

June 15, 2018

**FVCC/Lincoln County Campus**

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a special session on June 15, 2018 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.

10:30 AM Present were representatives from Flathead Valley Community College (FVCC) Jane Karas, Darlene Schottle and Beckie Christiaens.

Jane expressed they are here to discuss how the programs offered at the Lincoln County Campus (LCC) are working and how to better meet the needs in Lincoln County; how to fill any gaps. Jane said the nursing program has been well received although the student enrollment for Libby is down.

Discussion centered on how to improve outreach to the junior and senior high school students to access and utilize the opportunities LCC has to offer.

Commissioner Peck commented that we are blessed to have the campus here and it is a pillar for the community to build off of. Commissioner Peck asked what the county can do to help support the LCC. Jane commented what the county can do to energize or get students to understand how important it is to have some education beyond high school; how can we collectively build that culture here in Libby.

Commissioner Bennet suggested working on the disconnect between county government, the college, high school superintendents and principals as well as parents. Commissioner Bennett expressed that we are missing the boat on preparing young adults or students basic, strong principals.

Darlene said FVCC needs to work harder at strengthening the message and outreach efforts to the students and guidance counselors of educating our students to utilize the Libby Campus opportunities.

Darren and Darlene will facilitate a meeting with the college, county, mayors, school superintendent and principals to discuss how we can improve that outreach into our high schools and community.

Robin suggested testimonies from former LCC students that have been successful in their careers during an actual student assembly; we need to teach our students to take pride in community and in the Libby Campus instead of the mindset of leaving immediately after high school graduation. There is a real financial benefit of reduced cost by attending college locally.

Darren commented on the back taxes due, stating it is mostly fees such as refuse, and water/sewer. Darren said he has talked with the city and they will not waive the fees. Darren said he will discuss options regarding county refuse fees with Kathi Hooper. Commissioner Peck said we also need to memorialize a new agreement moving forward.

Becky said she would coordinate with Darren regarding resolving back tax fees. Darren commented the tax bill should be directed to FVCC instead of Lincoln County.

**Meeting adjourned** at 11:00 AM

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Mark Peck, Acting Chairman

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Robin A. Benson, Clerk and Recorder