

December 12, 2016

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a special session on December 12, 2016, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Cole, Commissioner Peck, and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson.

11:00 A.M. Juvenile Detention Discussion: Present were Sheriff Roby Bowe, Undersheriff Brandon Huff, Jerry Bennett, Jessica Vanderhoef, Matt Pickett, Vic White and Dallas Wamsley.

Roby said he has visited with the Sheriff in Flathead County and they would send juveniles to our facility if it were kept running with proper supervision; that will help with costs associated with maintaining and operating the Troy Juvenile Detention facility. Flathead County has shut down their juvenile detention facility to accommodate more room for adult inmates.

Commissioner Peck said that he feels there is currently a lack of supervision in the Troy Juvenile Detention Center. Roby stated he feels a good plan can be put into place; we just need to work out the details which will include conversations with the Commissioners and MACo and possibly with help from Matt Pickett.

Roby said there will be initial upfront costs, especially with cross training employees and it is important the facility is running well before Lincoln County accepts any juveniles from other counties. Roby said installing the VisionNet system will also be an initial cost, but will decrease cost associated with transport.

Brandon said he will be visiting with MACo to help determine how to change from on-call employees to full time employees to improve the function of the facility. Another initial cost may be evaluating the building to ensure it is up to code.

Roby wanted to be clear that the option of closing the facility is still on the table if they determine that maintaining the facility is not judicially stable.

Jessica asked how the employee transition would take place, questioning if it would be mandatory or on a volunteer basis. Jessica said that it is something to consider and think about.

Vic commented that he feels the transition is a positive move in the right direction.

Jerry Bennett commented that it is better to keep our kids here, keep the money here, and offer that service to other counties if we can cover the costs associated with maintaining the facility.

Motion by Commissioner Peck to begin the process to transition Troy Juvenile Detention Center management under the Sheriff's Department. Second by Commissioner Cole, motion carried.

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mike Cole, Chairman

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