

February 22, 2017

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on February 22, 2017, in the Lincoln County Annex, Eureka, Montana. Present were Commissioner Cole, Commissioner Bennett, County Administrator Darren Caldwell and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson. Commissioner Peck was in Denver on county business.

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

10:00 AM **Nancy Higgins/Treasurer's Report: Cancelled**

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues:** Present were Nikki Meyer, Sheriff Roby Bowe and Charity Ginther, Libby via VisionNet.

- The commissioners read the minutes for regular meeting February 1, 2017 and special session February 7, 2017. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve the February 1 and February 7, 2017 minutes as submitted. Second by Commissioner Cole, motion carried.
- Robin submitted the Cooperative Law Enforcement Annual Operating Plan and Financial Plan between the Lincoln County's Sheriff's Department and the USDA, Forest Service. Roby said the plan allows for expenses associated with campground patrol on forest service lands. The agreement is annual and has been in place for many years. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve the agreement as submitted. Second by Commissioner Cole, motion carried.
- Roby said a records clerk has resigned and he is requesting permission to move forward with hiring to fill the position. Roby is requesting permission to open up the position within the county before going public. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve the sheriff's office to move forward to fill the records clerk vacancy. Second by Commissioner Cole, motion carried.
- Roby stated that detention is in crisis mode; fluctuating between 36-42 inmates at any time. Full capacity of the Lincoln County Detention Facility is 28 people. Roby expressed that it is very tough to manage this many people and he does not foresee a decrease. Roby said it would help to hire one extra detention staff to handle a short term solution to address this issue. The long term solution is to begin the discussion and concentration of expanding the detention center. We need to put a plan into place to mitigate the situation; it is potentially a serious liability issue. Commissioner Cole asked Sheriff Bowe to bring ideas and options to the commission for further discussion. Roby and Darren will work together and visit with other counties to bring options to the commission. Nikki asked about ongoing conversation about a drug court. Roby said most people in that situation need help before they get to the point of incarceration.
- Darren discussed the commissioner's calendar and potentially taking off the time specific portion and only listing the items to be discussed. Darren said this would help during cancellations and when meetings run short to continue to move forward with the agenda. Commissioner Bennett commented that at the state level the agenda is not time specific. Commissioner Cole wondered about how the public may use the time specific agenda to know when to attend a meeting they may have interest in. Commissioner Cole and Commissioner Bennett agreed it would significantly improve time management and would be willing to try an agenda that is not time specific on a trial basis.

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

11:30 AM **CAN-AM Search and Rescue:** Present were Charlie Meienberg, Patty Gill and Nikki Meyer.

Charlie gave a brief history of CAN-AM stating it was formed in 1974. Charlie clarified that CAN-AM does operate under the Sheriff's Department, but is also a 501(c)3 entity. Search and Rescue conducts a lot of training for avalanche, road and ice rescue, tracking, CPR and first aid. CAN-AM is involved in community functions such as parades and events. Charlie said that CAN-AM Search & Rescue is seeking permission to build an equipment barn but is not requesting additional funding. The project will be funded by loan and paid within current budget. Charlie said expensive equipment is sitting outside and a portion of their budget is designated as building maintenance. The project planned is to build a 40 X 40 metal building with an approximate cost of \$33,000. Darren asked about anyone applying for grants, stating that there is money available for these types of projects. Patty said currently there is no one on the CAN-AM Board that knows how to apply for grants. Commissioner Cole questioned if CAN AM as a 501(c)3 entity and designated under the Sheriff's Department can receive a loan? Commissioner Cole said he would do some research for further discussion on March 15, 2017 agenda.

1:00 AM **SAMSHA/Drug Free Communities Grant:** Present were Sheriff Roby Bowe, Vel Shaver and Maggie Anderson, Libby via Vision Net. Also present from the Eureka 7<sup>th</sup> grade class were Noel Duram, John Grieve, Joey Kindel, and Joe Parrish.

Roby complimented Maggie Anderson and Vel Shaver for their community drug prevention efforts, especially in the schools through the Unite for Youth Program, stating the program is a significant asset to the county. Maggie said the 2012 Department of Corrections Grant runs in 5 year cycles and we are currently in the 5<sup>th</sup> year. Maggie said she will re-apply now, but the new application has more stringent competition. Maggie said that nationwide youth substance use is decreasing and statistics show decreases in Montana as well. For statistics specific to Lincoln County, the studies go out to all 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Lincoln County study results since 2012 are as follows:

- Underage alcohol for a 30 day use decreased 36.03%.
- Underage cigarette use decreased 13%
- Underage prescription drug use increased from 2012 through 2014 by 66%; 2014 through 2016 showed a decrease of 33.9%, but is still an overall increase.

Maggie informed the commission of marijuana use increasing due to legalization, stating that use rates indicate more than a 22% increase; legalization increases marijuana access to youth.

Commissioner Cole asked what the messaging strategy is to these kids. Maggie said the focus is positive messaging, meaning not the percentage of students that are using, but the greater percentage of students that are choosing not to use.

Vel explained that her role is primarily administrative; making sure the program is adhering to the grant guidelines. Maggie said they are asking if the county would continue to be the fiscal agent. Vel explained the substance abuse prevention and underage drinking grant opportunities need to have a municipal or county agency to act as the fiscal agent to receive state or federal funding. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to continue the relationship and create a Memorandum of Understanding as fiscal agent for the Unite for Youth Program. Second by Commissioner Cole, motion carried.

**1:30 PM Planning Department: Cancelled**

**2:30 PM Fairground Projects:** Present were Tracy McIntyre, Lois Sciligo and Nikki Meyer. Also present from the Eureka 8<sup>th</sup> grade class were Noel Duram, Ian Schmuck, Orion Conrad, Joshua Butts, Eli Neill, Jonathan Holskey, and Sean Bernhard.

Commissioner Bennett asked if the 15 year intercap loan has an annual adjustable rate and if there is a cap to that? Tracy said the current rate is at 1.9% but this was projected at 2.65% for a \$45,000 annual payment.

The total project cost is \$565,000. The intercap loan would be \$411,000.

Commissioner Bennett asked if there is an analysis as far as consistent usage of the fairgrounds. Lois said that during the off season buildings are in use up until August as we get ready for the fair and an improved sewer system would be a huge benefit to the public and fairground use. Lois said the Fair Board is standardizing a Use Policy and Fee Schedule. Commissioner Bennett asked if Lois could put together some numbers showing usage.

Commissioner Cole commented that an improved sewer would help to create more use and revenue enhancing events. Currently it is hard to charge what you really should for use of the facilities if the sewer system is not adequate for public use; without adequate sewer facilities, we cannot offer large scale events to accommodate large public attendance.

Tracy said she has met with the Forest Service and the Town of Eureka and is in the process of putting together Interlocal Agreements. Tracy submitted a draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Eureka and Lincoln County for commissioner review.

Commissioner Cole said the project is designed to be tax free from the public; loan payments will come out of PILT.

Commissioner Cole encouraged the mindset to pursue a path of believing in our communities for growth. Tracy commented that this project will not change the sewer rates for the Town of Eureka.

Commissioner Bennett questioned a 15 year loan to be paid from PILT when we do not know if the county will continue to receive PILT funds. What happens if we default on the loan because we cannot make the payments? Darren asked how much money the fair generates stating he would like to see those numbers. The public perception in the county is if we are cutting off services, can we continue supporting large scale projects at this time?

Robin commented from a budgeting perspective clarifying that PILT is one of our few unrestricted use funds and there is no guarantee at this time that the county will continue to receive those funds. The county at this time is completely dependent on those funds. Robin questioned the county basing long term decisions on a fund with no guarantee of its future and encouraged the commission to consider that if the county moves forward as PILT being the source of revenue to pay for the loan then we may want to pull a portion of the obligated loan payments out now and put it in a separate account to ensure payments will be possible.

Commissioner Bennett said he would like to see the information requested.

Eighth grader Shawn Bernhard asked about budgets for Fire Departments and Fire Service Areas. Robin explained the difference between levy funded and fee based districts. Fire Departments are levy funded and Fire Service Areas are fee based.

Eighth grader Eli Neill asked about the role of the County Administrator. Darren explained his role as the County Administrator will be to assist the Commissioners in research, advisory, budgeting and internal work with department supervisors allowing more time for the commissioners to focus and conduct county business.

**Meeting adjourned** at 3:00 PM

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Mike Cole, Chairman

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