

August 28, 2019

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on August 28, 2019, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Peck, Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Letcher, County Administrator Darren Coldwell and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson.

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

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues:** Present were Sheriff Darren Short, Undersheriff Griffeth, Kirk Kraft, Jeff Koskela, Ernie Anderson, Wendy Drake and Ray Stout. Also present was Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

- Robin presented the minutes for August 21, 2019 regular meeting for Commissioner approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve minutes as presented. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.
- Robin commented that the local job service read about the 50 in 50 Project (visiting 50 businesses in 50 weeks) and they are excited and interested to be involved. The local chambers of commerce and city mayors have also been contacted. A planning meeting is scheduled September 6th. Robin said job service and the chambers offer services to the businesses and she will step back and let them take the lead. Robin is requesting 4 or 5 questions from the commissioners that would be beneficial to know from local business owners countywide.
- Sheriff Darren Short requested \$109,303.19 in budget transfer from PILT due to FY 18/19 unexpected expenses. Darren Coldwell said some of those expenses include absorbing animal control, new employees, and vehicles. The commissioners suggested to put the request on the commissioner's calendar for discussion.
- Sheriff Darren Short said gas cards do not work at Abayance Bay where the new boat is being kept. Sheriff Short is requesting a new credit card assigned specifically to the boat. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve the issuance of a credit card specific for the boat for the sheriff's department with a \$1,000 limit. Second by commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time:** Present were Sheriff Darren Short, Undersheriff Griffeth, Kirk Kraft, Jeff Koskela, Ernie Anderson, Wendy Drake and Ray Stout. Also present was Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

- Kirk said he has been involved with the radio system for many years, primarily motorola radios purchased with grant funds. Kirk explained the life expectancy is past on these radios, including the dispatch console system and will no longer be supported by motorola after this year. Kirk said the only fix is to replace them. Kirk estimated the cost of the dispatch console at \$380,000. Thirty radios will need to be replaced in the sheriff's department at approximately \$5,000 each; total \$150,000. Kirk estimated over one million replacement cost which includes fire and ambulance departments and city police departments. Kirk said there are finance packages available. Commissioner Peck questioned if fire departments are aware of this and if there are grant funds available.
- Sen. Cuffe informed the commissioners that there are Columbia River Treaty sessions coming up soon in Kimberly British Columbia on September 12 and 13, 2019. The sessions will be an open forum. Commissioner Peck expressed interest in attending. Commissioner Bennett said that he and Commissioner Letcher will in DC visiting the White House and local legislatures during that time.

11:00 AM **Preliminary Budget Hearing:** Present were Finance Director Wendy Drake, Jeff Koskela, Jake Mertes and Ray Stout. Also present was Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

Commissioner Peck opened the public hearing.

Darren submitted a preliminary levy spreadsheet (requirement schedule) for commissioner review.

Darren said compared to last year, the budget is within \$30,000 of last year. The public safety budget increased approximately \$56,000 because it absorbed fairly large line items such as animal control, vehicles, and wage increases. Darren said the insurance cost decreased. Darren expressed he is very impressed with all the departments; even though costs continue to rise, department supervisors are very conscientious of expenses. Darren said we did receive increased revenue, approximately \$100,000 more from the state and approximately \$50,000 more for entitlement and the PILT budget has increased from approximately 3 million from last year to 3.6 million currently. Commissioner Peck commented this may be the first year of his tenure that the county is not using PILT to balance the budget and we cut allocated cost in half. Commissioner Peck said that we are truly balancing the budget and not supplementing it. Wendy explained cash reserves and their purpose to carry budgets while waiting for taxes to come in. Nikki asked what the revenues are that pay for the general fund. Darren explained that its an assortment of revenues from local option tax, allocated cost and department revenues.

There were no further public comments.

Commissioner Peck closed the public hearing.

11:15 AM **Lake Creek Ranch Phase III Extension:** Present was Jake Mertes and Ray Stout. Also present was Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

Jake said the Planning Department received a request from Douglas Thomas to extend the final plat deadline for lake Creek Ranch Phase III which was due for completion on August 23, 2019. This will be the third extension of the preliminary approval for Phase III. Jake said the request is consistent with provisions in the Montana Subdivision and Platting Act. The Planning Staff recommends the third and final extension for Lake Creek Ranch Phase III subdivision for three years to expire August 23, 2022. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve a 3rd and final extension for three years through August 23, 2022 based on planning staff recommendation. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

11:30 AM **Library Year End Update:** Present were Also present was Sen. Mike Cuffe District 1, and Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

Alyssa submitted the FY 2018-2019 Final Report for the Lincoln County Libraries as follows:



FY 2018-2019 Final Report

Circulation

Eureka Branch	20,031
Libby Branch	36,878
Troy Branch	12,849
Digital Items	14,145
Total	83,903

79,172

PATRON VISITS

Lincoln County Library's busiest month was July 2018, with over 9,500 visitors to all 3 branches.

32,275

ITEMS TRANSFERRED BETWEEN PARTNER LIBRARIES

In January 2019, over 3100 items transferred between Libby and Kalispell.

Collection Size

Eureka Branch	12,490
Libby Branch	24,574
Troy Branch	12,043
Digital Items	44,339
Total	93,446

Service Levels and Programs

39,598

REFERENCE QUESTIONS ANSWERED

15,381

COMPUTER/ WI-FI SESSIONS

400

PROGRAMS OFFERED

6,903

PROGRAM ATTENDEES

Alyssa talked about increases in usage and attendance which is very exciting. Circulation is up 4% to 83,903. Alyssa commented that the average circulation nationwide is decreasing and expressed enthusiasm to see a local increase. The library's busiest month was July 2018 with over 9,500 visitors to all 3 branches.

Over 500 books were handed out during the children's summer reading program with over 2,000 total prizes given away.

Alyssa said she received 2 grants; one from Steele Reese Foundation for \$20,000 for construction at the Troy library, and any leftover funds will be used at the Eureka library. Also, a grant from Headwaters Foundation for \$5,000 that will be used to update the kids' room at the Libby library.

Commissioner Letcher said he is getting bids for the Eureka branch sidewalk project.

The commissioners commended Alyssa for her efforts and efficiency managing the Libby, Troy and Eureka libraries.

12:00 PM **Meeting Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mark Peck, Chairman

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