

**June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 ♦ Tuesday**

**LEPC**

Commissioner Tempel, 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.

**COUNCIL ON AGING MEETING**

Commissioner Rockman attended the Council on Aging meeting. The group approved of the proposed stimulus contributions of \$350,000 towards a bus barn, and \$39,600 for a conversion mini van to be used in the public transit program.

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date at 10:00 AM in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were: Chairman Russ Tempel, Commissioner Larry Hendrickson and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

**BUREAU OF RECLAMATION**

The Commissioners met with Mike LaFrentz from the Bureau of Reclamation to go over the progress of the shelter project, and the costs incurred to date.

**ROAD**

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

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

Yvonne Hunnewell and Penny Walston were in to visit with the Commissioners on the Public Health program. They dropped off the Influenza Pandemic Response Plan.

**LIBERTY MEDICAL CENTER**

Ron Gleason was in to visit with the Commissioners about a few different issues. The upcoming public hearing on the helipad was discussed first. He inquired about the concerns the Commissioners had regarding this issue. Among the concerns mentioned were concerns about staffing and safety issues.

The group also discussed the stimulus funding. Ron inquired about the stimulus funding that has been earmarked for energy conservation. He was wondering if the Commissioners could provide him with more information regarding this funding, and if they would be interested in utilizing this opportunity on the hospital. The Commissioners will telephone Bear Paw Development for their help regarding this matter.

Public Health was discussed. Ron reported that the program is running in the negative numbers. They would like to begin charging a higher fee for the immunizations. Currently the fee is \$8, and they are considering going to a \$12 fee. Ron projects that this year the Public Health program will lose \$11,401.81.

Lastly, the group discussed the Wheat Country Estates. They talked about the assisted living program becoming a separate not for profit business. If this direction was taken, Liberty Medical Center could begin increasing their Medicare reimbursement.

**HEALTH INSURANCE**

The Commissioners briefly discussed health insurance issues, and changes that might be on the horizon for health insurance.

**PAYROLL**

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

Ken Osterman briefly stopped by. He wished to extend his compliments to the road crew on the recent road work completed on the roads in the southern part of the county.

**INSURANCE COMMITTEE**

The Insurance Committee met with the Commissioners. Those present in addition to the three commissioners were: Steve Cameron, Ann Wickum, Sheila Duncan, Trina Thielman, Anne Seidlitz-Melton, Jim Ghekiere, and Cyndee Fraser. A ballot had been delivered to all employees regarding their preference on health insurance. Those employee ballots were counted and the results were 24 employees voting to stay with the current insurance (JPT – EBMS), and 4 employees voting to switch to Blue Cross/Blue Shield Insurance. The group briefly discussed the rates for the retirees, and then the committee formally made the recommendation that the County Commissioners should stay with JPT – EBMS for the county health insurance.

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion that the county stay with JPT – EBMS for the county employee health insurance. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The Commissioners then telephoned Gary Hablutzel to negotiate the premium that had been quoted for the coming year. JPT agreed to reduce the increase from 15.8% to 15%. JPT will send a contract for the Commissioners approval.

**PAYROLL**

Commissioner Rockman made the motion to approve for payment the payroll liability claims as presented. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**HEALTH INSURANCE CONTRIBUTION**

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to increase the county health insurance contribution from \$475 per month to \$545 per month and permissively levy the increase. 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

**June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 ♦ Wednesday**

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date at 10:00 AM in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were: Chairman Russ Tempel, Commissioner Larry Hendrickson and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

**HEALTH INSURANCE**

The Commissioners composed letters to the insurance companies that had put in bids, but had not been chosen.

**RUDE'S SHEET METAL**

A letter to Rude's Sheet Metal was composed explaining why we will not be paying the bill for \$197.57 for work completed on the boiler in the Courthouse.

**BUREAU OF RECLAMATION**

Mike LaFrentz brought in the paperwork to be signed for the two shelters south of Lothair. Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to sign the request for funds (\$12,922.07) from the BOR for the shelter project. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**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.

**WEED**

Jim Ghekiere stopped in to update the Commissioners on Weed department matters.

**CEMETERY BOARD**

Commissioner Rockman attended the recent Cemetery Board meeting. He reported that all went smoothly over Memorial Day weekend. Zack Melton was hired by the Board as a temporary employee to assist Terry Thielman through Memorial Day weekend. Zack worked a total of 56 hours, and was paid \$8.50 per hour. Zack was hired as a "short-term worker" per approval/discussion with Jack Holstrom on 5-8-2009 by Rlynn.

**MACO COMMISSIONER DISTRICTS 4 & 5 MEETING**

The Liberty County Commissioners hosted the District 4 & 5 meeting at the firehall on the above stated date from 9:30 AM until 4:00 PM. Commissioner Tempel, Commissioner Hendrickson, and Commissioner Rockman all attended the meeting. Clerk & Recorder Rhonda Pimley attended the meeting as well, to take the official minutes. The event was well attended by commissioners, legislators, MACo, DOT, and DMV.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009 ♦ Tuesday

#### DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING

In addition to the Commissioners, those present for the monthly department head meeting were: Tina Wood, Shawn Norick, Jim Ghekiere, Rod Keith, Rachel Ghekiere, and Teresa Fenger.

Rod reported on the stimulus money for the bus garage and the new mini van conversion.

Teresa reported on her hopes for purchasing a coffee machine for the library (not looking very promising at the present time).

Jim reported on the status of his summer crew (still not very healthy). Brent Riggin started on Monday.

HRDC has furnished a summer employee for the road and weed department to share.

Shawn went to John Deere trainings in Great Falls. He also reported that the State will sponsor Wildland Fire trainings for the Road Crew.

The Commissioners reported that the health insurance committee had made a recommendation for the county to stay on the JPT – EBMS health insurance. They also talked about the budget.

Tina visited with the department heads about the Job Task Analysis for the Safety program. She reported that the MACo Safety mini audit report gave Liberty County a “good” finding. She reminded the department heads about reporting all near misses. The reports will be filed in the Safety Book. She talked about getting trip reports from the weed and road departments, and pointed out that the Senior Citizens program already uses trip reports. Tina established as goals for the county: #1. Get writing programs into place, and #2. Complete the Job Safety Analysis’.

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date at 10:00 AM in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were: Chairman Russ Tempel, Commissioner Larry Hendrickson and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

Bob Thompson was in to visit with the Commissioners about the road into the Lakey house. The north road lacks accessibility in the winter due to the reconstruction to the Whitlash Road that was completed in 2002. Bob requested that the Commissioners visit with the State about the right-of-way and the bridge on that road.

#### WOOD ENTERPRISES / LIABILITY INSURANCE

Tina Wood visited with the Commissioners about the county’s MACo Property Liability Insurance. She reminded the Commissioners that the group is self insured to \$100,000 and then reinsured for amounts greater than that. Tina reported that our liability has been good. She also informed the Commissioners that MACo will be offering classes for the Sheriff and Road departments. If the classes are attended, the County will qualify for discounts.

Tina also visited about the standards for jails. These standards must be followed exactly, or MACo has grounds to deny claims. Tina recommended that they visit with the Sheriff about this subject.

Commissioner Rockman made the motion to renew the service agreement with Wood Enterprises to retain their services. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

#### COUNTY ATTORNEY / DIRECT DEPOSIT

County Attorney Hugh Brown was in to visit with the Commissioners about mandating the employee’s to use direct deposit for their paychecks. MCA 39-3-3204 states that they cannot mandate direct deposit. On 5-12-2009 the Commissioners told all department heads that they were requesting direct deposit by all employees effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, and most of them have complied.

#### ROAD

Shawn Norick was in to update the Commissioners on current road matters. The group visited about the Lakey Bridge. Shawn informed the Commissioners that Homeland Security will be installing a radiation detection unit at the Whitlash crossing.

The group also visited about getting the biodiesel tank set up with Earl-Fisher Biodiesel. It was decided to use B-20 in the county equipment.

#### MY TWO MED

Pete Shatwell from My Two Med and Gary Hablutzel with EBMS was in to visit with the Commissioners. They went over the recent County Health Assessments. The group talked about the risk in Liberty County as compared with the status of the Trust.

Pete reported that My Two Med plans to have many new programs to help with weight, nutrition and anti-depression.

**MENTAL HEALTH BOARD**

Present for the meeting with the Mental Health Board were: Marsha Stokes, Rochelle Beley, and Don Marble. The board wished to visit with the Commissioners about the funds received from the combined fund drive. The board hopes to be allowed to have some input in how these funds will be spent. In the past, combined fund money has been spent for non-client based mental health opportunities such as the meth project and special groups that speak about alcohol and parenting issues. The group stressed that they believe Mental Health education to be a community responsibility. The board also visited with the Commissioners about other members named to the current board that have moved away or will no longer be able to serve. Some suggestions were offered of other people in the community that might be willing to serve on the Mental Health board. The group also briefly visited about Rochelle's contract with the County for her private services. She has contracted with Liberty County since 1995. Rochelle reminded the Commissioners that as part of the contract, county employees and their families are eligible for three free sessions with her. Rochelle also mentioned to the Commissioners that she believes that children need more opportunity for mental health care.

Sheriff Richard Burrows was in to visit with the Commissioners about the length of time that an inmate can be held in the Liberty County facility. The Sheriff told the Commissioners that the time limit is 72 hours.

**BUDGET RESOLUTION 09-09**

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

**RESOLUTION 09-09**

WHEREAS, in Fiscal Year 2008-2009 the Liberty County Immunizations Grant Fund anticipated \$15,000 in non-tax revenues;

WHEREAS, the Liberty County Immunization Grant Fund actually has received \$34,574.93 in non-tax revenues for charges for services in Fiscal Year 2008-2009;

WHEREAS, \$19,574.93 of this revenue was not anticipated at the time of setting budgets;

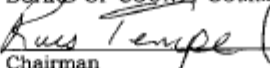


WHEREAS, \$15,457.22 was previously added to the budget in Budget Resolution 09-04 and Budget Resolution 09-07;

WHEREAS, the Liberty Medical Center is requesting they be allowed to expend the additional \$4,117.71;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Liberty County Commissioners that the additional amount of \$4,117.71 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 9th day of June, 2009

ATTEST:  
  
Clerk

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
  
Chairman  
  
Commissioner  
  
Commissioner

**MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH BLOCK GRANT**

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to approve for signature the annual application for the Maternal & Child Health Block Grant. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**BEAR PAW DEVELOPMENT**

Commissioner Rockman made the motion to request assistance from Bear Paw Development Corporation on the building of the senior citizens bus barn. 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

June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009 ♦ Wednesday

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date at 10:00 AM in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were: Chairman Russ Tempel, Commissioner Larry Hendrickson and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

**JOPLIN / MOSQUITO CONTROL**

The Town of Chester in and discussed mosquito control in Joplin on June 18<sup>th</sup> in preparation for their scheduled celebration the following weekend. They will spray the park area and surrounding area. The County will pay for the cost to the city for this service.

**BEAR PAW RESOLUTION #09-10**

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 09-10**

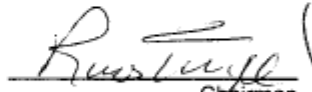
**A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE BEAR PAW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT.**

**WHEREAS**, The County of Liberty is in need of a professional planning staff to assist in the orderly planning for the development of new industry to provide job opportunities to the unemployed, and

**WHEREAS**, the Economic Development Administration has in the past provided funds for said staff,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that we support the continuation of said staff and will actively participate in the District Program. We pledge \$5,000.00 as our share of the Local Matching Funds.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 10<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2009.

  
Chairman

  
Commissioner

  
Commissioner

ATTEST:  
  
  
Clerk & Recorder

**CLAIMS**

After a question regarding the Crime Victims Assistance Fund claim was reviewed, 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.

**ROAD ISSUE**

Doug Larson was in to visit with the Commissioners about a road issue in the southern part of the county. He has visited earlier about the issue with the Commissioners, and he is requesting permission from them to complete some improvements to a road that he travels but, that is not traveled by many others. He would like to get their permission in writing. Mr. Larson also visited with the Commissioners about the habitat in that area. He expressed an interest in re-seeding the coulee and turning some pheasants loose but, the land is State Land and is currently leased to another. He inquired about the Commissioners willingness to compose a letter to the Board of State Lands in support of him and his project idea. The Commissioners agreed to compose a letter to Doug Larson stating that he has the permission requested to complete some road improvements however, regarding Mr. Larson's second request the Commissioners would have to discuss it more at another time.

After some discussion at a later time, the Commissioners composed a letter to Mr. Doug Larson stating that they have decided not to compose the requested letter to the Board of State Lands.

**DISTRICT 4 & 5 VOTE**

The Commissioners have been requested to cast their vote on how to spend the district's earmarked money from the Department of Transportation for state roads in the district. The discussion regarding this matter was tabled until the afternoon of this day.

**ROADS**

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

**PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE**

Liberty County Public Health Nurse Karla Kulpas was in at the Commissioner’s request to update them on her program. She informed the Commissioners that appropriate insurance companies are being billed for her supplies and services. She also told them, that she is responsible to complete these billing and secretarial services herself for the Public Health Nurse programs. Karla told the Commissioners that the current administrative fee that is being charged to the patients is \$8.00. The maximum fee allowable by law at this time is \$14.13. This rate is set by the Medicaid program. She is planning on raising the fee, and is currently considering going up to \$12.00. Karla currently works about 16-20 hours per week, with probably about 8 hours a week devoted to the clerical portion of her job. Karla shared her proposed budget for the new fiscal year with the Commissioners.

Karla also visited with the Commissioners briefly about the Assisted Living Building and program. The current staff numbers and hours were looked at and the water problems were discussed as well.

**AMBULANCE / MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENT**

A claim has been submitted by the ambulance clerk, requesting a warrant to reimburse Medicare for overpayment on a claim that had been submitted from the county ambulance. Commissioner Rockman made the motion to approve for payment the claim as it has been submitted. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**JOPLIN STREETS**

Larry Fossen dropped by to request the Commissioners to complete some road work on the streets in Joplin. The community is busy preparing for the big celebration that is being planned, and they are hoping that the streets could be repaired prior to the celebration.

**TRAFFIC COUNTING UNIT**

Shawn Norick was in to participate with the Commissioners in a conference call regarding the demonstration of a traffic counting unit that the group is interested in.

**PERMIT TO CROSS COUNTY ROAD**

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to approve and sign the Application for Permission to Cross a Liberty County Road that has been submitted by 3 Rivers Communications for the East Conrad fiber optics project. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**VOTE / SECONDARY ROADS ISSUE**

The Commissioners spent some time discussing the issue that had been tabled earlier on this day. Chairman Russ Tempel called for a vote on whether or not to allow the allocated money to be spent on a sloughed road problem near Valier. The decision was to cast a “NO” vote for Liberty County.

**JOPLIN SEWER**

Rob Moog of Joplin was in to visit with the Commissioners about current access to the Joplin Sewer Lagoon. Currently, a right of way easement does not exist on the access road that has been used in the past. In addition, the new landowner has small horses in that area, that cause some concerns for Rob. The group explored some route alternatives; one option explored would require a new approach be built off of Highway 2. The Commissioners will look into this matter for Rob and let him know. The group also discussed setting up a sewer district. Rob has already visited with Bear Paw Development about utilizing some of their resources to assist in the setting up of a sewer district.

**COUNTY COMPENSATION BOARD**

The Commissioners discussed reorganizing the County Compensation Board for the purpose of setting the salaries for the new fiscal year for the elected officials. The members that were on the board last year will be contacted and asked to agree to be on it again this year. The Commissioners set the meeting for Tuesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 PM in their room at the Courthouse.

Upon learning that the County Treasurer and the Clerk of Court would be absent on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, the County Commissioners invited the County Superintendent of Schools and the Sheriff to participate on the Compensation Board this year. They both agreed to attend.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

**June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009 ♦ Thursday**

Commissioner Tempel visited with Mike McDonald from Montana Department of Transportation about the Joplin Sewer road approach. Russ received an application to be completed and sent back in.

Commissioner Tempel attended the monthly HRDC meeting conducted on the above stated date in Havre.

**June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009 ♦ Monday**

**HOSPITAL COMMAND CENTER OPERATIONS & MANAGEMENT SEMINAR**

Commissioner Rockman and Commissioner Hendrickson attended the Command Center seminar conducted on the above stated date, at Liberty Medical Center. The seminar was held in conjunction with Toole County.

**June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009 ♦ Tuesday**

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date at 10:00 AM in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were: Chairman Russ Tempel, Commissioner Larry Hendrickson and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

**ROY HOLLANDSWORTH**

Representative Roy Hollandsworth will be attending an Interim Committee meeting on July 1<sup>st</sup> and is gathering information on the Omimex appeal and its impact on the Counties. The Commissioners spent some time gathering information for him.

**BRIDGE**

Ken Barnes from Montana Department of Transportation will be composing a letter to the Commissioners basically stating that the Bobby Thompson bridge is not a state bridge but rather a bridge owned by the land owners.

**PAYROLL CLAIMS**

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

Commissioner Rockman made the motion to approve for payment the two additional claims. Commissioner Hendrickson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**WEED**

Jim Ghekiere was in to report on matters to the Commissioners. There is a current Canadian Thistle issue in the County. An FSA letter has been mailed to the land owner, Clay Stratton regarding this matter, and Jim was notified by the FSA office that his services may be required. Jim has visited with the land owner and he and extension agent Tom Allen have driven out there and checked it out. The land owner has 7 days to get it taken care of on his own. Jim and Tom have drafted a plan for the land owner on what strategies should be utilized to eradicate the problem.

Jim also reminded the Commissioners that the annual float trip is scheduled for this Thursday. The trip is sponsored by the Marias River Basin Weed Association for the purpose of educating others on identification and management plans. Both Toole and Hill County weed crews will also be participating.

**ROAD**

Road Foreman Shawn Norick was in to update the Commissioners on current road matters. The need for more gravel was discussed.

The need for a wire welder was also discussed. Shawn informed the Commissioners that he has ordered another set of grader tires, and that they are still short one more set.

**4H CAMPGROUND**

Tom Allen was in to visit with the Commissioners about the 4H Campground in Whitlash.

**ANNUAL EMPLOYEE PICNIC**

The Commissioners scheduled the annual employee picnic for Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at the City Park at 6:00 PM.

**MINUTES**

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to approve as amended the minutes of May 12<sup>th</sup> through May 26<sup>th</sup>. 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

June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009 ♦ Wednesday

Commissioner Hendrickson attended the Annual Montana Association of Oil, Gas & Coal Counties held in Sidney, Montana on the above stated date.

Commissioner Rockman, along with other Liberty County individuals, attended a DES table top exercise conducted in Toole County on the above stated date. The exercise was conducted by Loyd Brett for the purpose of understanding how to set up a hospital command center. This seminar was a continuation of the seminar conducted June 15<sup>th</sup> at the Liberty Medical Center.

June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 ♦ Monday

Commissioner Tempel and Commissioner Hendrickson attended a meeting in Havre conducted by Director Dan Bucks and the Department of Revenue on the above stated date.

June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 ♦ Tuesday

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date at 10:00 AM 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 rain and road conditions were discussed. Shawn reported that the roads are still a little wet but, the crew is back to blading already. Shawn has received reports that the road dust is creating some visibility issues for some. The group discussed experimenting with the glycerin byproduct from the bio-diesel plant. The crew should be able to try this soon.

Shawn has been in contact with a gentleman about crushing some gravel at the Meissner pit. The Commissioners suggested that if this gentleman's crusher is fairly portable, perhaps he might be able to crush some gravel at the other pits as well. Available revenues were discussed, and the Commissioners requested that Shawn continue to look into this matter.

QUIT CLAIM DEED / AGRICULTURAL EXEMPTION

The Commissioners reviewed a Quit Claim Deed with an agricultural exemption. Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to approve and sign the deed as requested. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

RESOLUTION 09-11

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

RESOLUTION 09-11

WHEREAS, in the current Fiscal Year the Liberty County Extension Office has received to date \$1,771.60 in reimbursement from the State of Montana - Montana State University;

WHEREAS, at the time of setting budgets only \$900.00 in reimbursement was anticipated;

WHEREAS, through budget resolution #09-05 dated April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009, \$438.60 was added to the Extension Fund budget;

WHEREAS, there still exists an additional \$433.00 in revenues that has been received but was not anticipated in the budget;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Liberty County Commissioners that the additional amount of \$433.00 in revenues received from reimbursements in Fiscal Year 2008-2009, be entered into the Liberty County Extension Office Fund budget to be expended.

DATED THIS 23rd day of June, 2009



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

*Russ Tempel*  
Chairman

*[Signature]*  
Commissioner

*Shawn Rockman*  
Commissioner

PAYROLL LIABILITY CLAIMS

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

**TRI AGENCY SAFE TRAILS TASK FORCE**

Sheriff Burrows has requested that the Commissioners review and approve for signature the annual contract with the Tri Agency Safe Trails Task Force. Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to sign the annual contract. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**ROY HOLLANDSWORTH**

The Commissioners spent some time compiling information regarding the impact of the Omimex appeal for Roy Hollandsworth.

**MENTAL HEALTH BOARD MEETING**

Commissioner Rockman attended a meeting of the Mental Health Board at noon on the above stated date. Rochelle Beley spoke about the importance of Mental Health. New board members are to be named soon.

**PUBLIC HEARING / HELIPAD**

On June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 pm a public hearing was conducted with the purpose of hearing public comment on the proposed helipad construction project. Present for the meeting in addition to the three Commissioners were Clerk & Recorder Rhonda Pimley, Ron Gleason, Shari Meissner, Dave & Yvonne Hunnewell, Noel Walston, Bob Chvilicek, Penny Walston, Denise Wanken, Dave Mattson, Jeff Mattson, Eric Munson, Ray Standiford, Ken Gagnon, Bill Albee, Ann Wickum, Bob Mattson, and Jeff Chelmo.

Chairman Russ Tempel opened the meeting and then turned it over to Ron Gleason, who had prepared a power point presentation on the helipad. Ron began by stating that it was his understanding that this has been an issue for a very long time in the community. Ron's proposal estimates that the project could be complete by the end of the summer. The location of the helipad is on the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Monroe. The proposal includes raising the ground level of the pad considerably (about 4 or 5 feet). Ron laid out the engineered plans that have been completed by Bill Albee. These plans include the elevation of the ground level, the flight path and other factors. There will need to be a removal of the trees in front of the building. The trees interfere with the glide path. A sidewalk from the building to the helipad will be constructed. It will be about 75 feet long. To bring the pad up to the necessary elevation would require about 1,500 cubic yards of dirt. Other necessary materials were listed as well.

Ron estimates the cost of the project to be around \$35,000. Anticipated revenue to pay for the project included funds gathered from grants and donations to the Hi Line Health Foundation.

Ron laid out for the public the reasons why it is believed that the helipad is necessary.

- Transferring of patients- at present when Mercy Flight is called in to transport a patient, it is necessary to involve the ambulance. The patient is transferred first into the ambulance and then transferred into the helicopter. The construction of a helipad on site would eliminate one layer of transfers. Each transfer adds another layer of risk.
- Time is of the essence – especially in the instance of a stroke or a cardiac event, keeping time to an absolute minimum is essential. When Ron was asked how much time will be saved by having a helipad on site, he commented that he did not have those figures available at this time.
- Patients are safer with the physician's in the ER, than they are in the ambulance.
- Cost to the patient – every transfer adds a layer of cost to the patient. The cost of the ambulance will be eliminated by an on-site helipad.

Ron also visited with the group about plans to purchase additional equipment that will make it possible to complete "hot" loads into the helicopter. This will also save on time.

Other questions that were asked included:

Why has this equipment not already been purchased and utilized?

What about the patient's exposure to the elements from the building to the helipad? Ron believes this exposure to the elements will be "nearly irrelevant".

Will the hospital still require assistance from the EMT's to move the patient to the helipad? Ron answered, no, the Liberty Medical Center's staff will be utilized for this transfer.

Will liability issues be a problem? Ron believes that there will be no impact on the hospital's liability.

Ron also informed the group that the grant money will be lost if we do not build the helipad.

Dave Mattson briefly addressed the group. He thanked the Commissioners for holding the public hearing, and thanked Jeff Chelmo for all the time he has put into this project. Mr. Mattson also shared with the group some of the information he has come to learn throughout the process about the FAA rules and regulations and the glide path issues.

Dave Hunnewell added that he did not feel that the new proposed site was as safe of a place to land, as the site that they are currently using. Mr. Hunnewell also inquired about the added costs for maintenance and snow removal at the new proposed site.

Denise Wanken shared her beliefs regarding what she believes to be false information regarding the ambulance and its crew and the time delays and liabilities that they cause.

Jeff Mattson commented that he believes any time you add something like this to your community, the whole community benefits and that is always a good thing.

The Public Hearing concluded at 2:10 pm.

**LIBERTY COUNTY COMPENSATION BOARD HEARING**

In addition to the three commissioners present for the annual meeting of the Liberty County Compensation Board were: Clerk & Recorder Rhonda Pimley, Sheriff Richard Burrows, County Superintendent of Schools Rachel Ghekiere, Mary Ann Zorn, Dana Lalum, and Ron Gleason.

Chairman Russ Tempel opened the meeting by sharing some of the mandates regarding the holding of this annual meeting. Pertinent materials had been compiled into a booklet by the Clerk & Recorder, and dispersed to everyone for their review.

The Commissioners explained to those present that they have recently made some decisions regarding the employee health insurance. The County is not currently changing insurance companies but, the County contribution amount has been increased from \$475 / month / covered employee to \$545 / month / covered employee. This increase has helped lessen the burden of the 15% premium increases. If the contribution increase had been given in a hourly wage increase instead, it would have amounted to about a 3.1% raise.

The Omimex appeal and the impact to the County budget was briefly explained to the group. The re-appraisal cycle and the knowledge that the County's taxable valuations will remain unknown until quite late was also discussed.

The County's revenues were discussed. Compared to previous years, the income from interest has significantly dropped. The potential for future wind towers and the additional revenue that should generate was explored briefly.

The county employee's raise of 3.5% that was granted last year was looked at. How the raises at the hospital were given this year was detailed by Ron Gleason, as well as the raise that Dana Lalum received at the bank this year. Dana explained that she did receive a 2% raise this year however, she will no longer receive bonuses and some other benefits were also cut, so she actually will lose money. The school raises were discussed. A 4% raise has been granted for this year, and another 4% for next year as well.

Mary Ann Zorn made the motion to present as the recommendation from the compensation board, a wage freeze until January of 2010, at which time the board shall reconvene and look at the revenues to the County at that time, and consider recommending a raise for the remainder of the fiscal year. Ron Gleason seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

The annual meeting of the Liberty County Compensation Board concluded at 4:35 pm.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009 ♦ Tuesday

The Board of Liberty County Commissioners met in regular session on the above stated date at 10:00 AM in their room at the Courthouse. Those present were: Commissioner Larry Hendrickson and Commissioner Rlynn Rockman.

#### **MACO EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

Commissioner Russ Tempel was in Helena on the above stated date, attending the MACo Executive Board meeting.

#### **HELIPAD**

Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to table the issue on the helipad until another time when more information has been gathered. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

#### **ROAD ISSUE IN LOTHAIR**

The Commissioners have received a complaint of a road (Morgan Street) in Lothair being blocked off and closed to traffic. Commissioner Hendrickson went to Lothair to look into the situation and visit with the parties involved. An agreement was reached, and there should no longer be a problem.

#### **ROAD**

Shawn Norick was in to update the Commissioners on current road matters. Shawn was asked about the grader at Tiber Tractor. Shawn told the Commissioners that the air conditioner is being repaired on it. The traffic counter has arrived. They will be placing it on the Laird Road. The decision was made to insure it.

As requested, Shawn has completed a job safety analysis on a task performed by an employee. He turned the form into Commissioner Hendrickson.

Shawn informed the Commissioners that the crew has replaced a culvert on Road 2100. The replaced culvert was completely collapsed for some unknown reason.

Shawn reported that in about a 16' X 40' area, they are attempting a glycerin experiment to see if it will help with dust control on roads. He said that the glycerin helped for about five days but, it didn't really last much longer than that. They may have to come up with some kind of additive to make it last better.

The road groom blades have been completely worn out and Shawn will need to order a new set.

Shawn is requesting to be allowed to send out some notices to various landowners asking them to move their mailboxes. Shawn had an example of the notice that has been used in the past. He asked if the Commissioner's want to make any alterations to this notice before he begins to send them out. The Commissioners agreed that the notice is fine as it currently is written and they gave Shawn permission to send them out as needed.

Shawn reported that currently he still has a few crewmen out using up some of their accrued vacation time. The Commissioners visited briefly with Shawn about the recently held Salary Compensation Board hearing. They told him that the recommendation from the board was to freeze the elected official's salaries now; and re-look at the situation again in January. Shawn was asked to pass this information along to the crew. The Union negotiations can now be scheduled for anytime in the near future.

Other topics that were briefly discussed included the pit run used on Dugout Road, gravel crushing prices, the weeds in the ditches, and the weeds around the CTEP highway signs.

#### **CASCADE COUNTY REGIONAL YOUTH SERVICES**

Commissioner Hendrickson responded to the Cascade County request for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter report.

#### **BRIDGE**

Robert and Diana Thompson were in to visit with the Commissioners about a bridge issue. The Commissioners have received a letter from the State of Montana confirming that the bridge is not a state owned bridge, but rather a bridge owned by the landowners. The Thompson's will probably be pursuing a re-decking project.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE**

The Commissioners have received from the Montana Department of Revenue the annual lease renewal contract for the room in the Courthouse. The County Attorney was telephoned because his approval and signature are also required.

#### **PAYROLL CLAIMS**

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

**MUSEUM**

The Commissioners visited with Betty Marshall regarding the planned re-siding project at the Museum. They asked Betty if she had yet received proof of liability and workman's compensation from the person contracted to complete the project. Betty said she has not yet received the requested proof.

**LIBRARY**

At Teresa Fenger's request the Commissioners telephoned Pimley Electric to request that he install a new ground fault outlet at the Library.

**DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE CONTRACT / COUNTY ATTORNEY**

County Attorney Hugh Brown reviewed the renewal contract received from the Department of Revenue. After reviewing and correcting some spelling errors, he approved the contract for signature. Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to sign the renewal lease with the DOR. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**AIRPORT**

The Airport Board has requested that the Commissioners consider sending a letter to a local resident that refuses to heed the warnings of walking the runway at the airport. The Commissioners composed and mailed a letter to the resident requesting that he refrain from walking the runway.

**MERCY FLIGHT**

The Commissioners visited with Flight Nurse Director Scott Schandelson via a telephone conference call. The group visited about the pros and cons of building an on-site heliport. Scott reiterated to the Commissioners that the time to treatment is a very important factor. He said that even 5 minutes can make a difference in some cases. Scott also mentioned the additional cost to the patient when another resource, such as an ambulance, must be called in. On the other hand, Scott agreed that a heliport is not as secure as an airport and that there is a much larger margin of safety at the airport. It is rare that a situation occur but, it is still possible. Scott recommended that the Commissioners visit with one of the pilots but, there were no pilots available at that time. Scott also informed the Commissioners that Mercy Flight would be willing to send the helicopter and a crew to the County to perform some time tests, to clearly see if there would even be any time saved.

The Commissioners asked Scott several questions. When asked about a "hot load", Scott said, very rarely do they do "hot loads". It is just not a risk worth taking.

Scott's opinion was also sought on the patients increased exposure to the elements with the on-site heliport proposal. Scott believes that with the blankets and equipment that use, exposure it really not much of an issue.

Updating our current equipment was discussed. It has been suggested that perhaps if the ambulance equipment was more compatible with the helicopter equipment; more time could be saved. Scott's opinion on this matter indicated that he believed it was the sled that was being referred to and that most always the equipment is compatible enough that time is not effected. He also added that purchasing a sled identical to the one used on Mercy Flight would probably cost the County around 5-12 thousand dollars.

The Commissioners were told that Mercy Flight typically sends one pilot and two crewmen on each call, and that allowing family members to ride with the patient on the flight is predominately not allowed.

**NORTHWEST ENERGY / STIMULUS MONEY**

Community Relations Manager for NW Energy Scott Patera dropped by to briefly visit with the Commissioners. He informed them that there is some stimulus money available for county buildings to complete some energy savings measures. He said that Sandra Anderson will be coming to do an energy audit at the hospital, and would maybe be available to do other county buildings. He went to the Library and upon his return he informed the Commissioners that in his opinion the Library has already been updated and that there is probably not much more that can be done there.

**PAYROLL**

Commissioner Rockman made the motion and Commissioner Hendrickson seconded it, to approve for payment the payroll as it has been submitted. Motion carried.

**PREFERRED PROVIDER / PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE**

The Public Health Nurse has asked permission to enter into a preferred provider agreement with InterWest Health. Commissioner Hendrickson made the motion to sign the agreement between Public Health and InterWest Health. Commissioner Rockman seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The agreement was signed and mailed directly to InterWest.

**AUDIT**

The completed audit from Denning, Downey and Associates for fiscal year 2007-2008 has been received. The Commissioners reviewed it and took a copy of it along with a summary statement to be published to the Liberty County Times.

Commissioner Tempel telephoned in from his meeting in Helena. He wanted to touch base with the others on the proceedings of the day. The group visited briefly about the audit and the heliport issue. Commissioner Tempel will attend the HRDC meeting in Havre scheduled for this evening.

**MACO**

Sheryl Wood from MACo was telephoned for some advice regarding the authority of the Library Board. Sheryl advised the Commissioners that if a resolution was passed previously giving the Library Board the authority to hire and employ, then the Board has the authority to grant raises but, if the Board of Commissioners have not previously granted the Library Board that authority then they cannot grant a raise without the Commissioner's approval. The Clerk & Recorder will check the county history regarding this matter.

Bret Kenfield telephoned into the Commissioners regarding updated wind tower data for the County.

Road Foreman Shawn Norick telephoned into the Commissioners to report that the traffic counter has been set up. They also visited briefly about the glycerin.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman