

July 7th, 2009 ♦ Tuesday

LEPC

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

BORDER PATROL

Brenna Neinast and Tim Lambourne from the Havre sector of the Border Patrol met with the County Commissioners regarding their letter requesting an agent be placed in Liberty County. The agents visited with the Commissioners about many of the aspects of their program, but ultimately the reason for their visit was to express to the Commissioners that they believe they have valid concerns and hope that sometime in the future there may be a possibility of a sub station in Chester, but for now there is not enough money and there are not enough agents to expand to new sites. The group discussed the current support in our area. The number of agents and how often they come through, how to contact an agent, and the amount of air support was discussed. Brenna explained that due to limitations on their resources, the Resident Agent program was just not viable for Liberty County, but instead a sub-station may be more practical.

ROAD

Road Foreman Shawn Norick was in to update the Commissioners on current road matters. The traffic counter was discussed. The group also talked about gravel crushing. The gentleman who is considering coming Liberty County to do some crushing for us informed Shawn that he really needs more jobs to justify coming over here. If he could be guaranteed more work, he would definitely be interested in the job.

Shawn also informed the Commissioners that it was necessary for him to have the crew replace another culvert.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Mike LaFrentz and Rick Malta from the Bureau of Reclamation were in to visit with the Commissioners about purchasing some crushed gravel. Mike told the Commissioners that he was willing to commit to purchasing \$2,500 worth. He explained that if he goes over that amount, he would be required to go through an acquisition process and that would probably cause time constraints to the County.

The 4th of July holiday at Tiber Dam was briefly discussed. Mike suggested that the County Commissioners should further consider the idea of creating a recreation area. He believes that it might be a battle upfront, but with the revenue it would generate they could make some improvements to the area.

Mike also inquired about the Recreational Enhancement Fund, and the revenues that the County has been using in the cost share portion of the joint projects with the BOR. Mike wanted specifically to understand how this involves Tiber LLC. It was explained that the original \$50,000 came from Tiber, LLC to the Tiber Dam Recreation Board to be utilized for these types of projects. There is still enough funding remaining to complete at least two more shelters.

ENERGY AUDITS

Sandra Anderson was in Chester completing energy audits. She has already completed an energy audit at the school and at the clinic/hospital. She now has some time to complete audits in some of the County buildings. Sandra was given a list of the County buildings and their locations.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

Karla Kulpas telephoned the Commissioners to inform them that she is receiving some negative feedback to the recent notification in the Liberty County Times announcing her intent to raise the fees for immunizations. The Commissioners will discuss the matter further and get back to Karla.

Regarding the annual renewal contracts for the Immunization program, Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to sign the contract with the State of Montana for the Public Health Immunization Program. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

ELECTED OFFICIALS SALARIES / COMPENSATION BOARD

After some discussion Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to accept the recommendation of the Salary Compensation Board regarding the salaries for the elected officials for the upcoming year. Their salaries will be frozen for now, and in January the Salary Compensation Board will reconvene and look at the possibility of a raise beginning in January. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

“DEPUTY OF THE YEAR”

A letter of congratulations was composed to send to Undersheriff Doug Riggin congratulating him on his recent award. Doug was recently selected as the Montana Deputy of the Year. The announcement was made at the Montana Sheriff’s and Peace Officer’s Association Convention held last June in Kalispell.

ANNUAL COUNTY EMPLOYEE PICNIC

The Commissioners set the annual county employee picnic for Wednesday, July 15th at 6:00 pm at the City Park. The Commissioners will provide the meat and the paper goods, and the employees will be invited to bring salads, desserts, beverages, etc.

HELIPAD

Dave Mattson was in to visit with the Commissioners about how they are feeling about the helipad. The Commissioners informed Dave about their intention to have Mercy Flight come and complete some time trials. The Commissioners are waiting to make their final decision until they have this information. Other details of the project and the state of the current financial situation at the hospital were discussed as well.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Commissioner Rockman made the motion to adopt the resolution presented to them by County Attorney Hugh Brown, which appoints Stephen Gannon as special deputy county attorney for the purpose of investigation and prosecution in a felony case. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

AIRPORT

Patrick Wicks was in to visit with the Commissioners about the lots at the Airport. The group viewed the maps.

ENERGY AUDITS

Sandra Anderson dropped back by the Commissioners Office at the end of the day. She informed them that she was able to complete the audits for all 8 of the County Buildings that the Commissioners had requested. She will send them a complete report in the near future.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

HRDC

Commissioner Tempel attended an HRDC meeting in Havre on the evening of the above stated date.

July 8th, 2009 ♦ 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 Russ Tempel, Commissioner Larry Hendrickson and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

HRDC

Commissioner Tempel gave an update on the HRDC meeting he attended in Havre last evening (Tuesday, July 7th).

AIRPORT

Tyler Streit dropped by to inquire about airport lots.

TEAMSTERS UNION

The Commissioners telephoned Jeff Minkler to update him on the recommendation of the Salary Compensation Board and the decisions they have made on the elected officials salaries. He was also informed of their decision to increase the county contribution toward the employee's health insurance premium. The increase to the county contribution compared to approximately a 3.1% raise.

ROAD

Shawn Norick was in to update the Commissioners on the first week's readings on the traffic monitor.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings of June 2nd through June 23rd were reviewed. Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to approve the minutes as amended. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Commissioner Rockman made the motion to approve as amended the minutes of June 30th. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

ENCROACHMENT APPLICATION

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to approve the 3 Rivers Encroachment Application on 200 Road East in Section 29 & 32 of Township 30 Range 4. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

TIBER WIND DATA

Doug Henke was mailed a copy of the Tiber Wind Data report.

AUDITOR

Auditor Bob Denning was telephoned with some questions about the recently received audit report. The group talked about the Management Discussion & Analysis and about the Justice Court.

CLAIMS

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to approve for payment the claims for the month of June as they have been presented. 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

July 14th, 2009 ♦ 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 Russ Tempel, Commissioner Larry Hendrickson and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

HELIPAD

The Commissioners reviewed the e-mail received from Regal Insurance regarding the cost of the liability insurance on the proposed helipad. The estimate would double the County's current cost of the Airport liability insurance. The Commissioners also visited further about the helipad proposal. They are in agreement that at present with the climate of the economy such as it is, and also considering that we currently have a system in place that works, this is not the time to invest in a helipad.

MARIAS DRAINAGE RECREATION FUND

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion, and Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion to approve the Budget Resolution for the Marias Drainage Recreation fund. The motion carried.

RESOLUTION 09-12

WHEREAS, in the 2008-2009 Fiscal Year the Marias Drainage Recreation Fund has received an additional \$12,922.06 from the Bureau of Reclamation for reimbursement on the shelter project;

WHEREAS, at the time of setting budgets this money was not anticipated;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Liberty County Commissioners that the additional amount of \$12,922.06 in revenues received from reimbursements in Fiscal Year 2008-2009, be entered into the Marias Drainage Recreation Fund budget to be expended.

DATED THIS 14th day of July, 2009



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Chairman
Commissioner
Commissioner

PUBLIC BOARD OF HEALTH

Commissioner Rockman reported on the Public Board of Health meeting he attended on Friday, July 10th. A Communicable Disease Control Protocol was passed. Junk Vehicle and the Community Decay Ordinance were also topics of discussion.

DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING

In addition to the Commissioners, those present for the monthly department head meeting were: Shawn, Teresa, Gayle, Rachel, Jim, Tom, Anne, Rod and Rhonda.

Anne reported that tomorrow is law & motion day and the Judge will be here. She reported on the upcoming jury and non-jury trials that are currently scheduled.

Rod reported on the stimulus money. There will be an ad in this week's newspaper regarding the stimulus money.

Teresa reported that the espresso bar is in but, the dishwasher is not yet hooked up and some cabinet work still needs completing. She also needs to apply for a public health license – she is trying to get in touch with Sanitarian Karen Salo regarding this. Teresa also reported that she has applied for some broadband stimulus money.

Gayle reported that the motor vehicle program is getting better but, is still consumes much of their time. She discussed the Omimex refund briefly as well. The County option tax was discussed. Gayle said that only about two counties in the state do not have the county option tax – so licensing a vehicle is the same amount in most all of the counties.

Rachel reported that she is taking articles down to the County Fair today. She also briefly visited about the budgeting process and the need for the taxable valuations before proceeding.

Jim reported that his crew is now in full swing. They are in the process of trying to complete a first time pass over all of the county roads but, on windy days the crew is serving the vehicles. Vision Net and 9-1-1 money was briefly discussed.

Shawn visited with the group about the traffic counter that the road department currently has. They so far have had it on the Laird Road and the Whitlash Road and have gathered some very credible information. The traffic counter logs time of day, direction of traffic, speed and classification of the vehicle. The decision has been made to purchase a traffic counter so that they can gather this information on many of the county roads.

Tom reminded the group that it is now Marias Fair fun time. He reported that the animal numbers at the fair are down this year. He also reported that Liberty County Day is scheduled for Thursday this year. Tom also reported on the funeral services held yesterday for former Liberty County extension agent Judee Wargo. Rhonda reported briefly on the Town of Chester election and water district election. Budgets were also discussed, and the department heads were asked to be sure and get their budget requests turned in this week if they have not already done so.

The Commissioners reported on a recently attended Department of Revenue meeting regarding the reappraisal cycle and taxable valuations. They also visited with the group about the audit this year. The Justice of the Peace office continues to be an issue for the County that will require their attention. The Commissioners have recently visited with the Border Patrol about obtaining a resident agent for our area. They reported that there is not much chance of this happening at this time.

The helipad was also briefly discussed by the group. The Commissioners reported that after careful consideration they have decided that this is not the time to invest in this project.

The Commissioners also reported on the 3-day training with Toole County on setting up an emergency Command Center, and lastly they reported that it has been decided that there will be no raises at this time but, they will be revisiting this issue in January.

After reminding the Department Heads of the Annual County Employee picnic scheduled for tomorrow, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 am.

ROAD

Shawn Norick updated the Commissioners on current road matters. The group discussed the road signs that were recently knocked down by a farmer moving his tractor without winging up the plow. The Commissioners instructed Shawn to send the farmer the bill for the cost to replace the signs. It was necessary to replace another culvert last week, and the culvert on Haul Road still needs replacing as well.

The group made the decision to place the traffic counter on the Tiber Road next.

John Wurtz from Sage Creek Colony dropped by to visit with the Commissioners and Shawn about the roads.

FARMERS UNION WIND MEETING

Chris Christianson with Farmers Union has expressed to the Commissioners an interest in holding an informative public meeting some evening in our community. They have some grant money to use towards a wind project. This meeting was set for Thursday, July 23rd at 7:00 PM in the Courtroom.

MEREDITH CONSTRUCTION

Jennings Johnson from Meredith Construction telephoned the Commissioners to express an interest in putting in a bid on the construction of a new senior citizens building.

HELP PROGRAM

Pam Davidson from Chinook met with the Commissioners. She is with the HELP program and they work with prevention of drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse. She is new to the job, and is trying to make surrounding areas aware of the availability of herself and the program for any assistance that might be needed.

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS

The Commissioners telephoned Tina Wood to visit further about independent contractors. Tina reiterated that full documentation of workman's compensation insurance and liability insurance must be obtained from the independent contractor before they are allowed to work on a job.

OPERATION STONEGARDEN GRANT (OPSG)

After reviewing the recently received formal award of the federally funded FY08 US Department of Homeland Security Operation Stonegarden Operations Order, Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion that the Board sign the agreement. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried. After signing, the Signature page was faxed into the Disaster & Emergency Services Division of the State of Montana. The purpose of the Stone Garden grant is to augment Border Patrol coverage along the border and on avenues of egress from the border areas with the Liberty County Sheriff Department. The overtime and equipment funds provide additional law enforcement coverage on the routes of egress from the border area. The grant award amount is estimated to be about \$55,302.05.

AUDIT

Justice of the Peace Neal Eveland was asked to come in and visit with the Commissioner’s regarding the finding on the recent audit that was conducted. Neal explained that much of the Auditor’s concerns could be attributed to some confusion and miscommunications that exists between his office and the Sheriff’s department. Duplicate copies of the tickets are filed in his office and the Sheriff’s office, and some of the tickets that the auditor pulled, were tickets pulled from the Sheriff’s office that he had actually already taken care of but, that the copies filed in the Sheriff’s office had not been updated to reflect this information. The Commissioners and Neal visited further about his processes and the Commissioner’s asked how we could get so far behind? Neal explained that it comes down to the whole process, and that coordination between his office, the County Attorney’s Office, and the Sheriff’s Department does not always work ideally, and this can cause things to get behind. Neal was asked to put his explanations in writing so that the Commissioners can incorporate this into their answer the Audit that they are required to file with the State Department of Administration.

The group also visited about the Justice of the Peace budget. Expenditures and Revenues for last fiscal year were reviewed. It was expressed that the revenues brought in from fines seem very low. Neal explained that the numbers they were looking at reflected only the portion of the fine that Liberty County gets to keep. Much of the fine goes to the State of Montana, and does not stay here in the county. Neal further explained that, at this time, there is no more back log remaining to be dealt with; and that they are changing some of the processes with the Sheriff’s Office to improve things to prevent some of these issues. Neal believes that everything since this last audit has been resolved and that there should not be another issue in the future.

HOLLY FREDERICKSON

Holly Frederickson works with the State Department of Justice on spousal abuse issues. She dropped by to visit briefly with the Commissioners about how spousal abuse and “failure to protect” might affect our county, adding that the serving of alcohol to minors also falls into the “failure to protect” category. She explained that it is important for the Commissioners to pay close attention to this because county law suits regarding this issue are on the rise, and our county may be in a susceptible position. She mentioned that she has also visited with the Liberty County Sheriff’s Department regarding this matter. On a final note, Holly suggested that the Commissioners look into catering licenses. She says that many of the counties are now doing this as an added way to protect the counties.

PAYROLL

Commissioner Rockman made the motion to approve for payment the payroll claims as they have been presented. Commissioner Hendrickson 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

HRDC

Commissioner Tempel attended an HRDC meeting in Havre on the evening of Tuesday, July 14th.

July 15th, 2009 ♦ 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 Russ Tempel, Commissioner Larry Hendrickson and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

ROAD

Shawn Norick was in to visit with the Commissioners. He gave a report on the statistics derived from the traffic counter when it was on the Whitlash Road.

MINUTES

Commissioner Rockman made the motion to approve the minutes of July 7th and 8th. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

AMBULANCE

Dave and Yvonne Hunnewell were in to discuss ambulance business with the Commissioners. There is a considerable amount of cash remaining in the Ambulance Fund at fiscal year end. The decision was made to roll about \$90,000 into the Capital Improvement fund that was set up to begin saving for a new ambulance. Dave and Yvonne reported that the new ambulance is still in very good condition and at this time it is not necessary to begin looking for a replacement. The group discussed some of the options that should be considered in the future, such as possibly purchasing an ambulance with 4-wheel drive. Dave also reported that the fire hall is currently very full due to the fact that they are housing two DNRC vehicles. These DNRC vehicles are intended to be placed in the country but, they must be shedded. They are trying to locate places that will meet this requirement so that the DNRC vehicles can be removed from the fire hall and taken to the country as they were intended. The group also discussed the need for an SUV for the emergency services department.

The next item discussed was regarding the need to formulate County Policy regarding county employee's that are also volunteer EMT's and Firefighters. State law exists that prohibits volunteers from being paid for both their regular compensation as an employee and also compensation for their volunteer services when these services occur at the same time. Due to this issue, it is necessary for the Commissioners to establish new policy, and Dave and Yvonne's input and collaboration are being sought. This discussion then led to the discussion of the stipend that the volunteers are currently receiving. A stipend of \$60 is given to volunteers who serve on a transfer but, currently no stipend is given to the volunteers who respond on an emergency call. Yvonne would like to see the \$60 stipend raised to \$75 for the first 5 hours of the transfer and \$15/hour for each additional hour over and above the first 5 hours. Yvonne would also like to begin considering a stipend for emergency calls. Many of the other counties are already paying this stipend to their volunteers. At the conclusion of this discussion Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to pay the \$75 (for the first 5 hours) stipend for a transfer with \$15/hour paid for each additional hour over and above 5 hours. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried. No other changes to Ambulance policy were made at this time.

CLAIMS

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

HELIPAD

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion that the Board of County Commissioners officially does not accept the helipad proposal. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The following letter was composed to further explain their position. This letter will be placed in next week's edition of the Liberty County Times.

<p>LIBERTY COUNTY STATE OF MONTANA</p> <hr/> <p>COMMISSIONERS</p> <p>7-15-09 Information about the proposed helipad from your commissioners:</p> <p>When local residents need emergency treatment or medical specialists, we transfer them to the larger hospitals (mainly, Great Falls), where this special care is readily available. In the fiscal year 2007-2008 we made 49 transfers; 33 by ground ambulance, 14 by helicopter, and 2 by fixed-wing aircraft. In fiscal year 2008-2009 we made 37 transfers; 28 by ground ambulance, 7 by helicopter, and 2 by fixed-wing aircraft.</p> <p>The ground ambulance trips originate at our medical facility and the patient is delivered directly to a Great Falls hospital. The ambulance staff is provided by our local volunteer emt's. The ground trip to Great Falls typically takes 75-90 minutes, depending on the level of the emergency.</p> <p>Helicopters and airplanes presently land at our local airport, which is approximately 4 blocks from our hospital. Our local ambulance crew meets these flights at our airport, delivers the flight crew & supplies to the hospital, then returns the flight crew & the patient back to the airport for the trip to Great Falls. When Mercy Flight is called by us, a typical time-of-arrival to Chester is 30-40 minutes for the helicopter and 40-60 minutes for the airplane. Medical evaluations & preflight details at the Chester hospital typically take 10-30 minutes before the patient is loaded. The helicopter trip back to Great Falls directly to the hospital helipad is typically 30 minutes. The airplane trip back to the Great Falls airport would be 20 minutes, followed by a 20 minute trip by ground ambulance to the hospital. Therefore, in optimal conditions the round-trip flight via helicopter could possibly be 70 minutes and via airplane 90 minutes.</p> <p>We understand that "time is of the essence" in Heart Attack, stroke, & trauma patients. The transportation times will vary depending on readiness of flight crew, weather conditions, severity of the medical situation, etc. At the public hearing dated June 23rd, it was suggested that a helipad could save some time in the initial transfer of the patient from the hospital to the aircraft. However, we completed two mock transfers - one with patient from the E.R. to an ambulance parked outside of the E.R., then delivery to the Chester Airport and one with patient on a hospital gurney from the E.R. down the hallways to the old hospital entrance, then outside on the sidewalk approx. 125 yards to the proposed helipad site. The time differential in these two mock transfers was just 15 seconds, which is probably not significant considering the total round-trip time of 70-90 minutes to Great Falls.</p> <p>The idea of a helipad near the Chester Hospital was first discussed 5+ years ago. Grant monies totaling approx. \$10,000 were awarded for the project, so the project was investigated further. An engineering plan was completed and F.A.A. recommendations were obtained. If built today, the proposed helipad would be elevated with retaining wall(s); provisions for fencing & lighting; additional sidewalks/ramps; and removal of surrounding trees/obstructions in the flight path. Construction</p>	<p>costs with these recommendations are conservatively estimated at \$35,000. This does not include maintenance costs when it's completed, nor does it include the increase in our liability insurance (quoted to us at about \$2000/year).</p> <p>We received some additional information from the Mercy Flight administration that may answer questions at the public hearing. We learned that they are not dissatisfied with our current system; the close proximity of our airport works well in transfers; most pilots actually prefer landing on the airport tarmac rather than an isolated pad; there is no "universal" sled used for both helicopter & fixed-wing aircraft; and they do not do "hot loads" except under extreme circumstances.</p> <p>Our local hospital facility, like many other small town medical institutions, is presently experiencing some tough economic times. The construction of the helipad would not provide us with a new needed service. We presently provide the service of "Mercy Flight" to our Community. Granted, it's to an airport 4 blocks away. Still, we cannot justify spending an additional \$25,000+ on this helipad when we have a system that works! This money could be used more wisely on medical equipment or related services.</p> <p>The commissioners have voted not to build the helipad at this time.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.</p> <p>Liberty County Commissioners</p> <p><i>Russ Tempel</i> Russ Tempel</p> <p><i>Larry Hendrickson</i> Larry Hendrickson</p> <p><i>Rhyan Rockman</i> Rhyan Rockman</p>
--	--

COUNTY POLICY

The Commissioners composed the new County Policy for paid leave to the volunteers. Commissioner Rockman made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Hendrickson to adopt the following into County Policy. Motion carried.

SUBJECT: 6.6 PAID LEAVE FOR DISASTER RELIEF VOLUNTEER SERVICE

PURPOSE: To establish guidelines to provide for leave of absence with pay for emergency volunteer service

STATEMENT OF POLICY

A department may grant to a county employee up to 15 days in a calendar year of a paid leave of absence for the employee to participate in disaster relief services for Liberty County if:

- o the employee is a certified Liberty County volunteer; and
- o Liberty County has requested the employee's services.

Leave time granted pursuant to this section:

- o must be paid at the regular rate of compensation, including regular group, retirement, or leave accrual benefits, for the regular work hours during which the employee is absent from the employee's regular duties;
- o commences upon approval of the employee's Department Head; and
- o may not be charged against any other leave to which the employee is entitled.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman

July 21st, 2009 ♦ 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 Russ Tempel, Commissioner Larry Hendrickson and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

DISASTER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Area director Ed Gierke stopped by to visit briefly with the Commissioners.

EMPLOYEE RAISES

The Commissioners discussed raises for the non-elected officials. It was previously decided that the elected official's salaries will remain the same for now. Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to freeze the wages for all non-elected employees, in which the Commissioners have control over the compensation decision. The group discussed the need to amend the motion to include the decision to re-look at the issue in January. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion as amended. The motion carried.

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Patty Johnson telephoned the Commissioners to request that they contact the Montana Department of Transportation about putting a sign up on Highway 2 for the Joplin Memorial Park.

The Commissioners composed a letter to Michael McDonald at the Montana Department of Transportation requesting the Joplin Memorial Park sign.

SENIOR CITIZENS

Director Rod Keith was in to visit with the Commissioners about the frozen wages and how it applies to his step pay scale. After some discussion the Commissioners requested that Rod honor the freeze and participate in the discussion in January. Rod can maybe give his step raises at that time.

LIBERTY COUNTY TRANSIT BUS STORAGE FACILITY

Rod Keith reported that all is progressing well with the process for the Liberty County Transit Bus Storage Facility project. A public announcement was placed in the Liberty County Times notifying all interested parties that the Liberty County Council on Aging has applied for \$389,600 through the Montana Department of Transportation Transit Section. The funding is provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and administered by the Montana Department of Transportation. The announcement further explained that the ARRA funds will be used to purchase a new conversion mini-van and to construct a bus storage facility located on lots 7 through 10 of block 6 in the Weldy-Taylor Addition of the Town of Chester. The building of the bus storage facility has continued to meet with strong support from the community, and no negative input has been received from the public. The Liberty County Commissioners continue to be committed to the building of the new transit bus storage facility for the residents of Liberty County.

Other topics of discussion with Rod Keith included the North Central Area on Aging meeting held the previous week, the CDBG grant money, and the Transit money.

NCAAA – NORTH CENTRAL AREA AGENCY ON AGING

Commissioner Rockman reported on the NCAAA governing board meeting he attended on July 17th in Conrad. The main items addressed:

- Examination of 2008-09 year-end financial statement
- Discussion of the new fiscal budget for 2009-2010
- Application, job description, and advertisement to hire a new Executive Director of NCAAA. Our previous director, Deb Pate, was officially dismissed on 6-25-09 due to unresolved medical issues with poor prognosis. The current salary for the director is at about \$37,000 per year.

AMERICAN DISABILITIES ACT / MONTANA ADVOCACY PROGRAM

County Attorney Hugh Brown has received a letter from the Montana Advocacy Program, inquiring about the progression of Liberty County in their ADA plan to improve access in county buildings. The Commissioners composed a letter to the County Attorney requesting his assistance in a response to this group regarding handicap issues in county buildings.

BURN PERMITS

The Commissioners have received a request from the Lewis & Clark County Commissioners about local burn permits. The Commissioners completed their survey and also sent them a copy of a Liberty County burn permit.

LIBRARY COFFEE BAR

The Commissioners have requested a letter from the County Attorney to determine if the Library Coffee Bar is license exempt.

WEED DEPARTMENT

Jim Ghekere was in to visit with the Commissioners about various issues. He updated the Commissioners on the Russian Olive project. It is continuing ahead into the Phase II-Sanford Park portion of the project. Jim also presented the BLM Grant contract to the Commissioners for their review. Commissioner Rockman motioned to sign the contract. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The group also discussed the 9-1-1 monies. There was some new grant money available so Jim has submitted an application for about \$6,100 to pay for some needed computers for the GPS system.

RESOLUTION 09-13

The following Fiscal Year Salary Resolution was reviewed. Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to sign the Resolution as it accurately reflects the decision that the Board made on July 7th, 2009. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

RESOLUTION 09-13

WHEREAS, 7-4-2504, MCA, states that the Board of County Commissioners must establish salaries for all elected officials by the first day of August each year, and

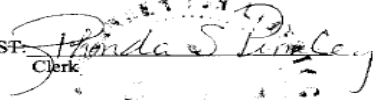
WHEREAS, 7-4-2503 (4) (a) MCA, states that a County Compensation Board must be established to recommend salaries for Elected Officials for each Fiscal Year, and,

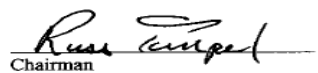
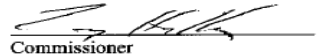
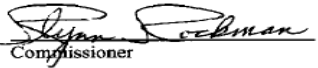
WHEREAS, the recommendation of the County Compensation Board was to freeze salaries for all Elected Officials until January 2010, at which time the County Compensation Board may reconvene and consider a raise from that point forward.

NOW THEREFORE, be it hereby resolved that Elected Officials salaries shall remain the same; the County Commissioners, County Clerk and Recorder/Election Administrator, County Treasurer/Assessor, Clerk of District Court and County Sheriff shall receive a salary of Thirty-one Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Seven Dollars (\$31,437.00). The 1% longevity established in FY 2004-05 will be an additional \$261.00 for qualifying officials. The County Sheriff and the County Treasurer/Assessor shall receive an additional Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) per year setting their salaries at Thirty-three Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Seven Dollars (\$33,437.00). The County Superintendent of Schools is a half-time position; therefore, she shall receive Fifteen Thousand Seven Hundred Eighteen Dollars and Fifty-five cents (\$15,718.55) plus an additional Two Hundred Dollars \$200. The County Attorney shall receive in addition to his state compensation of Twenty one Thousand Eighty-seven Dollars (\$21,087.00) a salary of Twenty Thousand One Hundred Nineteen Dollars and Seventy-four cents (\$20,119.74) plus 1% longevity of \$167.00 from the County. The Justice of the Peace shall receive a salary of Thirteen Thousand Two Hundred Three Dollars and Fifty-eight cents (\$13,203.58) plus 1% longevity of \$110.00.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such pay schedule as hereinbefore referred to be effective from and after July 1, 2009.

Dated this 7th day of July, 2009

ATTEST: 
Clerk


Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

RESOLUTION 09-14

The following budget transfer was briefly discussed by the County Commissioners. Commissioner Rockman made the motion to authorize the transfer and sign the Resolution. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

RESOLUTION 09-14

WHEREAS, it is realized that the ambulance will need to be replaced in the near future;

WHEREAS, a Capital Improvement Fund has already been established for the purpose of building reserves to replace the Liberty County ambulance;

WHEREAS, there is \$90,000 in revenue remaining in the Ambulance Fund fiscal year end cash that could be utilized towards purchasing an ambulance;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Liberty County Commissioners that \$90,000 be added to the Ambulance Fund 2008-2009 budget and then transferred from the Ambulance Fund into the established Ambulance Capital Improvement Fund.

DATED THIS 15th day of July, 2009

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chairman
Commissioner
Commissioner

ATTEST
Clerk

WOOD ENTERPRISES

Tina Wood was in to clarify some issues with the Commissioners about insurance for the county volunteers. Volunteer Firemen are associated with each respective Fire District. Coverage for the firefighters is the responsibility of each district. The districts currently have an Accident Policy through Wood Enterprises with a \$100,000 limit. This policy is not to be confused with Workman's Compensation coverage. The volunteers that Liberty County needs to be concerned about are the EMT's and the First Responders, and it is important to the County that these volunteers be covered on the County's Workman's Compensation Policy.

HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE DOORWAY IN THE COURTHOUSE

The Commissioners have requested that Western Lumber prepare a bid for them for some options on improving the handicap accessibility to the door on the inside of the courthouse leading into the Clerk & Recorder's Office and Treasurer's Office. Reynier Malan came to the courthouse and prepared a ball park estimate on the different options for the Commissioners to consider.

JOPLIN FIRE DISTRICT

Commissioner Tempel inquired about the budget for the Joplin Fire District. Some figures and information was gathered for him to take to the next Joplin Fire District meeting.

LIBRARY

The Commissioners composed a letter to the Library Board in response to a letter that they had received from library board chairman Peg Duffin on July 13th, 2009. The letter is in regards to raises for the library 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

July 28th, 2009 ♦ 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 Russ Tempel, Commissioner Larry Hendrickson and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

ROAD

Shawn Norick was in to update the Commissioners on current road matters. The crew has put in the new culvert on the Laird Road.

The traffic counter is currently on Tiber road, near Tiber dam.

Shawn reported that he has been visiting more with Tilleman's on a new mower. He has received a bid for the Commissioners to review. Tilleman's is offering a political subdivision discount. They are also willing take the old mower in on trade. The old mower is going to require some re-build work if we keep it. Shawn said we may also be able to sell the old mower to the Town of Chester.

It has been confirmed that the Union negotiations can be postponed until January.

FARMERS UNION / WIND ENERGY

Farmers Union sponsored a meeting on wind energy projects in the courtroom on the evening of Thursday, July 23rd. Commissioner Hendrickson and Commissioner Rockman were in attendance at this meeting. The representatives from Farmers Union visited with the group about an ongoing project in North Dakota. The gentleman in charge of the North Dakota project has been hired as a consultant by Farmers Union. Farmers Union is currently in the process of beginning a pilot project near Dutton, Montana and may eventually grow to other areas.

CLAIM / OMIMEX

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to approve for payment the additional Omimex claim that has been submitted by Treasurer Gayle Dahlen. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

WOOD ENTERPRISES

An e-mail from Tina at Wood Enterprises has been received, requesting the Commissioners sign an attached document. Tina explained that last month, when she had the Commissioners sign the Agent Agreement, she inadvertently used the wrong form. Commissioner Rockman made the motion to sign the new correct document as requested by Wood Enterprises. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

JOPLIN FIRE DISTRICT

After reviewing the Joplin Fire District budget with Commissioner Tempel the previous week; Clerk & Recorder Rhonda Pimley did some calculations on past years mill levy determination spread sheets. She discovered that some errors were made in the past and inquired with the Montana Department of Administration about how to remedy these errors. Magda Nelson from the DOA advised the Clerk & Recorder on the steps to take. After completing these steps, the information was forwarded to Magda Nelson for her review and approval. Magda has responded by affirming that the Clerk & Recorder's new calculations were correct, and that the adjustments may be made.

MUSEUM

After attending the Museum Board meeting, Rose Campbell stopped by to briefly visit with the Commissioners. She visited with them about the need to have the siding job put up for re-bid. The contractor who was previously awarded the job has not been able to show proof of insurance as required. Rose also dropped off the new fiscal year budget request for the Museum fund.

Betty Marshall also dropped by after attending the Museum Board meeting. She also wanted to inquire with the Commissioners about what their recommendations were concerning the siding project. The group all agrees that the project will have to be put up for re-bidding. Betty commented that she feels that September or October would be a good time for the project to be completed.

CHEMNET

Commissioner Hendrickson faxed a memo to Chemnet Consortium updating their files of current County employees.

PAYROLL

Commissioner Tempel was telephoned regarding the payroll that had been submitted for approval. Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion, on this telephone conference call, to approve for payment the payroll as it was submitted. Commissioner Tempel seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

CONFERENCE CALL / DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

Commissioner Hendrickson and Clerk & Recorder Rhonda Pimley participated in a conference call hosted by the Department of Revenue regarding the progression of the reappraisal process. The personal property and mobile home assessments have already been mailed. The mailing of the property assessment notices for real property / residential and commercial has met with another production delay. The department was forced to change the form, due to an issue with their printer. The form will now come in a window envelope rather than the pressure folded form we have seen in the past. The Department estimates that the Real property assessment notices will begin to be mailed around August 3rd; and they are still hoping to be completed with the mailing by August 14th. The Department also stated that the status of the certified taxable valuations should not be impacted by the delay to the assessment notices. They believe that the certification of values should be completed between August 25th and August 31st. They also stated that the confidence level that their valuations will be accurate is very high. They are highly sensitive to the fact that given the delays, accuracy is of utmost importance. The Department also reassured the Countys that appeals should not have a high level of impact on the valuations and calculation of mills.

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

ATTEST: _____
Clerk

Chairman