will take a look at it this afternoon for her.

SOIL CONSERVATION

Marlene Moon was in to inform the Commissioners about a project that she is working on. The Marias Watershed and the BOR have been asked to co-host a clean-up day on the reservoir. They are hoping to hold the clean-up day on April 25th. They would like to have the project completed before the snakes come out and before the walleye tournaments begin. Other groups and communities will also be involved in this project. They include the Boy Scouts, RC&D, Fish Wildlife & Parks, and Walleye Unlimited as well as people from the communities of Havre, Shelby, Conrad, and Great Falls. Marlene believes this project will become quite large. She plans to attend a city council meeting to make arrangements for landfill access, but she is also looking for a large receptacle of some kind to use. She came in today to make the Commissioners aware of this project and also to see if the County had a large truck or something they might be able to utilize. Commissioner Tempel recommended that Marlene inform the Sheriff's Department of the project. Marlene intends to inform both the Sheriff's Department and Emergency services.

LIBERTY COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING

Commissioner Rockman returned after attending the annual meeting of the Liberty County Council on Aging Board held at 1:00 on this day, and then the monthly meeting of the Liberty County Council on Aging that was held directly after the adjournment of the annual meeting. He updated our County Boards list with the new appointments and re-appointments.

CEMETERY

Commissioner Rockman reported to the group some of the topics discussed at the recent Cemetery Board meeting he attended. A new John Deere tractor has been purchased. The old tractor was too old to justify the cost of the repairs for so it was decided to purchase a small diesel rotatiller tractor from Moody Implement.

PAYROLL

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to approve for payment the current payroll as submitted. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

MINUTES

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to approve as amended the minutes of the month of December. Commissioner Tempel seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Commissioner Rockman abstained from voting as he was not an acting Commissioner during the month of December.

WEST LIBERTY COUNTY RURAL FIRE DISTRICT

In addition to the Commissioners, present for this meeting was Alan Skari, Steve Backen and Fred Skierka by telephone. The Commissioners reported to the group the trouble with the new boiler shutting off at the firehall. It is felt that some sort of supplemental / back up heating system is needed. They estimate that the cost for radiant heat would be around \$2,500. Fred Skierka stated that he was in favor of adding the supplemental heat to the firehall. Alan Skari made the motion that the West Liberty County Rural Fire District should provide funding for the supplemental heat to the firehall. Steve Backen seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The Commissioners will make some telephone calls and see if they can get some competitive bids.

Yvonne Hunnewell was telephoned and made aware that the supplemental heating has been approved. Commissioner Hendrickson also discussed with Yvonne the Risk Management Workshop in Helena this week. Yvonne will not be able to attend on Thursday as they originally planned, so Commissioner Hendrickson will stay cover for the County on Thursday.

Quannah Bailey was also telephoned and made aware of the approval for supplemental heating. Quannah will make some telephone calls requesting bids. Quannah expressed to the Commissioners that he felt an overhead heating and fan system is a better idea than radiant heat.

PERSONNEL ISSUES

Jack Holstrom was telephoned for advice on a road personnel issue. Jack will fax some recommendations for a verbal warning and documentation of the warning. These faxed recommendations were passed along to Shawn.

COUNTY ATTORNEY / ATTEMPTED HOMICIDE

County Attorney Hugh Brown was in to answer questions the Commissioners have regarding the attempted homicide to the County Undersheriff this passed weekend. Hugh updated the Commissioners on how the process works. The preliminary hearing was held in the Justice of the Peace Office yesterday. Hugh told the Commissioners that Joe Coble has been contacted as is willing to help on this case as he has in the past.

ROAD

Shawn stopped by to touch base with the Commissioners again. The decision was also made that Shawn need not go to the Risk Management Workshop this week, and that Commissioner Hendrickson will attend in his place.

Shawn has received the medical pre-release form on one of his employees. Shawn said that when this employee is actually released by his physician to return to work, that he has some vehicle servicing work at the shop that can be done.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

January 14, 2009 ♦ Wednesday

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above date in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were Chairman Russ Tempel, and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman. Commissioner Hendrickson is in Helena attending the MACo Risk Management workshop.

CLAIMS

A few mid-month claims were presented to the Commissioners for their approval and payment. Commissioner Rockman made the motion to approve and pay the claims as presented. Commissioner Tempel seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

HIGHWAY 2 ASSOCIATION DUES

The invoice for the 2009 Highway 2 Association dues has been received. The decision was made to table the payment of these dues until after the legislative session. The Clerk & Recorder will retain the paperwork in her files.

ROAD REQUEST

Dan and Debbie Wolery were in to visit with the Commissioners regarding a request to fix a blind spot on a hill on one of the roads up north. Dan stated he feels this spot is dangerous.

ROAD

Shawn Norick stopped by to visit briefly with the Commissioners regarding a personnel issue. A document was added to the personnel file of one of the road employees.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

January 15th, 2009 ♦ Thursday

On the above stated date Commissioner Tempel attended the Marias Watershed meeting at 10:00 in Rudyard and then the HRDC meeting at 7:00 in Havre.

January 20, 2009 ♦ Tuesday

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

MACO JPIA INSURANCE MIDPOLICY YEAR MEETING

Greg Jackson with our MACo Liability insurance was in on this day for the annual mid-policy year meeting. In addition to the Commissioners, also present for the meeting were Marty and Tina Wood from Wood Insurance.

Greg typically comes annually to set down and go over what the County can expect for policy and premium changes, and the reasoning behind those changes.

JPIA Property and Liability Trust Program: The trend seems to look better at this point than it has in the past. Greg projects that Liberty County should be looking at receiving a credit this year on our property insurance premium.

Proposed changes in the liability policy include:

- Defense for zoning issues (must be county initiated zoning)
- Defense for flood plain management-include language for coverage of an employee that is hired as a flood plain manager
- Ethical charges – the County Attorney, Justice of the Peace and Public Health Nurse have standards boards they may have to appear before- new language could provide limited defense for these officers if they should need it
- Non-monetary claim which have been excluded in the past may now have some limited liability coverage (especially concerned for the conservation districts)

Workman’s Compensation Trust Program: Greg projects that if these rates increase at all, it will be a very minimal increase.

ROAD

Shawn Norick was in to update the Commissioners on current road matters. Commissioner Hendrickson visited with the group about the Risk Management Safety Workshop that he attended last week. Road sign safety issues and policy regarding road signs was discussed. The Commissioners need to adopt a sign policy. Other safety issues discussed included:

- The potential danger of cutting stainless steel with a plasma torch. The fumes may be toxic and precautions need to be taken
- Developing and adopting policy on cattle guards is recommended
- Culvert replacement was discussed
- Truck inspections before they haul gravel – a pre-trip inspection check off list was recommended

Commissioner Hendrickson also reported that he has requested that Jack Norr from MACO come to Liberty County to do a safety workshop for the county road crew.

HRDC

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to re-sign the annual contract for HRDC services. Commissioner Tempel seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

LIBERTY MEDICAL CENTER / CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY

Elizabeth Woods was consulted regarding private versus public information at the Liberty Medical Center when they receive public funding. It is her opinion that the public has a right to know how the facility is running financially when they have voted on the public funding. Elizabeth feels that the Confidentiality Policy that she was shown, should be revised to reflect this public right to know. She will contact the attorney for the Liberty Medical Center and visit with her about this issue.

LIBERTY COUNTY POLICY HANDBOOK

The Commissioners worked on the revisions for the Policy Handbook for a while. More suggestions for revisions were made.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

January 27, 2009 ♦ Tuesday

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

ROAD

Road Foreman Shawn Norick was in on road matters. The road sign inventorying process was discussed. Shawn informed the Commissioners that the county signs, cattle guards, culverts, various water lines that cross county roads, etc. have all been GPS'd in the past.

Pete Woods has been in contact with Shawn. He would like to make the county aware of and volunteer his newly purchased snow cat for any county search & rescue or other type of emergency that may be encountered.

Shawn reported that there are several hard drifts developing on various county roads. Some of these drifts may even be difficult for the graders to bust through.

Shawn is still looking at the walk-n-roll packer from LyCox Enterprises. Shawn says LyCox is quoting a 4% increase for the new year. The cost will be around \$15,000 and they will deliver. Shawn is also currently looking at a demo mower.

The group also discussed the status of the snow/ice in the culverts. Shawn reported that there are some culverts north of the hills that there may be a problem with, but all culverts south of the hills should be OK.

The Commissioners discussed placing an article in the newspaper notifying the citizens that the road crew will be out inventorying the county road signs after dark. They also talked about informing the citizens of the cost to replace these road signs.

Shawn has inquired about the cost of culverts for the new year. He was told that the prices have dropped back down to the 2006 prices; so Shawn feels confident that he should have enough money in his budget to purchase enough culverts.

The Commissioners have been told by Todd Wanken that the cell phone tower that is presumably going to be constructed at their place should be going up as soon as it thaws. Shawn said that he continues to get pretty fair reception with his new cell phone.

CITIZEN CONCERN

Mary Ann Zorn was in to visit with the Commissioners. She had some questions regarding the recent jury trials held in the county, and the role of the County Attorney in those trials. She wondered why the trials were handled by other attorneys rather than our own County Attorney, and what the additional cost to the County was as a result of this decision. Mary Ann was told that the Board felt that the trial was best handled by an attorney that had some experience with prosecutions, and that this decision did not really result in additional costs to the county. Instead, the attorneys involved have agreed to trade some work.

Sheriff Richard Burrows was in to visit with the Commissioners. Commissioner Tempel told Sheriff Burrows about the plans to have a group of high school students come on February 4th to learn about the roles each office plays in county government. Each department, including the Sheriff's office, will be visited.

The recent sentencing hearing was also briefly discussed. Sheriff Burrows told the Commissioners he would bring over information regarding the conditions of the bail.

PUBLIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT HEARING

On the above stated date at 1:00 PM in the Commissioner's room of the Courthouse, the first of two public needs assessment hearings was conducted by Craig Erickson of Bear Paw Development. Those present for the public hearing included: Commissioner Russ Tempel, Commissioner Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner Rlynn Rockman, Clerk & Recorder Rhonda Pimley, Rod Keith, Charley Frey, Cal Moore, Bill Gunderson, Harry Heimbigner, Jane Allen, Pat Ludwig, Betty Marshall, Dallas Denter, Gary Jensen, Morton Skari, and Sheila Duncan.

Craig Erickson informed the group that the Board of Commissioners is considering submitting to the Department of Commerce an application for a Community Development Block Grant. Handouts were passed out that helped to outline where these funds come from and the amounts that have historically been allocated.

Craig continued by explaining the guidelines that Congress requires when applying for CDBG money, and what the money can be used for when it has been awarded. The money can be used for basic community infrastructure improvements / community projects; and must be used to help people in the low to moderate income level. It therefore becomes necessary to assess the "needs" of the community, as one of the first steps in the process. This hearing is required by Congress so that the public has a chance to be included in the kinds of projects they would like to see completed in their community.

"What are the needs of our community?" Similar surveys have been conducted in Liberty County in the past. Many of the projects that made the list that was compiled then (almost six years ago); have actually been completed:

- New swimming pool
- Bio-diesel plant
- Street repairs
- Electrical energy development at Tiber Dam
- Continued support of the hospital

Craig solicited comments from the group regarding what they feel the current needs of the community are:

- A new senior center
 - Overflowing – 52 people at the center for lunch today
 - 29 meals on wheels sent out
- More development in the Sweetgrass Hills for tourism
 - Make more accessible
 - Currently ATV use restricted
- School – Energy efficiencies
 - Light replacement
 - Wind power projects for the schools
 - Need to figure out a way to control fixed costs (like energy)
 - Energy efficiency in the Government Buildings is also needed
- Upgrade Auditorium
- Better utilization of the Joplin Community Center and the Joplin Park
- Clothing store
- Senior Center
- Paved road #223 to Tiber Dam
- Paving to Tiber Dam
- Something for the young people
- Bring in a Manufacturing type business that would create jobs & potentially bring in families
- Important to maintain a positive attitude and continue to invest in the community and to try and grow the community.
- Red Hatters and Youth Groups such as 4-H-(could also utilize the new center)
- Museum – renovated and expanded
 - Overcrowded
 - Only open during summer months
- Senior Center
- Senior Center
- Development of Natural Resources and Wind Energy
- Whitlash, Tiber, Laird Roads paved and developed
- Recreation Infrastructure
- Promote and grow the Arts
- Bus Garage / Transportation – help keep people in their communities
- Recreational things for the kids – utilize the Joplin Store for a youth center
- Develop a Youth Recreational Program to encourage the kids to utilize existing facilities (ice skating pond, etc)
- Child Care & Senior Center together in the same building
- No rental properties available / very limited & conditions not good

The next step is to pick the project that should be the community's top priority. The consensus of the group was to prioritize as follows:

- A multi use building that would combine a senior center, bus garage, child-care, and a community center would be the top priority
- Recreation enhancing
 - Lake Elwell
 - Sweetgrass Hills
 - Arts & Culture
- Housing
- Energy Development
- Job Creation / Manufacturing
- Roads

Craig explained that this is a very competitive process, and that if we do qualify for the funds, it will be at least April of 2010 before we could expect the funds to be available.

The group next examined the potential locations-or- existing buildings that may make sense for the development of a multi-use center:

- Road House Bar - \$300,000
- Marias Equipment Building (has space for a bus barn) - \$75,000
- Wheat Country Estates
- Current County owned lots

Craig believes that a Senior Center would probably be eligible for CDBG funds because of the assumption that at least 51% of our senior citizens would fall into the low to moderate fixed income requirement. However, based on the old survey data for Liberty County, only 31% of our seniors fall into that low to moderate income level. Therefore in order to develop current and more accurate data for our community; it will be necessary to complete a new income survey. Craig will come and do this survey for us. He encouraged the group to pass the word that we need people to participate in this simple survey. He also assured the group, that the survey information would be handled very privately and confidentially.

Betty Marshall inquired about the need to gather letter of support from members of the community, and Craig affirmed that this would be very helpful.

Craig summarized the discussion, and the public hearing was concluded.

RDO

Mike Pallett was in with the financing papers for the new grader. After the Board reviewed the paperwork, Chairman Russ Tempel signed the forms.

WEATHER STATION

Ann Wickum stopped by to tell the Commissioners that she had received a telephone call from someone that was concerned our weather station monitor was not operating correctly. The website information indicates that the wind is coming out of the north. The person believes that this is incorrect, and feels the monitor may be stuck.

BEAR PAW DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Jim Ghekierre came in with a ballot for the election of the members to the Bear Paw board for the new year. In addition, Jim reminded the Commissioners that it is now the end of his appointed term.

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to re-appoint Jim as the County's voting member to the Bear Paw Development board. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

After reviewing the ballot submitted from the Bear Paw Development Corporation, Commissioner Rockman made the motion to vote a unanimous ballot. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

The Planning Board and the Growth Policy was also discussed briefly with Jim. He was given a copy of the Montana Code that applies to Growth Policies.

Jim also shared with the Commissioners how things went with the hook-up of the new security system to the 9-1-1 system at the Sheriff's Office.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

January 29th, 2009 ♦ Thursday

On the above stated date a PAR meeting was conducted regarding the Senior Citizens building project. Present for the meeting were Commissioner Russ Tempel, Commissioner Rlynn Rockman, Jan E. O'Brien (JGA Architects), John Eisen (JGA Architects), Harry Heimbigner Jr., Pat Ludwig, Sheila Duncan, Betty Marshall, Jane Allen, Bill Gunderson, Rodney Keith, and Craig Erickson (Bear Paw Development Corp).

John Eisen explained to the group how this process is intended to work. They will look closely at available properties and evaluate sites. They will proceed through a business like process to make the best decision to suit the needs of our community.

The architects also asked the group questions to begin to get a feel for what elements in the space at the center the group would they like to see.

Craig Erickson re-iterated the importance of "letters of support" from the community. He reminded the group that the Department of Commerce will receive approximately 20 CDBG grant applications; and of those 20 they will only plan to fund 6 or 7 of those projects.

Jan O'Brien and Commissioner Russ Tempel went to the Wheat Country Estates to look at the options there. They also went to several of the empty lots / potential property available.