

January 6, 2016

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on January 6, 2016, in the Commissioner's Office of the Lincoln County Courthouse. Present were Commissioner Mike Cole, Commissioner Greg Larson, Commissioner Mark Peck and Deputy Clerk & Recorder Chris Nelson.

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

9:00 AM **County Organizational:** Present were Nikki Meyer via VisionNet. Commissioners started a discussion on county organizational format. Currently, Commissioner Peck is acting as the county administrator. Commissioner Peck didn't feel that having a county administrator would bring down the level of stress. He remarked that there are a lot of big issues right now concerning EPA, Montanore, and ARP but felt once those are dealt with the level of stress will go down. Commissioner Peck prefers the county spend the money elsewhere rather than spending it on an administrator, which could cost upwards of \$60,000. Commissioner Cole agreed but wondered what could be done to take some of the burden off of Commissioner Peck. Commissioner Larson said there does need to be a point person to deal with issues and asked if Commissioner Peck wanted to continue for a few more months. Commissioner Peck felt the county wasn't in a position to hire an administrator. Commissioner Cole suggested scheduled working meetings which Commissioner Peck agreed working meeting would be beneficial. Commissioner Larson said working meetings would help keep the commission up to date on information. Commissioners agreed that department heads have really stepped up in the absence of a county administrator. Commissioner Larson discussed using Tuesdays as a working meeting day. Commissioner Peck said that breaking up issues amongst commissioners could also help. Commissioner Cole asked about extra compensation for the added work that Commissioner Peck is doing. Commissioner Peck said he would decline any such compensation but Commissioner Cole said he just wanted to put that issue on the table. Commissioner Peck had talked to HR about streamlining payroll and was told that when the accounting payroll process went electronic it would save two days per pay period. Commissioner Peck said that he would continue doing the administrator duties for another 6 months then they could meet and discuss the issue again. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to extend Commissioner Peck's administrator duties until the end of the fiscal year, June 30th. **Second** by Commissioner Cole and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board. Commissioner Peck voiced a concern that the county didn't have a person that could deal with issues of timber, recreation, access, permitting and environmental issues. Commissioner Peck said they are deeply involved issues that are very complicated but the county could possibly benefit from having a person work on those issues and the county would also be able to stay more up to date of the issues. It would be very beneficial to have one person working on key issues that could improve revenue.

10:00 AM **Website Design Contract/Network Services:** Present were Ernie Anderson, Bob Henline, Alan Gerstenecker, Russ Monroe, August Hargrove, Steve Gunderson and John Schneder. Ernie Anderson from the county IT department was present on the decision regarding the contract for the county website and web hosting through Flathead Media. The new website would be compatible with handheld devices which the current website is not. Costs are \$12,400 for the web design and \$200 per month for Flathead Media to host. Commissioner Peck stated that signing off on the new website and hosting would take a burden off of the IT department. The county department heads were supportive of the new website and hosting duties that Flathead Media would provide. Ernie said that he is confident that information will be able to be more up to date. Commissioner Cole asked for comments from the public. It was also clarified that Flathead Media is located in Libby. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to approve both the website design and web hosting contract as submitted with Flathead Media. **Second** by Commissioner Peck, so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues:**

- The Commission read the minutes for December 30, 2015. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to approve minutes as submitted. **Second** by Commissioner Peck, so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.
- Commissioner Larson submitted a letter from a Troy resident concerning parcel #3944 being accessed for riverfront property while her neighbors were not. Commissioner Peck had several questions concerning the amount overtaxed and property values of the neighbors but also stated that he didn't want to see people overpaying on taxes. **Motion** by Commissioner Greg Larson to refund for the three years in the amount of \$2,362.44 out of PILT. **Second** by Commissioner Mark Peck and so ordered upon the unanimous consent of the board.
- Commissioner Mike Cole signed a revised Federal Outlay Report for reimbursement for work at the Libby Airport.

11:00 AM **Public Comment Time:** Present were Alan Gerstenecker, August Hargrove, John Rios, Dale Sabine, John Schneider, Bruce Mast, Dana White and Robert Mast.

John Rios wished to comment about the Cabinet View Fire Service Area (CVFSA) and notified that he was recording the conversation. He wanted to comment on the decision made by the commissioners concerning CVFSA and commended the commissioners' work on the issue. He stated that it was important that all parties are represented fairly and appreciated the time given to discuss issues. He had questions regarding the criteria used to make the decision concerning CVFSA. Commissioners agreed that they used Montana Code, the public hearing process, written comments and the numbers for and against the fire service area. The commission focus was comments from residents in the fire service area. John Rios referenced from a handout given to the public during the CVFSA discussion during the commissioners meeting on December 30, 2015. Commissioners stated that the elections department checked that individuals who signed were in the proposed FSA. Rios believed there is a disparity in how it was counted last time compared to the most current one. Commissioner Peck stated that last time they were attempting to form a Fire Service District and this was for a Fire Service Area. Rios believes there should be consistency in how the county verifies signatures and how they are counted. Rios said he is asking that a careful inventory is made, the names rechecked, and a fair decision be made on the correct criteria. Rios asked that special attention be paid to renters, who he said should not be counted. Commissioner Cole said that if a discrepancy is found, the Board of Commissioners would review it. Commissioner Peck said that if they were counted correctly he hoped that would be the end of the issue which Rios said it would be. Rios said that if there is foul play, he would like it addressed. Commissioner Peck said if mistakes were made

that doesn't make it foul play. Commissioner Larson said that he resented Rios' comments and he resents the insinuations and had heard enough of the issue. Commissioner Larson did say that if a mistake was made, it will be corrected but didn't appreciate the innuendos of "foul play". Commissioners Peck and Larson said that they spent hours on the petition and the election department also did. Commissioners encouraged Rios to go over the data as it is all public information. Rios said he would get back to the commissioners on his findings. Dale Sabine would like to see a complete audit of the petition and public comments and volunteered to help.

11:30 AM **Human Resources Discussion:** Commissioners met with Dallas Shaw and Vic White from the county HR Department concerning the new insurance forms that have to be sent out with the W-2s. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson moved to approve the signing. **Second** by Commissioner Peck and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.

1:00 PM **EMA Update:** Present were Kirk Kraft and Lisa Oedewaldt.

Kirk reported that potential ice and flood conditions are back to normal; Lisa is working on the costs associated with disaster services. Kirk said he visited with City Administrator Jim Hammons and everyone is back to work and there was no damage to the Flower Creek Dam structure.

Mountain Tops: The trunked system is not up and running yet, but the county has not transferred anything to that system so it does not affect us. The system might still be in place this winter.

AM 5:30 system is in all 3 towns. The system in Libby is not working, but Kirk is currently working on this.

Fire Coop: Discussed having a North zone and a South Zone training to help accommodate for less travel. A training committee of 6 people has been established to help determine what the best training needs are. The committee looks at all hazard aspects to include structure, hazmat, BNSF, and not just wildland classes and training. Training will include exercises. Kirk said the co-op is benefits communication between all the fire departments.

Troy Dispatch started a User's Group which involves all emergency responders and has asked for EMA involvement. The emphasis is on scene management.

Motion by Commissioner Larson to approve extension of the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Libby and Lincoln County to cooperate in the provision of Planning and Emergency Management Services. **Second** by Commissioner Peck, and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.

1:30 PM **MACO Insurance Presentation:** Present were MACo Shelly Murphy, Vic White, and Dallas Shaw.

Shelly presented a comparison of the current employee insurance plan with what MACo could offer to the county. Shelly provided insurance options for medical as well as dental and vision plans for review. Information included life insurance options for employees who are enrolled in the medical plan and retiree Medicare supplement plans that would be available to retired employees ages 65 and over. Shelly explained that MACo is working towards a more defined interaction with county wellness programs. Shelly discussed options and insurance plan details including cost comparisons to the current county health insurance policy. Rates are based on employee claim utilization data. The commission discussed offering stand-alone dental and eyes insurance plans to give employees those options. The commission will take the information under advisement for further review.

4:00 PM **ARP Budget Evaluation Cancelled.**

3:00 PM **Meeting Adjourned.**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mike Cole, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Chris Nelson, Deputy Clerk