

November 1, 2017

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on November 1, 2017, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Cole, Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Peck, County Administrator Darren Coldwell, and Deputy Clerk and Recorder Chris Nelson.

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

10:00 AM **Snow Removal Ordinance, Resolution #997 First Reading-Snow Removal Policy Adoption:** Present were John Blodgett, Nikki Meyer and Allan Gerstenecker.

Darren Coldwell presented the commissioners with Resolution 997 which will be followed by the snow removal policy. Having an ordinance allows law enforcement to ensure the law is followed. Darren said the board has two weeks to make any comments or changes. **MOTION** by Commissioner Peck to approve Resolution No. 997 Lincoln County Snow Removal Ordinance's first reading. Second by Commissioner Bennett. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioners reviewed the snow removal policy that included the edits that had been made the previous week.

Commissioner Bennett noted one of the changes was made from "gravel roads" to "secondary routes" but hadn't been changed throughout the policy. He suggested it be uniform throughout the document.

MOTION by Commissioner Bennet to approve the snow removal policy as presented. Second by Commissioner Peck, motion carried unanimously.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues:** Present were Allan Gerstenecker, John Blodgett and Nikki Meyer.

MOTION by Commissioner Bennett to accept the minutes of October 25th, 2017 with the changes. Second by Commissioner Peck, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Peck said they are getting close with the state-wide forest management coalition. They are currently organizing a group of various stakeholders. Idaho is currently the most well organized from their congressional delegates down. Commissioner Peck also said to get things done there has to be consistency with everyone communicating and working together to achieve their goals. There is a definite need for a group of strong stakeholders from various government and nongovernment agencies that can spearhead and carry issues to congressional delegates and other decision makers.

There are currently 50 vacancies on the Kootenai National Forest right now out of approximately 200 staffers.

Commissioner Peck said this is due to the bureaucratic system that bogs down the hiring process which then has a direct impact on getting projects past the permitting stage and through the NEPA process.

Commissioner Peck also presented a letter with a report of the Libby Shooting Range that was reviewed by the board.

Commissioner Cole said the Pinkham green box site has been roughed in and the crush cap will be put in next week. They plan on having the green boxes in right after that.

Commissioner Peck said the current regulations for slash burning in the Libby air shed do not allow for many days that people can burn. The solution will probably have to be worked on with the Montana DEQ....possibly changing from specific burn days to days with low fire danger (favorable conditions as far as weather and precipitation).

10:45 AM **Public Comment:** Present were Allan Gerstenecker, Mike Cuffe, John Blodgett and Nikki Meyer.

Mike Cuffe said he had a visit in Washington DC concerning the Columbia River Treaty and he hopes to have another one in the near future. There have been many changes with the negotiators as there have been changes in both Canadian national government and the British Columbia provincial governments.

1:30 PM **Planning Department Vahalla Estates Subdivision:** Present were Jake Mertes, Kristin Smith and Alan Gerstenecker. On January 7, 2015, this 4 lot subdivision development with a list of 9 conditions was granted preliminary approval by the Board of Commissioners. The property has sold and the new owners would like to continue development. However, they would like to amend the preliminary approval from 4 to 2 lots with no change to the 9 conditions as previously approved. Jake Mertes and Kristin Smith believe that no further subdivision review is needed at this time and recommended approval. **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Peck to approve the change from 4 lots to 2 and keep all 9 conditions. Commissioner Bennett seconded motion, the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Peck brought up a plat they signed this morning on boundary adjustments on a piece of property by McGrade School. The owner paid for a survey but today, November 1, 2017, she technically owes another year's worth of taxes. The commissioners have the ability to waive the taxes and will look into what steps need to be taken to waive the taxes.

Meeting adjourned 1:50PM.

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mike Cole, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Chris Nelson, Deputy Clerk of the Board