

MARCH 4, 2015

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on March 4, 2015, in the Lincoln County Courthouse. Present were Commissioner Mike Cole, Commissioner Greg Larson, Commissioner Mark Peck, Executive Assistant Bill Bischoff and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson.

Commissioner Cole **opened the meeting** with the Pledge of Allegiance.

9:00 AM **Lincoln County Library Director, Rick Ball:**

Rick presented an overview regarding the status of the county libraries. He is asking to replace an employee who will be retiring this year and requested permission for a new permanent part-time position which would be shared between the Troy and Libby libraries. Rick talked about the library budget, outdated materials, and short staffing. The low budget is affecting the libraries service to the public. The Commission will take the information under advisement.

2:45 PM **Administrative Issues:**

- The commissioners read the minutes for February 25, 2015. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to approve February 25, 2015 minutes. Second by Commissioner Larson and so ordered upon unanimous consensus of the board.
- The Commission signed a letter to the Bull Lake Rural Fire District Board acknowledging Mike Casey and Gerald Wallace to serve on the board by acclamation. Mike Casey and Gerald Wallace filed Petitions of Nomination. There were two positions up for election, and no other candidates filed. Terms will be for 3 years. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to approve Mike Casey and Gerald Wallace to the Bull Lake Rural Fire District Board by acclamation. Second by Commissioner Peck, so ordered upon unanimous consensus of the board.
- The Commission signed a letter congratulating the recent victory of Moxley Roesler-Begalke in the County Spelling Bee. Moxley represented the Troy Junior High School.
- The Commission received a letter from Lois Sciligo, Lincoln County Fair Manager requesting the appointment of Sharon LaBonty to the Lincoln County Fair Board. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to approve the appointment of Sharon LaBonty. Second by Commissioner Peck, so ordered upon unanimous consent of the Board.
- Commissioner Cole discussed a meeting that Representative Mike Cuffe is organizing in Helena with the governor's economic development staff to develop relationships and communication to improve Lincoln County's economic development efforts. Members of local economic development organizations, and state agencies, will also be invited to attend. The idea is to come together in unity with common economic goals and achievable plans. Commissioner Cole suggested putting together a list of ideas and projects. The meeting will be held March 17 & 18 in Helena.
- Commissioner Larson said the Troy Road Department is in need of a new back hoe. The Troy Road Department has the money set aside in their budget to purchase the back hoe.. The equipment will have to be advertised and go out to bid. A brief discussion took place about equipment needed for all county road departments. The Commission discussed researching grant opportunities and formulating a Capital Improvement Plan before making a decision to use county road funds.
- Commissioner Larson suggested having Jerry Okonski take a look at the County Resource Plan. The contract would be for \$30 an hour, up to \$3000. Mr. Okonski will look at the history, culture and formulate revisions. Commissioner Peck said the revised plan should be put to the Planning Board, stakeholders and other pertinent agencies for review and gather recommendations. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to hire Jerry Okonski to help write the County Resource Plan for 30/hr, up to \$3000, paid from the county economic development fund. Second by Commissioner Peck, so ordered upon unanimous consent of the Board.
- Commissioner Larson told the Commission that classmates of Troy High School would like permission to put a memorial seating bench for a deceased friend at the Kootenai Falls. The Commission unanimously agreed to grant permission to the classmates.
- The Commission discussed the need for a Public Lands Taskforce. Commissioner Larson said the idea is to keep the effort moving forward and to support local land management. The taskforce would be state funded. Commissioner Peck said pilot projects should be an area of focus and should have a specific end result. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to write a letter of support for a Public Lands Taskforce. Second by Commissioner Peck, so ordered upon unanimous consent of the Board.
- The Commission signed the Annual Certification Forms to the Montana State Disaster and Emergency Services Programs Bureau. The forms certify EMA Director Vic White and Lisa Oedewaldt as the designated persons working on the EMPG Program.

1:30 AM **Budget Discussion:** Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson met with the Commission to discuss and formulate a budget timeline and structured plan to meet the statutory budget requirements. Robin expressed the importance to engage the public and work transparently throughout the FY 15/16 budget process. Robin talked about the District Board training she coordinated with MSU Local Government Center Director, Dan Clark scheduled for April 7. All District Boards will receive a letter of invitation to attend.

4:00 PM The **meeting was adjourned.**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mike Cole, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Robin A. Benson, Clerk of the Board