

October 1, 2014

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on October 1, 2014, in the Lincoln County Courthouse. Present are Commissioner Tony Berget, Commissioner Mike Cole, Commissioner Greg Larson, Executive Assistant Bill Bischoff and Clerk and Recorder Tammy Lauer.

9:00 AM: **USFS:** No representatives of the Forest Service were able to come today.

9:30 AM: Commissioner Berget **opened the meeting** with the Pledge of Allegiance.

10:00 AM: **Dave Harmon:** Dave has come to talk to the commissioners about the community image as a result of the asbestos. He is a member of the Healthy Communities Initiative. He said that there have been a lot of inquiries from visitors and job applicants coming to the area about the asbestos issues. He would like to see a positive community response that all of the county could use; that way someone inquiring would not receive a different answer from the hospital than they received from the Chamber of Commerce. The commissioners agreed that the community image is very important. Dave said he just wanted to make the commissioners aware of the group HCI and what they are trying to do. Nick Raines was present and praised the HCI group for their efforts and is working with them to help.

10:30 AM: **Mike Noser, Area Manager of the Department of Revenue:** Mike was invited today to talk about the taxation questions. He talked about the mill levies this year. He told the commissioners that this next year will be a reappraisal year for the DOR. This means that properties will be examined for value and new properties will be appraised. The group discussed the procedures for taxing on different types of properties. Commissioner Cole asked if the DOR feels that they are finding all the new structures in the county. Mike said that they are pretty confident that they do. He talked about some of the ways that new properties are discovered. If a property is under construction, the DOR visits each year. Montana DOR has 16 tax types that they deal with, the ones used in Lincoln County are Class 3-Agricultural, Class 4-Commercial, Residential and Industrial, Class 8-Personal Property and Class 10-Timberlands. The only other taxes are the Net and Gross Proceeds from the mines. Mike explained about taxes that are paid by people leasing property from the Port Authority. The commissioners said that Mike had a lot of valuable information and so they would like to have him back. Mike said he would be happy to come back anytime.

11:30 PM: **Lincoln County Republican Central Committee on the proposed RV Regulations:** Rhoda Cargill is here today to represent the LCRCC. The LCRCC sent a letter to the commissioners on September 11th. Rhoda stated that their concerns are mainly due to the statements made by the Planning Director Kristin Smith about RV's. She said that the Director said that if someone complained about a number of RV's using the same septic system that it would be considered an RV Park. The Planning Director also admitted that the definition of an RV Park is a "gray area". Rhoda said that she has tried to find the definition from the State of an RV Park. Rhoda emphasized that they feel that this is the opportune time to define the term RV Park. Rhoda concluded by saying that this should not be an issue that is left to interpretation but to a definition adopted by the county. Commissioner Cole asked if they have any issues with the proposed RV regulations or is it only with the definition. Rhoda stated the definition is the main concern and she is not concerned with the other issues; if someone wants to invite friends and relatives to stay on their property in their RV's then it should not be considered an RV Park. Commissioner Berget noted that the time element and the sanitation situation have been factors in those cases.

1:30 PM: **Family Transfer:** Hazel Dare is requesting to transfer property to her son Casey Dare. There does not appear to be any evasion of subdivision. Commissioner Larson moved to approve the family transfer and it carried.

1:35 PM: **Sunset Ranch Subdivision, Phase I,** final plat approval: Lisa Oedewaldt, County Planner, and Deb Blystone, Planning Manager, presented the final plat. All conditions have been met. Commissioner Cole moved to approve the final plat according to planning staff recommendations and it carried.

1:39 PM: **Cowell Creek Subdivision,** final plat approval: Lisa presented the final plat and all conditions have been met. Commissioner Larson moved to approve the final plat according to planning staff recommendation and it carried.

1:45 PM: Due to the resignation of Kristin Smith, Planning Director, the commissioners have offered to **appoint Lisa Oedewaldt the County Planner**. Lisa will accept the position as an addition to the Deputy Director of EMA. Commissioner Larson moved to approve the addition of County Planner to Lisa's position with the county and it carried. The commissioners discussed the new planning department procedures with Lisa and Deb.

2:25 PM: The commissioners read the **minutes of the September 17, 2014 meeting**. Commissioner Cole moved to approve the minutes as written and it carried.

2:30 PM: **Kathi Hooper, County Sanitarian:** Kathi is here to discuss the green box hauling contract. She has the agreement to review with the commissioners. The County Attorney and Kootenai Disposal have seen the contract and approved it. This contract replaces 2 employees that have left the county; one to retirement and one took a position elsewhere. She feels that the county is ready to go forward with this action. Commissioner Larson moved to approve the agreement and finalize the process and it carried.

2:40 PM: **Kathi Hooper, Jennifer McCully and Lisa Oedewaldt:** Lisa has been the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) grant administrator and the Contagious Diseases reporting person for a while now. Jennifer, who is currently employed with the Sanitarian Department in the Asbestos Resource Program, has a Master's Degree in Public Health and is willing to take on those two tasks. This will enable Lisa to take the County Planner position. Jennifer will work with Kathi and the County Health Officer, Dr. Brad Black to fine tune these programs. Commissioner Cole moved to appoint Jennifer as the new Contagious Disease Director and the PHEP program administrator and move those two programs to the County Sanitarian's office. Commissioner Larson seconded and it carried.

3:00 PM: **Brady Selle:** Brady is the former Superintendent of Schools of the Troy District. He would like to speak with the commissioners about the newly contracted position of County Superintendent of Schools. Brady would like to ask questions about the position. Brady said after having conversations with the current Supt of Schools Ron Higgins and his secretary he is more interested in the position. He has been told that the paperwork would remain in the county office.

3:25 PM: Ron Denowh from the **Lincoln County Airport Board** brought a letter of intent from Scott Mattheis to replace Ron Hart as a Eureka representative on the board. Ron Hart resigned from the board recently. Commissioner Cole moved to accept the resignation from Ron Hart and the appointment of Scott Mattheis and it carried. Ron Denowh presented his resignation as well. Ron has served on the Airport Board for 8 years but now is looking at retirement. Commissioner Larson moved to accept the resignation from Ron and it carried. Currently there is no interest in the Libby Board vacancy. The Commissioners thanked Ron for his years of service on the Airport Board.

3:45 PM: The commissioners were presented with **Resolution #924** which is a resolution of agreement to request that Congress provide full funding for **PILT** in FY 2015 and that Congress should develop a sustainable long-term approach to funding these essential local services in America's public lands. Commissioner Cole moved to approve the resolution and it carried.

3:50 PM: The commissioners were presented with a **Tax Abatement** from the Department of Revenue for Tax #3939. The refuse fees have been charged for past few years and the structure was removed in 2009. The policy is to refund 3 years maximum. Commissioner Larson moved to refund 3 years of refuse fees in the amount of \$405 to Parcel #3939 and it carried.

3:55 PM: **The Western Montana Mental Health Center** is requesting \$10,000 in Director Pay Subsidy. In 2009, the center hired a Director and the county agreed to help with the pay for as long as was fiscally responsible for the county to do so. There was \$10,000 budgeted in the PILT fund in 09/10, 10/11, and 11/12. However, due to the uncertainty of Secured Rural School funding and other county budget difficulties there was no budget for it in 2012/2013 or in the current budget year of 2013/2014. The Director that required the additional funds has since moved to a new position and the current director is not paid near that salary. Commissioner Larson questioned the value that Lincoln County is getting from this service and wondered what other counties are contributing. Commissioner Berget will call them and find out more information.

4:05 PM: The **meeting was adjourned.**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Anthony Berget, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Tammy D Lauer, Clerk of the Board