

October 5, 2016

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on October 5, 2016, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Cole, Commissioner Larson, Commissioner Peck and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson.

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

9:45 AM **Nancy Higgins/Levy Update:** Present were Paige Bothman and Caleb Soptelean .

Nancy presented the commissioners with updates on the School District Levies. Eureka resubmitted elementary and high school levies. The Eureka Elementary decreased from 91.10 to 90.59 and the Lincoln County High School decreased from 68.58 to 67.13 from what was originally submitted. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to approve the adjusted levies as presented. Second by Commissioner Peck, motion carried unanimously.

Nancy informed the commission that she has an employee retiring in the Treasurer's Office as of December 30, 2016 and is requesting permission to hire a replacement two weeks prior to December 30, 2016. Commissioner Cole asked for Nancy to officially make the request by having it calendared on the Commission agenda.

10:00 AM **Maggie Anderson / Community Program Grant:** Present were Paige Bothman.

Maggie informed the Commission of the grant award from DPHHS in support of the Unite for Youth and STOP Underage Drinking Program. The total amount of the award is \$47,145 annually for 4 years. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to sign and approve the grant as presented. Second by Commissioner Larson, motion carried unanimously.

10:15 AM **Human Resources / Policy Manual:** Present were H.R. Director Vic White, Dallas Wamsley, and Caleb Soptelean.

Vic presented the new Lincoln County Personnel Policies & Procedures for approval by Resolution No. 979. The policy has been approved by Montana Association of Counties (MACo) and was vetted through department supervisors and employees. Vic said he would be handing the manual out to department supervisors and employees. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to approve Resolution No. 979 that the Lincoln County Personnel Policies & Procedures Manual be adopted as submitted effective October 5, 2016. Second by Commissioner Larson, motion carried unanimously.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues:**

- The commission read the minutes for September 28, 2016. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to approve September 28, 2016 minutes as corrected. Second by Commissioner Peck, motion carried unanimously.
- The County received an invoice for \$900 from Abelin Traffic Services Inc. for the traffic count on Sophie Lake Road in Eureka. Commissioner Cole approved the invoice and stated it would be paid out of Eureka Economic Development Fund.
- Libby Park District Board vacancy appointments were tabled until next week. There was confusion as to whether there were one or two vacant positions. Robin Benson will visit with the Park Board for clarity.
- **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to sign a letter of support of Kootenai River Development Council and a Big Sky Trust Fund application for a Development of a Navigational System for Wayfinding in the Greater Libby Area. Second by Commissioner Larson, motion carried unanimously.

11:00 AM **Public Comment Time:** There were no public comments.

11:30 AM **Property Purchases / Troy:** Present were Lisa Oedewaldt, Dallas Wamsley, Deb Blystone, Paige Bothman, Caleb Soptelean, and Deb Burrell.

Commissioner Larson updated the commission on a tract of land owned by Dennis Welch on St. Regis Road. The parcel of land has rock that would be beneficial to Lincoln County for riprap (erosion control) along roads and streams etc. The purchase would include a trade of approximately 1.5 acres and the purchase of 3.11 acres. Commissioner Larson stated the landowner is willing to sell the property to the county and felt it was an excellent value since rock sources are few and expensive. Discussion centered on the need for a commercial appraisal according to Montana law before a public land purchase can be made regardless of its obvious value to the County. Commissioner Peck read M.C.A. 7-8-2202 outlining the process specific to county land purchases. Larson said there is also interest in two other small parcels behind the county shop in Troy that would also be beneficial to the county since the County shop # 2 is landlocked by private land and getting overcrowded.

Lisa Oedewaldt stated that basically the county needs to get an appraisal completed on each property, then meet to discuss the appraised price, go through the public hearing process, and then have the properties surveyed prior to purchase.

**Motion** by Commissioner Peck to approve going forward to get appraisals and further look into the purchases of the three properties to include the rock quarry property and the two properties behind the county shop in Troy. Second by Commissioner Larson, motion carried unanimously.

1:00 PM **EMA Update:** Present were Kirk Kraft, Lisa Oedewaldt, Vic White, Paige Bothman and Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

Communications Update: Local government repeater is installed and working great on Meadow Peak. MHP finished work on Blue, King, Pinkham sites; still working on completing generator project. There has been a communication gap between North Lincoln County and the Flathead EMS resources that respond into the Eureka area for mutual aid, ie, ALS. Now that the trunked radio system is completed in North Lincoln County, this will help tremendously for Eureka Ambulance to talk with Flathead responders and North Valley Hospital. The only problem is that Eureka Dispatch does not seem to want to adapt to the new radio systems and procedures. But this system will allow responders to go around

dispatch and talk directly with Flathead. Agreements with Crown Castle are being finalized to allow T-Mobile into our Black Butte shelter and us to lease tower space for trunked system. The way we are working it out is that it will be an even exchange. Troy landfill project costs should all be updated by Friday.

An RFP is going out for 911 equipment upgrade for the Sheriff's Office.

The Bio Hazard Airborne Contaminant Exercise that was scheduled for September 17 with Cabinet Peaks Medical Center was canceled.

There is a need to discuss the Public Information Officer Position and how the county wants to work with this position. It was suggested to be put on the commission agenda for further discussion.

The Commission signed the annual EMPG grant; the county share is 90,000; Lisa said this can be a hard or soft match.

The Commission signed Resolution No. 980; annual Interlocal Agreement between Lincoln County and the City of Libby authorizing planning and emergency services by Lisa Oedewaldt to the City of Libby in exchange for the two occupied offices at City Hall for the EMA Department. The agreement has been signed by the City of Libby and is currently at the county attorney's office for signature. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to approve Resolution No. 980 as submitted.

Second by Commissioner Peck, motion carried unanimously.

1:15 PM **Union Negotiations:** Present were H.R. Director Vic White and Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

Vic presented the final Union Contract to the commission for approval. There is a 1% COLA, same as approved for all county employees, the boot allowance increased from \$100 to \$200. The contract is for two years. Vic said the rest of the contract is standard language. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to approve the Union Contract as submitted.

Second by Commissioner Peck, motion carried unanimously.

1:30 PM **Meeting Adjourned:**

## LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Mike Cole, Chairman

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Robin Benson, Clerk of the Board