

November 14, 2014

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a special session on November 14, 2014, in the Lincoln County Courthouse. Present are Commissioner Tony Berget, Commissioner Mike Cole, Commissioner Greg Larson, and Clerk and Recorder Tammy Lauer.

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

9:00 AM: Jay Sheffield, Justice of the Peace, Brent Faulkner, Undersheriff and Captain Bo Pittman are meeting today to discuss the future of the **Justice of the Peace** position. Jay said that in 50 days there will be one court and he needs some idea of what is expected of him and his office. He said there needs to remain some level of service in the Eureka area but is unsure of what the commissioners have in mind. Commissioner Cole said that he would like to make clear that this is only a preliminary meeting to hear Jay's ideas and the ideas of the Sheriff's office. He does not feel that there is any reason to develop policy as of yet. Commissioner Berget and Commissioner Larson said that this discussion needs to take place to develop any policy. Jay began by talking about the different types of cases that need to be seen. Most of the cases that are done in Eureka can be done through Vision Net. Bo said that the cases in the North are mostly being seen by Vision Net at this time. Bo stated that some cases that are bonded out are given the choice of appearing in Libby or by Vision Net and almost all of them chose Vision Net. Commissioner Berget asked Bo if it would be beneficial to move the Vision Net to the Justice Center rather than the Annex Building. Bo said that he would recommend that. The only day the Justice Center is busy with traffic is Wednesday but it would still be a viable option. He recommends that the bulk of the Vision Net cases are done on Thursdays because that is the day that there are 2 deputies in the office. He stated that Eureka has one tenth the calls of Libby so the volume of calls is considerably less and the foot traffic is very rare. Brent showed the commissioners pictures of the Justice Center and where the Vision Net would be located. There will need to be a fax machine to send forms to the defendants. They will need to discuss with Dispatch if they would like to share a fax machine or if one needs to be purchased.

The restraining order is another story. If there is a domestic violence case they would call the sheriff's office and it would become a criminal case. The people that file protective orders do that by filling out a form. So far, there have been 10 restraining orders filed in 2014. Protective orders are only available Monday through Friday from 8 to 5 as it stands now. The person gets the form, fills it out, has it notarized and returns it. If there is a notary in the Dispatch center that could all be done at the Justice Center and fax the form to the Judge. There was a discussion about the process for a domestic violence case.

Jay would like to see the telephone number for the Justice Court in Eureka transferred to ring in his office on January 2, 2015. That way, anyone calling will get the office they are looking for immediately.

Civil Cases such as small claims, landlord and tenant issues, and regular civil cases are another story. Jay feels that these are better handled in person. He said that there were 6 small claims cases in Eureka in 2014. He feels if should be handled by him traveling one day a month, perhaps 2, to hear the cases. Jay stated that in those cases it is important to have the judge in front of the people to hear their side of the story.

Jay talked about the deadlines that they are facing and the time that some of the transition will take. He is hoping for decisions in plenty of time to get everything set up by January 2, 2015.

10:00 AM: Tammy Lauer, Election Administrator and Leigh Riggleman, Assistant Election Administrator: This is the official Election Canvas for the General Election. Leigh handed out the canvas information to the commissioners. There were three write-in races that had to be reviewed as well. After beginning the canvas, Leigh realized that her numbers were off and asked to reconvene an hour later to fix the issue. The commissioners will meet with Leigh again later this morning.

11:30 AM: Leigh Riggleman returned to the meeting with the new numbers and the canvas continued. The commissioners and the Election Administrator signed the canvas.

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Anthony Berget, Chairman

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