

August 15, 2018

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on August 15, 2018, in the North Lincoln County Annex, Eureka, Montana. Present were Commissioner Cole, Commissioner Peck, Commissioner Bennett, and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson.

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

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues:** Present were Josh Letcher, Nikki Meyer, Alecia Davis, and John Blodgett, Libby via VisionNet.

- Robin presented the minutes for August 7 and 8, 2018 for Commissioner approval. Robin suggested an addition to the August 8 minutes to include the August 1 date of the minutes that were approved. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve August 7 and 8, 2018 minutes with addition. Commissioner Peck questioned a comment on the August 7 minutes. Commissioner Bennett requested to postpone approval of the August 7 minutes until next week. Commissioner Bennett amended his motion to approve August 8, 2018 minutes with addition. Second by Commissioner Peck, motion carried unanimously.
- Robin presented Resolution 2018-13 to the commission for approval. Resolution 2018-13 EMERGENCY RESOLUTION PROHIBITING OPEN BURNING STAGE II, states that on August 15 at 2400 hours, the ignition of any open fire on any forest, range, cropland, county parks and on private property, unless within the guidelines of Stage II Restriction Procedures is prohibited. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to approve Resolution 2018-13 as submitted. Second by Commissioner Bennett, motion carried unanimously.
- Robin presented Resolution 2018-14 to the commission for approval. Resolution 2018-14 EMERGENCY MILLAGE, allowing for two (2) mills on the taxable valuations of the county to be levied during FY 2018/2019 to be utilized for expenditures and costs associated from the 2018 fire season. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve Resolution 2018-14 as submitted. Second by Commissioner Peck, motion carried unanimously.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time:** Present were Josh Letcher, Nikki Meyer, Alecia Davis, Gail Miller, Donna Ruth Hayes, Cas Todd, Myles Hickman, and John Blodgett, Libby via VisionNet.

Alicia Davis questioned the North Annex motor vehicle office closure. Commissioner Cole commented there has been a very unfortunate situation, regarding one employee leaving the county and one on temporary leave at the same time, but is hopeful the office will be running on Monday. Commissioner Peck said the MV Office falls under the County Treasurer to run and coordinate that department. It is in the FY 18/19 budget to continue the North Annex MV Office and any open positions will be posted. Myles Hickman said it has been a major inconvenience for our community. The commissioners apologized for the inconvenience.

Alicia Davis, Gail Miller, and Donna Ruth Hayes expressed frustration about the knapweed problem, stating it is out of control and questioned how it is being addressed. Alicia stated there are state laws that allows for knapweed mitigation. The commissioners said they will visit with County Weed Director Dan Williams.

Alicia Davis, Gail Miller, and Donna Ruth Hayes mentioned facebook comments being hostile and threatening between local people, Canadians and other out-of-town residents, specifically regarding driving too fast and issues at the Rexford Bench boat dock. The commissioners said forest service should be patrolling the area and recommended not using facebook for information. Commissioner Cole thanked the women for attending today's meeting and for their comments.

Gail asked about the fishing pond at the Eureka fairgrounds. Commissioner Cole said the fishing pond is a partnership with Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and the fishing pond needs a new liner. Commissioner Cole said there are no plans for the fishing pond at this time, but there has been conversation about potentially more parking or a kids splash pad.

1:30 PM **Planning Department:** Josh Letcher, Jake Mertes and Brett McCully, Libby via VisionNet.

**Crismore Agricultural Parcel Exemption Request:** Jake said the planning staff received a request to use the "agricultural exemption" from subdivision review to create a parcel of land which will have upon it a grow-house facility for horticultural production. Planning staff recommendation to approve use of this exemption. Commissioner Cole asked if the county has other green houses that have agricultural exemptions? Jake said he is not aware of any. Jake said the crop in production is medical marijuana and the owner does not want the parcel to be attached to the total 32 acres because it is still against federal regulations. Commissioner Bennett said we need to have some research done and he not willing to make a decision today. Commissioner Peck agreed, stating we need to look at statutes, and questioned county liability if any. Commissioner Bennett said its federal law vs. state law and setting a precedence and he would like more information. Commissioner Peck recommended an opinion from the county attorney's office prior to approval.

2:30 PM **Meeting Adjourned**  
**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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

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Mike Cole, Chairman