

October 11, 2017

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on October 11, 2017, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Cole, Commissioner Bennett, County Administrator Darren Coldwell, and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson. Commissioner Peck was at a USFS meeting until 2:45.

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

10:00 AM Health Department Update: Present were Nick Raines, Kathi Hooper, Alan Gerstenecker, Jennifer McCully, Amy Fantozzi, Nikki Meyer and John Blodgett.

Jennifer McCully said there are no cases locally of flu but there are many in surrounding areas. Commissioner Cole asked about the grant CHC received to fight the opioid crisis. Jen said that they will get more help on the mental health side of things which is greatly needed in the county. Amy Fantozzi said there are so many resources out there for pregnant women and they have put together a pamphlet that has all the available resources. The pamphlets will be given to clinics and area hospitals.

Nick said the cooperative agreement and grant was officially accepted and approved by the EPA last week. The county can ask for reimbursements from August 31st, 2017 forward. Commissioner Cole asked about reimbursements prior to August 31st. Nick said those costs from 2015 to August 30th of 2017 should be able to be reimbursed but not until a review has been completed by the EPA. Kathi did receive 15 or 16 junk trailers as part of the Junk Trailer Program. There will also be a draft junk trailer policy that will be going before the health board soon. The Health Department held a spay/neuter clinic where they saw over 100 animals and will be doing another one this spring. Kathi also informed the commissioners that the Pinkham special use permit was approved by the USFS for a green box site. The board of health will have a vacant position that they are currently advertising for applicants.

10:30 AM Administrative Issues: Present were Nikki Meyer, Alan Gerstenecker, and John Blodgett. No issues were brought to the board.

10:45 AM Public Comment Time: Present were Nikki Meyer, Alan Gerstenecker, and John Blodgett. No one from the public made comment.

11:00 PM Sale of Land/Waterfront Road: Present were Tom and Deborah Booth, Nikki Meyer, Alan Gerstenecker, and John Blodgett.

Commissioner Bennett explained the county owned .04 acres on Waterfront Road that Tom and Deborah Booth would like to purchase. The property as assessed at \$524 but would still need to be surveyed. Tom and Deborah Booth know it will have to be surveyed and they agreed they would pay for the survey. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to sell the portion of county owned property on Waterfront Road for \$524. Second by Commissioner Cole. Motion carried.

11:30 AM Safety Discussion-Brent Teske, Ernie Anderson, Joe Nagle, Nikki Meyer, Alan Gerstenecker and John Blodgett.

Ernie said the safety board met yesterday said they want to limit access to the building for safety in the main courthouse building. Brent said there are many offices that the public come to where they would be upset. Workplace security is important for the county and they are trying to improve that. They are also looking at the employee response to an emergency situation. They also need to look at the annex, library and the annex in Eureka. Joe has also been researching panic buttons that could be put on employee computers. When activated, every employee would be informed on their computer where the incident is happening. Brent also asked about fire drills, he wants to get together to plan one then actually have one. Commissioner Cole asked if Ernie thought the estimate was a good deal. Ernie said he did but the cost did not include installation. Commissioner Bennett said he is in favor of the project but wants to wait until they have a total cost.

2:00 PM Planning Department-Hammond Subdivision Review and Panoramic View Estates Review: Present were Jake Mertes, Kristin Smith, Alan Gerstenecker, and Noel Duram.

Jake presented the Hammond subdivision for preliminary plat approval. Noel said it's been a long process but he appreciates the work that Jake and Kristin put into it. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve preliminary plat on the Hammond Subdivision subject to conditions. Second by Commissioner Cole. Motion carried.

Kristin said an easement was terminated in the Panoramic View Estates that was recorded without the planning department knowledge. Clerk and Recorder deputy Vicki French found out that it wasn't done correctly and brought it to the attention of the planning department. Kristin said that the Clerk and Recorder's office needs to submit documents dealing with planning or sanitation to consult with the planning department for review before it is recorded. Kristin would like to see a conversation take place with the Clerk and Records office and the Planning Department that would prevent this from happening. Commissioner Cole asked what can be done to fix the error that was made. Kristin said the county could talk to legal counsel or MACo about the current issue.

2:45 PM Snow Removal Discussion & Snow Removal Policy: Present were Alan Gerstenecker, John Blodgett, Niki Meyer, Jill Woodward, Patrick Woodward, Dave Orr, Henry Henrich, Linda Brown, Bill Avants, Rodd Freese, Rudy Gerber, Randy Burch, Anthony Gianbione, Joe Iovino, Jane Iovino, Rob Orr, Larry Anderson.

Commissioner Peck said this is a budget issue and with the drastic decrease in timber receipts the road budgets reserves are down to \$12 million. It costs about \$3 million to fund the road department each year which could deplete the reserves in 4 years. Darren explained that Lincoln County is one of two counties that do not levy funds for roads. Commissioner Bennett said they are in the process right now of figuring out how much the plowing cost. Patrick Woodward asked the commissioners if they would be plowing this year or not. Commissioner Cole said they are in the process of gathering

information to come up with a plan. Randy Burch said the county wouldn't be saving much money by just cutting out a few roads here or there. Jill Woodward said they moved from Washington to their current home. They now live two miles off a paved road with the understanding that the road would always be maintained. Larry Anderson said he looked at his tax bill and said he was surprised that the schools get half his tax money. Commissioner Cole said it comes down to what taxpayers want more road maintenance or plowing. Commissioner Bennett said they wanted to start this discussion because they didn't want to wait till all the money is gone. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to plow the four listed roads this year. Second by Commissioner Peck. Commissioner Peck agreed the short notice was tough but they needed to start the discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

3:30 PM **Administrative Employee Wage Review:** Present were John Blodgett and Alan Gerstenecker. Darren said they are looking at adjustments to employees, both deputies and administrative, wages. Commissioner Peck said a lot of money has been saved by not rehiring people and this would not be a budget increase. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck for the employee wage increase except probationary employees who would go to \$13.41 after 6 months. Second by Commissioner Bennett. Commissioner Bennett said when employees are willing to take on more duties and more work they deserve a raise. Motion carried unanimously.

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mike Cole, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Chris Nelson, Clerk of the Board