

May 28, 2014

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on May 28, 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.

9:00 AM: Commissioner Berget **opened the meeting** with the Pledge of Allegiance.

9:00 AM: **Ed Levert, County Forester:** Ed brought a petition that is signed by all the fire departments in the county requesting that the commissioners sign a resolution naming the week of June 2, 2014 as Wildfire Awareness Week. Ed explained that the education for Fire Wise will now include the whole process. It starts with making a property fire wise as far as thinning trees and making steps to protect a property from fire. The process ends with a property owner having a plan for their animals, a route for escape, and a plan for survival. Commissioner Berget read the resolution. Commissioner Downey moved to approve Resolution #915 and it carried.

9:25 AM: The commissioners read the **minutes of the May 14, 2014 meeting**. Commissioner Cole moved to approve the minutes as written and it carried.

9:30 AM: The commissioners received a letter from Ben Scott one of the owners of the **SK Fingerjoint, LLC** requesting a tax incentive for their business. The commissioners will research this request and address it at a later date.

9:35 AM: **Pam Norman, Juvenile Detention facility manager,** is requesting that she be allowed to hire one female and two males to replace personnel that have quit recently. These people are only paid when the facility is occupied. Commissioner Downey moved to approve the hiring and it carried.

9:40 AM: The commissioners are submitting a letter to Treasurer Nancy Higgins requesting that the funds in the **Hard Rock Mine Trust** account be released for use as per MCA 7-6-2225 which allows for this when the mine has ceased all mine-related activity or the number of persons employed is less than one-half of the average number of persons employed. The Troy Mine has been down for over a year now, so we are within those boundaries. Nancy was instructed to keep the money in the current fund. Commissioner Downey moved to approve the Hard Rock Mines Trust funds payment and it carried.

9:58 AM: **Nancy Higgins, County Treasurer:** Nancy brought the commissioners the monthly report of cash and investments. She presented the numbers and her concerns. Nancy has a report of six mobile home taxes that she is unable to collect. Commissioner Downey moved to allow Nancy to cancel the taxes on the six mobile homes and it carried. There are personal property taxes for one individual in Eureka in the amount of \$23,821. The person has no known address and they have been unable to contact them. Commissioner Cole will see if he can find the individual and report back to Nancy. The commissioners have agreed to waive taxes on property which has been identified as a county road. One such property shows as delinquent taxes in the Eureka area but was held over from last month until all 3 commissioners could be present. This property is under the name of a family member of Commissioner Berget so he will not vote on this issue. Commissioner Cole moved to approve the removal of tax bill #13998 due to it being a county road and it carried.

10:15 AM: The commissioners received a letter from **Western Montana Mental Health Center** requesting that the \$18,500 that is budgeted each year for Mental Health be sent directly to the Center rather than to the State. The WMMHC has not been receiving the money from the State as promised. Unfortunately, the state requested those funds at the beginning of May and they were paid to the state on the last claims cycle.

10:30 AM: The **Elected Officials Salary Committee** met for their annual meeting. The recommendation from the committee is that there is no increase in salary this year for elected officials and no longevity for elected officials. The committee reappointed Bonnie Larson for an additional term. The commissioners will vote on the recommendation next Wednesday.

11:00 AM: **CTEP project for the Eureka Walking Path:** The path would go along Highway 37. Commissioner Cole considers this to be more for safety benefits than recreation. Tracy McIntyre is on the conference phone. She has been helping Commissioner Cole plan and apply for this project. The preliminary cost looks to be \$486,000, which is more than a CTEP grant would be. Tracy stated that she will be searching for additional grants through the Tobacco Valley Industrial District. Commissioner Downey moved to approve the project and application to CTEP and it carried.

1:30 PM: **Pitcher Subdivision,** 2 lots, Parcel B, COS No 3046, preliminary plat approval: Kristin Smith, Planning Director, presented the subdivision which is not required to go to the planning board. Kristin is recommending approval. Commissioner Cole moved to approve the preliminary plat and it carried.

1:37 PM: **Lakeshore Permit:** Sheila Nielsen has property on Sophie Lake and would like to put a dock on that property. Kristin recommends approval of the permit. Commissioner Downey moved to approve the lakeshore permit and it carried.

1:39 PM: **Lakeshore Permit:** Everett Martin has property on Bull Lake. He is requesting a permit for dredging and a dock installation. This permit went to the planning board and they recommend approval. Commissioner Downey moved to approve the lakeshore permit and it carried.

1:45 PM: **RV Park Subdivision Regulations:** Kristin is proposing changes to the Lincoln County Subdivision Regulations for RV Parks in response to the public comments. The changes would be with maximum density, parking areas, Setbacks from adjacent properties, natural visual buffers and street lighting for public safety. Kristin presented the old section of the Subdivision Regulations VI-T-1 RV Spaces a through d. The commissioners will schedule a public hearing for the changes sometime this summer.

2:10 PM: **Resolution #914** is a resolution that will **adjust budgets** for five funds that received revenue which was not anticipated or new grants not budgeted. Commissioner Downey moved to approve the budget revision resolution and it carried.

2:30 PM: The commissioners met with Justice of the Peace Stormy Langston, Justice of the Peace Jay Sheffield and County Attorney Bernard Cassidy concerning **combining the two justice positions**. This is a working group on the logistics of the office. Jay brought some written thoughts on the subject that he has been going over. He feels that this will be a starting point of meetings involving input from several people on how this can work. The group talked about many different options. There was a discussion about others to bring into this discussion for information. The group will meet back June 18, in Eureka.

3:30 PM: The commissioners met with County Treasurer Nancy Higgins about the consolidation of her office and the **Superintendent of Schools**. Nancy began by telling the commissioners that two people in her office have resigned. She needs to know how the clerical work for the Superintendent of Schools will be staffed so that she can plan how she will staff her office. Commissioner Berget told Nancy that the discussion had been work would be done by a half time person for Superintendent of Schools. The commissioners are suggesting that if Nancy were to replace both vacancies in her office now, she would be expected to absorb the duties of the Superintendent of Schools clerk in one of those positions. Nancy said that she would want to make the decision as to whether she would have one part time clerk for Superintendent of Schools and one and a half in her office or a job share for one individual. The beginning of that decision would be for the commissioners to decide and announce that the current clerical position for the Superintendent of Schools is definitely ending. Commissioner Cole moved to end the assistant to the Superintendent of schools as of January 1, 2015 and Nancy will absorb that position into her office. The motion carried. Therefore, the commissioners will allow Nancy to fill both vacancies in her office with that understanding about the duties of the Superintendent of Schools. Commissioner Cole moved to allow Nancy to hire two people with the thought that filling those vacancies will also be part of the absorption of the clerical part of the superintendent of schools. The motion carried.

4:10 PM: The **meeting was adjourned**.

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Anthony Berget, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Tammy D. Lauer, Clerk of the Board