

**March 5, 2014**

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on March 5, 2014, in the Lincoln County Courthouse. Present are Commissioner Tony Berget, Commissioner Ron Downey, Commissioner Mike Cole, Executive Assistant Bill Bischoff and Clerk and Recorder Tammy Lauer.

9:05 AM: Commissioner Berget **opened the meeting** with the Pledge of Allegiance.

9:05 AM: **USFS**: The interim KNF supervisor Pam Gardner and Quinn Carver are here today from the Forest Service. Pam introduced herself and shared her experience with the Forest Service over the past 30 years. She spoke about the Forest Service consolidating offices across the country. The lack of funding has an impact on the offices. The group discussed the permanent replacement for the position vacated by Paul Bradford and Pam told that she is on the hiring committee. There was talk of logging in Lincoln County compared to Oregon where Pam came from. Quinn talked about the litigation process and how it slows any logging projects. Commissioner Berget asked about the Forest Plan progress. He wondered if there would be any meetings on the subject. Quinn said he didn't hear that there were any planned. The discussion began about the Montanore Mine project. There was a meeting yesterday that announced that the project was being pushed back to 2015 due to Forest Service approval. Quinn said that it isn't the Forest Service per se, but all the agencies that must work together to make it happen including Fish and Game and EPA. He said that the mine is very important to the USFS as well, but they have to be sure to dot all i's and cross all t's in order to be sure that the final opinions are not rejected. Quinn said they have someone working 10 hour days on this right now. Commissioner Berget told that local businessmen are eager to meet with Pam and Quinn to talk about it, and Pam agreed that she would meet with them and let them see what the Forest Service is working on. They both agreed that the employment in Lincoln County is crucial but these things take time. Commissioner Berget asked if there was anything that the commissioners could do to speed up the process. He said they are willing to contact the EPA or any other agency to hurry them along. Quinn talked about the number of documents that are being processed to make this opinion go through. The Fish and Game and the EPA are doing their sections but it all has to come together to make it final. Quinn told that 2 full time employees are working exclusively on the Montanore Mine project. Alvin Benitz spoke about the frustration of the community of trying to get the mine up and going and the road blocks they have run into. Charlotte Woods agreed. Mark Lauer, a displaced miner, said that he would like to get to work sooner rather than later. Jeff Koskela said he would like to see more people working on this to get it done faster and get people back to work. He told Pam that as she is the boss now, please work on this. Pam said that she would like to get this done as soon as possible and will work toward that. Commissioner Cole said that Lincoln County used to be one of the most prosperous counties in Montana and environmental law and federal mandates have put a stop to that. Quinn said that the unfortunate reality of the situation is that this will be challenged in court and it is crucial that it doesn't lose. Taking the extra time to make sure the document is correct will be worthwhile.

10:30 AM: The commissioners read the **minutes of the February 12, 2014 and February 26, 2014, meetings**. Commissioner Downey moved to approve the minutes as written and it carried.

10:50 AM: The commissioners signed a **Quitclaim Deed** for a small part of the area around the Troy Museum that was missed in the original land deal when the county transferred the land to the city.

1:30 PM: **Gullingsrud Subdivision**, final plat: All conditions have been met on this subdivision. Commissioner Downey moved to approve the subdivision as final plat and it carried.

1:33 PM: **Ketchup Hill Subdivision**, release of bond: Kristin Smith, Director of Planning, stated that the condition for the bond has been completed and she recommends approval. Commissioner Downey moved to approve the release of the bond and it carried.

1:35 PM: **Lyman Estates Subdivision**, release of bond: Kristin stated that the conditions for the bond have been met and she recommends approval. Commissioner Downey moved to approve the release of the bond and it carried.

1:37 PM: **Richard Carter Lakeshore permit** on Steed property: Commissioner Berget recused himself from this as he has in the past due to perceived conflict of interest. Carters are one of the five property owners that have a six foot easement to Glen Lake along the boundary of Greg Steed's property. Carter would like to build a 6' by 20' dock with a 3' by 10' dock ramp. Access to the dock would be by a ladder bolted into the large stabilizing rocks. The Planning Board reviewed the dock permit and voted 4 to 3 to deny the dock due to safety issues of the ladder and the slope of the land. Commissioner Cole said he has had a lot of discussion about the dock over the last year and he and Commissioner Downey both commended the Planning Board for their efforts and Kristin for her work on this project. Commissioner Cole moved to approve the lakeshore permit and it carried.

2:10 PM: **Amy Robinson, Montana Wilderness Association**: Amy came to share her views on the Forest Plan and Wilderness. She shared a PowerPoint presentation on the subject and then discussed the advantages of the Forest Plan. The group talked about the Ten Lakes plan. They also discussed the Scotchman Peaks area.

3:10 PM: The commissioners discussed the replacement of a part time employee in the **Clerk of Court office**. The part time person is leaving in May. The commissioners have been working on the budget this week and feel that they need more time to make this decision.

3:15 PM: The commissioners had three meetings in the **Troy Dispatch** area concerning the Libby and Troy Dispatch combining. Commissioner Downey moved to move forward with the plans to put the consolidation of the dispatch district and Libby Dispatch on the ballot in June. Commissioner Cole seconded and it carried. The election department will begin working on the wording of the ballot language for this issue.

3:00 PM: The **meeting was adjourned**.

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Anthony Berget, Chairman

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Tammy D. Lauer, Clerk of the Board