

June 27, 2018

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on June 27, 2018, 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**.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues:** Present were Josh Letcher, Nikki Meyer, Wendy Drake, John Blodgett, Alan Gerstenecker, and Jake Mertes.

Mike Cuffe and John Morrison called in to talk about discussions Columbia River Treaty. Estimates are there will be between 550-600 people in Spokane to discuss the treaty. Commissioner Peck asked if the negotiators may be available. John Morrison said they would be in town and they could possibly set up an informal discussion with them.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time:** Present were John Blodgett, Alan Gerstenecker, Donna O'Neil, Alan Olsen, Russ Barnes, Jim Stroh, Ron & Cindy Pearson, and Jake Mertes.

- Alan Olsen said he wanted to address the concerns of the garbage and sewage at the Kootenai Falls. The last time he was there he picked up a lot of litter and saw multiple areas on the far side of the bridge where there was human waste. He would like to see more garbage cans and toilets on the other side. Commissioner Peck said he wondered how they could restrict the concession stand. Darren said he and Commissioner Bennett will get together and discuss the issue.
- Ron Pearson said he wanted to discuss the applications for lakeshore permits. He and his wife live on Middle Thompson Lake and the lot has a 25-ft. lake access. His concern is they are the property owners but there is an easement for access to the lake and his neighbors want to use it to put a dock in. When the lakeshore permit process was amended in 2014 the county took the right of the landowner to have any notification. Ron said he isn't necessarily opposed to the dock but rather not having any notification or a say in the matter. The commissioners asked county planner Jake Mertes to be put on the agenda to discuss the issue.

11:00 AM **District Board Appointments:** Present were Alan Gerstenecker, John Blodgett, and Nikki Meyer.

Boards with vacancies and recommendations are as follows:

- Fair Board-Guy Johnson, only applicant.
- Boyd Hill Cemetery Board-Reappoint Alan McNeil; appoint Mosses Chupp Jr.
- Troy Dispatch-Reappoint James Ward
- Fisher River Valley Fire Service Board-Reappoint Irene Loveless
- Eureka Area Dispatch-Reappoint Bo Pitman

**MOTION** by Commissioner Bennett to approve the appointments and reappointments to the Lincoln County Fair Board, Boyd Hill Cemetery Advisory Board, Troy Dispatch Board, Fisher River Valley Fire Service Area Board, and Eureka Dispatch Board as presented. Second by Commissioner Peck; motion carried unanimously.

11:15 AM **Sheriff's Office: Discussion regarding Libby Ambulance:** Present were Josh Letcher, Nikki Meyer, Alan Gerstenecker, John Blodgett, Undersheriff Brian Griffith and Sheriff Roby Bowe.

Roby presented a letter that was sent from Libby Volunteer Ambulance to the Sheriff's Office notifying them they will be billed for calls made to the detention center. Roby asked if his department should raise their budget to pay for the ambulance service or start charging the ambulance for their services. Commissioner Peck said he would look at every available service that's provided and the cost associated with it. Roby did say they had already received a bill for \$1,012 for the transfer of two patients, totaling 3 miles. Roby and the commissioners agreed they know how overworked the ambulance is and the struggles they are facing. Bryan said they are calling the ambulance to the jail to protect the inmates and the county, not out of any carelessness or malice. Commissioner Peck said he believes it's a relationship issue. There are multiple issues the hospital, jail and ambulance service are facing that are putting stress on the relationships.

11:30 AM **Approval of USFS Special Use Permit:** Present were Josh Letcher, Nikki Meyer, John Blodgett and Alan Gerstenecker.

Commissioner Peck said he would like more information before he makes a decision on the special use permit. Darren said he will get more information on the last agreement made 30 years ago.

1:30 PM **Planning Department: Cancelled**

2:00 PM **Bid Opening/Award: County Legal Display, Road Oil, and Gravel Crushing and County Gas:** Present were Dallas Bowe, Mark McCully, John Blodgett, Alan Gerstenecker, Lee Bothman, Suzanne Resch,

- **County Legal/Display Advertising:** Three bids were received and awarded as follows:

Kootenai Valley Record

Montanian

The Western News

The Montanian is the lowest bidder. Kootenai Valley Record Publisher Lee Bothman said the advertisements needs to be accurate and the advertisement in the Montanian for the last legal said 2019 rather than 2018.

Commissioner Peck said that is not part of the criteria even though accuracy is important and all three of the papers that typically bid got their bids in. Lee said he was just pointing out the mistake and said quality should count towards the decision. Commissioner Peck said he would like to see about changing the criteria. Darren said he feels the Montanian has served the county well and doesn't want anyone thinking they haven't. Dallas said she is willing to look at the criteria.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Bennett to award the Montanian's bid for legal and display advertisement. Second by Commissioner Peck. Commissioner Bennett said he would like to follow up on what Lee said. Motion carried unanimously.

- **Road Oil Bid:** Three bids were received and awarded as follows:

Idaho Asphalt  
McAsphalt  
Western States

**MOTION** by Commissioner Peck to except the bid from McAsphalt for road oil. Second by Commissioner Bennett; motion carried unanimously.

- **Crushing & Stockpiling Gravel:** Three bids were received and awarded as follows:

Ward Crushing  
Remp's Sand & Gravel  
Kootenai Sand & Gravel

**MOTION** by Commissioner Bennett to award Remp's Sand & Gravel bid for  $\frac{3}{4}$  crush for the Silver Butte pit. Second by Commissioner Peck; motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Peck to award Libby, Troy and Eureka crushing and stockpiling gravel to Kootenai Sand & Gravel with the exception of Silver Butte pit. Second by Commissioner Bennett, motion carried unanimously.

- **Gas/Diesel Bid:** Three bids were received and awarded as follows:

Golden State  
Moore Oil  
City Service

**MOTION** by Commissioner Peck to approve Golden State for Libby, Moore Oil for Troy and City Service for Eureka gas and diesel. Second by Commissioner Bennett, motion carried unanimously.

2:30 PM **Meeting Adjourned**

## LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Mike Cole, Chairman

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Nelson, Deputy Clerk of the Board