

May 25, 2016

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on May 25, 2016, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Cole, Commissioner Larson, and Deputy Clerk and Recorder Chris Nelson. Commissioner Mark Peck was out of town.

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

**9:00 AM Troy and Eureka Road Discussion about purchasing a loader:** Present were Libby Road Foreman Marc McCully, Troy Road Foreman Dave Kyriss, Eureka Road Foreman Tim White, Nikki Meyer from the Tobacco Valley News, Ed Grech from Caterpillar, Nels Hammack from Western States, and Dallas Shaw from HR.

Tim said the loader they have now is over 20 years old and needs to be replaced. He did feel that there was still value in it to sell or use on a trade in. Dave and Marc also need new loaders and Tim said it's cheaper to get multiple. Marc said they would be looking at leasing one as they do not have the money to buy one. Marc also said that in the Libby District they use it year round. Nels Hammack, the representative from Western States, said less than 99% of the counties they do business with buy their equipment outright instead they typically lease. They run government leases that are 5 years. They are new machines with bumper to bumper warranties that cover everything except operator error and lasts the entire length of the lease. He said that because of the amount of technology that is in the machines, it is necessary to have Western States do the maintenance on them as they have specialized training to maintain all the electronics. Ed Grech from Caterpillar said if financials take a dive, the county could return the machine without being financially punished. At the end of the five year lease, the county also has the option to buy the loader otherwise the county is only responsible for the annual payments of approximately \$20,000 depending on hours put on the loaders. Because of the Libby Road District putting more hours on their loader, Western States also gave a quote for 500 hours usage each year with a difference of about \$1,000. Marc said that they spent over \$30,000 on repairs last year, which Western States would be able to help save with their bumper-to-bumper coverage. If the county bought the machines, they would still be getting a 5 year warranty. If the county has machines, Western States will purchase and apply the value to the annual payments. Troy Road Foreman Dave Kyriss said that he thinks the lease option may be the best option and also said the 5 year warranty is almost unheard of. Commissioner Cole said with the lease, over the long term, the county would be spending more money but would be protected from many of the costs associated with maintenance. Marc McCully read off a list of several costs they had over the year for parts that had substantial cost which having the 5 year warranty would effectively take care of. With a trade-in, the maximum amount of money from it would be applied to the first year payment and anything left over would spread out and be deducted from the next 4 years of payments. Dallas said that if the decision is made to buy the loaders it needs to be done before July 1<sup>st</sup> as the county would then have to go through the bidding process. Commissioner Cole and Commissioner Larson will take the information under advisement. The caterpillar rep said they could spread the payments over two years if they wanted to buy the loaders to help each road district spread it over two budget years.

**9:45 AM Ric Kesling-Phone Project:** Present were Alan Gerstenecker from the Kootenai Valley Record, IT Director Ric Kessling and IT employee Ernie Anderson.

Ric said that Espy Services wants to look at the phone bills and said they can save the county money by going back and finding any mistakes from the past which they get 50% and a 50% split for the first year of future savings. If they find no savings, they do not charge anything. Ric said he highly recommends the commissioners approve using Espy. Commissioner Cole asked where they typically find savings. Ric said typically with large bills, there are mistakes in the multiple line items. Commissioner Cole asked what the timeframe would be. Ric said they would need an official contract offer. The Commissioners agreed Ric should seek one and meet with them when he gets one with a recommendation. Ric said that Frontier has offered to do a 3-year deal that would save \$110 per month and a 5-year contract would save \$560 per month but Ric said he wouldn't advise a five-year contract as technology changes so quickly. Ric said they would still have to pay off 2 years of the remaining contract with Frontier. Ric said he would recommend holding off. Ric said the county also made some changes to the technology use policy. Employees will be required to attend a tech briefing and sign a new Acknowledgement of receipt. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to adopt Lincoln County Technology use Policy. Second by Commissioner Cole and so order upon the consent of the board.

**10:00 AM Nancy Higgins-Monthly Treasurer Report:** Nancy met with the commissioners to give the Treasurers monthly report. Nancy said April was a good month; they were able to find a couple mistakes and correct them balancing to the penny. Nancy went over the monthly cash report. Nancy pointed out that several of the funds that have negative cash balances will be corrected when they receive their grant funding. Commissioner Cole said that last week during the MACo conference that Lake County has hired a person to do appraisals that had already found \$200,000 that was not being taxed. Commissioner Cole asked if it would be possible to contract out for an appraiser. Nancy said that would probably be a question for the Department of Revenue. Another topic that Commissioner Cole brought up was the county becoming involved in taking liens out on delinquent taxes. Nancy said there are already laws in place in Montana to allow the county to do that. Nancy asked to delete one mobile home off the tax roles as Department of Revenue said it has no value. The total delinquent taxes are \$173.72. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to delete number 200611 from the tax rolls. Second by Commissioner Cole and so ordered upon the consent of the board.

**10:30 AM Administrative Issues:** Jennifer McCully from the Lincoln County Public Health Department to ask for the commissioners signatures on her Maternal Health Block Grant for 2016-17 fiscal year. The total grant award is \$15,761 and Micki Carvey is the project coordinator. Jennifer said the grant is to implement and evaluate program activities addressing certain national and state performance measures including immunization rate for a percent of 19-35 month olds who have received full schedule and a percent of 13-17 year olds who have received age appropriate immunizations. The grant also includes Fetal, Infant, Child and Maternal Mortality Review (FICMMR) which is to comply with state requirements on review and reporting on all FICMMR deaths. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to approve signing of the Maternal Child Health Block Grant for \$15,761. Second by Commissioner Cole and so ordered upon the consent of the

board. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to amend contract number 16-027-210010-30 between Lincoln County and Western Montana Area VI Agency from \$2 per client served to \$2.05. Second by Commissioner Cole and so ordered upon the consent of the board.

Wendy also had a claim from Bernie Cassidy that he was being reimbursed at \$00.54 per mile rather than the \$00.27 per mile that would normally be reimbursed for millage when using a personal vehicle. Commissioner Cole said that there needs to be consistency and it should be paid at 27 cents as county vehicles are available.

Dallas Wamsley and Vic White were present from HR to present a revised tobacco policy preventing the use of smokeless tobacco or E-Cigarettes inside the building and not within 30 feet of the outside of any county building. The policy will be in the employee manual. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to approve the policy change prohibiting the use of any tobacco including e-cigarettes in county buildings or within 30 feet of any county building. Second by Commissioner Cole and so ordered upon the consent of the board. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to approve the minutes of May 11, 2016 with two changes. Second by Commissioner Cole and so ordered upon the consent of the board. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to approve signing the By-Laws for the Lincoln County Fair Board. Second by Commissioner Cole and so ordered upon consent of the board. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to sign the letter of support for the Glen Lake Irrigation District's Costich Drop Rehabilitation Program. Second by Commissioner Cole and so ordered upon the consent of the board.

11:00 AM **Public Comment Time:** No one from the public was present.

11:30 AM **Human Resources-Health Insurance:** Present were Dallas Wamsley and Vic White from Human Resources. Vic said they will be presenting a lot of stuff for the commissioners to look at concerning insurance. EBMS presented 4 options for health insurance. HR also looked at dental and vision options for employees. Vic said the summary brought all the data together to better understand the insurance options. Vic said that HR looked at three things: if they could find better coverage for the money that is being spent on premiums, can the costs of premiums be reduced while maintaining current coverage, and look at vision and dental insurance plans. HR did a survey of 11 other counties comparing Lincoln County's insurance coverage to others. Vic also did a reference check on the Leavitt Group and said he received positive comments from those that have used the group. Vic did say we have a strike against us when purchasing insurance because of the superfund site designation. Commissioner Larson asked when a decision needs to be made. Dallas said as soon as the budget year is near to the end. Commissioner Cole said the real question is how much will the COLA be offset by the increase in insurance premiums. Commissioner Cole asked how to address this to the employees so they understand whether they get a COLA and why? Commissioner Larson said that it might be beneficial to have a couple of working sessions to go over the various options. Commissioner Cole said that he feels that the county could make vision and dental insurance available to employees but the employees would need to pay for it themselves as it could cost the county upwards of \$200,000 to pay for vision and dental. Vic said that the dental and vision plan is a good one that would be beneficial and cost friendly. Both Dallas and Vic said they would recommend the county switching to Leavitt Group. The Board of Commissioners will take the information under advisement.

12:00 PM **Tour of Alpine Precision:** Commissioner Cole and Commissioner Larson toured Alpine Precision.

1:30 PM **Lisa Oedewaldt-Planning Department:** Present were Lisa Oedewaldt and Deb Blystone.

Lisa met with the commissioners to present final plat for Lazy AJ Acres subdivision which she gave a recommendation to approve. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to approve final plat on Lazy AJ Acres subdivision. Second by Commissioner Cole and so ordered upon the consent of the board.

Jim Beasley has asked the planning department to grant them a fourth extension for one year on their Weasel Creek subdivision due to DEQ requiring additional information before granting the plat. Commissioner Cole said that he doesn't know if he is willing to agree to give Beasley another extension. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to grant the Weasel Creek subdivision a 6-month and final extension. Second by Commissioner Cole and so ordered upon the consent of the board.

Lisa asked that the Board of Commissioners approve the final release of Lot 68 (power) and Lot 13 (roads) for completion of the final improvements in Mariners Haven PH 1 Subdivision. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to approve the SIA release. Second by Commissioner Cole and so ordered upon the consent of the board.

Lisa presented a brief history of the Screaming Eagle subdivision concerning the road. Lisa's recommendation is to widen the Cul-De-Sac, which was already a condition, and remove the pull out variance requirement. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to remove the turn out variance in lieu of a widened cul-de-sac. Second by Commissioner Cole and so ordered by the consent of the board.

White Pine subdivision was originally submitted in July of 2013. It has been stuck in the review process due to water conditions and power/utility issue. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to let the White Pine subdivision choose between doing an SIA or an agricultural exemption. Second by Commissioner Cole and so ordered upon the consent of the board.

2:15 PM **Meeting Adjourned**

## LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Mike Cole, Chairman

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Nelson, Deputy Clerk of the Board