

August 21, 2019

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on August 21, 2019, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Peck, County Administrator Darren Coldwell and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson. Commissioner Letcher was present from Eureka via VisionNet.

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

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues:** Present were Jeff Koskela. Also present was Nikki Meyer and Paul Alexander, Eureka via VisionNet.

- Robin presented the minutes for August 7 and 14, 2019 regular meetings and August 13, 2019 finance meeting for Commissioner approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve minutes as presented. Second by Commissioner Peck, motion carried unanimously.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time:** Present were Jeff Koskela. Also present was Nikki Meyer and Paul Alexander, Eureka via VisionNet.

Paul said he has recently visited Libby and spoke with the County Planner Jake Mertes about Skyview Drive in Rexford. Paul expressed frustration about rules being broken regarding how many trailers are sitting on a piece of property and questioned regulations pertaining to septic systems, trailers and RV rules as well as junk vehicles. Paul said he would like to see this taken care of and commented that it's not the first time he has brought this to the attention of the County Planner. Paul also questioned if the same laws apply to Canadians as it does to local citizens. Paul informed the commission that the County Planner said he was shorthanded, and he has come to the commissioners for help. Commissioner Letcher said he will follow up and visit with the County Planner. Commissioner Peck said he thinks the rule is 2 RV's per septic system, and the time is very limited without septic systems. Commissioner Peck suggested checking with the health board as well.

Paul asked if there were any regulations regarding fireworks into fire season. Paul said he cannot burn a pile of brush, but people are shooting off fireworks. Commissioner Peck explained the state legislature has voted 3 times to not give commissioners authority to restrict fireworks in counties; cities can set ordinances, but counties cannot. Paul said he will visit with Sen. Mike Cuffe regarding possible legislation.

Jeff apologized to the commission that he was delayed at work and could not attend the Port Authority Meeting yesterday. Commissioner Bennett said he will meet with Jeff to further discuss access options.

There was brief discussion regarding properties that need cleaned up. Jake said the Environmental Health Department has recently hired an environmental technician that will be able to assist with this type of work.

11:00 AM **Planning / McMillan Bluff Final Plat:** Present were Jake Mertes, Byron Sanderson, and Ray Stout. Also present was Nikki Meyer and Rich Thompson, Eureka via VisionNet.

McMillan Bluff Subdivision Final Plat: Jake said the preliminary approval was already granted and there was one condition pending to approve \$865.44 cash in lieu of parkland. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve cash in lieu of parkland in the amount of \$865.44. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

Jake said that all other requirements have been met and planning staff recommends final plat approval for McMillan Bluff Subdivision. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve McMillan Bluff Subdivision subject to planning staff conditions and recommendation. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

Jake said there was a public hearing yesterday on the growth policy; the growth policy will take another month to finalize. The commissioners commented about the importance of taking the time necessary to ensure the growth policy is done proficiently.

11:15 AM **Lincoln County Transportation Discussion:** Present was Ona Steward, Kate Huntsberger and Ray Stout. Also present was Nikki Meyer and Rich Thompson, Eureka via VisionNet.

Kate talked about how important and needed the transportation service is to our community, especially with the closing of Shopko. There are many people who cannot get to Kalispell. Commissioner Bennett commented that the service needs to regulate the schedule to fit the budget. Ona said they are readjusting service hours. The primary service is going to be medical and shoppers will be secondary.

Commissioner Peck asked what the county can do to help. Ona said if they cut back 2 days in Troy and Eureka to Kalispell, it would save approximately \$40,000. Ona commented on the increased fuel cost. Ona said the service needs approximately \$35,000 to cover through October to allow time for their financing to be approved.

Darren commented that it is a necessary service and explained that \$35,000 is one mill and suggested it go to the voters for 1 or 2 mills. Kate expressed that the service is for all ages, not only senior citizens, and suggested meeting again in September for further discussion.

Motion by Commissioner Bennett to offer up to \$35,000 from PILT to Libby Transportation to get the service operating by September. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

Josh said he would like to exhaust other funding avenues and potential grants before going to voted mills and the taxpayers. Kate and Ona thanked the commissioners for their contribution to Libby Transportation.

11:45 AM **Road Petition 5th Street:** Present were Marc McCully, Tim Rooney, Trish Brooks and Ray Stout. Also present was Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

Marc explained the petition process and said 5th street is a public road and not a county road. Marc is requesting the petition to be filed and explained there needs to be a hearing date with public hearing notice to be advertised.

Commissioner Bennett said he will contact MACo to ensure the correct process is being followed. Marc explained the petition is not approval, but just moving the process forward.

Marc clarified there does not need to be a viewer's report because it's a planned project that has already been approved by the commissioners and been ongoing for many years.

Motion by Commissioner Bennett to approve the petition to establish and alter a county road which is 5th Street Extension. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

12:00 PM **Meeting Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mark Peck, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Robin A. Benson, Clerk of the Board