

July 6, 2017

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a special session on July 6, 2017, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Cole, Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Peck, County Administrator Darren Coldwell, and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson.

10:00 AM **FY 15/16 Audit/Treasurer, Nancy Higgins:** Nancy reminded the commission of the audit finding in FY 15/16, the Treasurer's Department distributed SRS funds incorrectly, shorting the High School Retirement Fund. Nancy said that after conferring with the county auditor, the Treasurer's Department will reverse the transaction and is requesting a short-term loan out of PILT to fix the error. Nancy said that when tax revenue comes in FY 17/18, PILT will be paid back at that time. Nancy is requesting a short-term loan of approximately \$90,000. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to approve a short-term loan from PILT to the High School Retirement Fund. Second by Commissioner Bennett, motion carried unanimously.

Darren thanked Nancy for assuming the supervisory role of the MV Department at the Eureka Annex.

10:15 AM **Finance Meeting/Darren Coldwell:**

- **Land Solutions:** Darren informed the commission that Land Solutions would like to schedule a phone conference on Monday to discuss planning issues.

**Jail Update:** Darren said the data collections showing air flow is complete and he will call Johnson Controls today to find out what the county options are and next steps regarding air control in the detention facility. Darren spoke with the Department of Corrections and said there is limited funding available for a regional facility but could potentially help with overcrowding, if inmates can be transferred. Darren said there is funding for Planning Grants, and for Facility Improvements and New Facilities, but Lincoln County would not be eligible for a CDBG grant if we still have one open or is in default. Darren submitted MCA 7-6-2513 **County Public Safety Levy-Purpose** and variable tax rate increases for commissioner review. The commissioners discussed options for expanding the detention center; utilizing the Asa Wood School facility was discussed as one option.

- **Budgets/Sheriff's Department/County Attorney:** Darren informed the commission that the Public Safety Department is requesting a budget increase of \$457,216. Darren said all departments understand the budget constraints and have found ways to decrease spending/budgets, but there seems to be difficulty of that understanding from the Sheriff's Department. Darren stated that staffing has been significantly increased, yet overtime is still high and does not seem to be decreasing. Commissioner Cole questioned that full staffing was approved with the understanding that overtime would be significantly reduced. Robin said she would conduct a search of Public Safety staffing discussions in the minutes for commission review. Commissioner Peck said he does understand overtime with the deputies but also commented that the need for improved scheduling and adapting to change are contributing factors to a lack of budget restraints. Darren submitted an expenditure budget proposal for the Sheriff's Department for review.

Darren submitted an expenditure budget proposal for the County Attorney's Department for commission review. Darren commented the wages will potentially decrease upon the retirement of Bernard Cassidy, the Payroll Department is still working on employee/cost changes.

- **6 Acre Land Donation:** Darren informed the commissioners that Clarence and Verna Johnson own 6 acres on Farm To Market Road and would like to donate it to the county. Robin said the Clerk & Recorder's Office can research and locate recorded documents pertaining to the specific property for review. Darren will conduct further research and potentially schedule a site visit.

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

11:30 AM **Meeting adjourned**

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

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Mike, Cole, Chairman