

January 9, 2019

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on January 9, 2019, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Peck, Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Letcher, and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson. Also present via Skype was County Administrator Darren Coldwell.

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

9:00 AM **Appointment of Board Chair and Vice Chair:** Present were Alan Gerstenecker.

Commissioner Peck and Commissioner Bennett welcomed Josh Letcher as the new District 3 County Commissioner.

Motion by Commissioner Bennett to appoint Commissioner Peck as the Chairman of the Board and Commissioner Bennett as Vice Chair. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

9:30 AM **Safety Committee Update/Adoption of By-Laws and Incentive Program:** Present were EMA Director Brent Teske and Alan Gerstenecker.

Robin commented that Ernie Anderson has stepped down from the Safety Coordinator position because the IT Department is very busy. Robin said the safety committee did nominate EMA Director Brent Teske as the County Safety Coordinator and Chair of the Safety Committee. The By-Laws state the Safety Coordinator position is to be approved by the Board of County Commissioners. Brent has accepted the position. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve Brent Teske as the Lincoln County Safety Coordinator. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

Robin thanked the commission for the countywide email sent to all employees expressing appreciation for their continued efforts and involvement in the county safety program. Robin updated the commission on the safety committee members, and the variety of departments represented at safety committee meetings.

Robin presented the annual Lincoln County Safety Incentive Program for approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve the Lincoln County Safety Incentive Program for 2019. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

Robin presented the Lincoln County Safety Committee By-Laws for commission review. Commissioner Bennett commented that the commissioners do not need to approve the by-laws annually but appreciates the update.

Robin submitted the results of the Annual MACo Safety Audit of Lincoln County for FY 2017/2018. The county received 21 of a total of 24 points. Lincoln County received a loss control credit check in the amount of \$4,367.00. Darren clarified that the safety budget is in the general fund and costs for the safety committee for travel and other expenses comes out of the general fund; the loss control credit monies should be deposited into the general fund. Commissioner Peck expressed concern about slips, trips, and falls, especially this time of the year and suggested purchasing ice cleats type footwear for county employees. Commissioner Bennett commented there should be a cost limit up to \$20.00 if we move forward. Commissioner Peck said that ice cleats should be purchased for landfill employees from their budget as a safety requirement if necessary. Darren commented there is money available for this type of expense. The commissioners agreed the safety budget of \$1200.00 should be increased next fiscal year for these types of costs and for training. Darren and Robin will coordinate efforts of a process for the employees to receive ice cleats type footwear.

10:00 AM **Probation Officer Update/Vanessa Williamson:** Present were Judge Sheffield, Jennifer McCully, Ben Kibbey, Jeff Hoyer, Jerry Wanler, and Alan Gerstenecker. Also present were Krista Nemeroff, Eureka via VisionNet. Judge Sheffield discussed how the probation officer position has already provided huge, tangible benefits to the county. Vanessa informed the commission that she supervises pretrial supervision, all with felony charges. Twenty-two people have been released from jail, now under probation supervision; 11 of the 22 are currently employed and 10 are in treatment for substance abuse or mental health. Vanessa said she has coordinated with a facility in Seattle that offers free service where defendants actually work for the salvation army; it's a very good program.

Commissioner Peck stated the goal is actively trying to keep repeat offending; cost savings are tangible, 22 people not sitting in jail is a significant saving to the county. Commissioner Peck commented that although less tangible, but more importantly is people getting back on their feet and not coming back into the legal system.

Vanessa talked about the variety of resources she refers and guides defendants to that help with rehabilitation and maintaining release requirements. Vanessa commented that she is amazed at the community resources and services for behavioral health support for mental health and addiction issues to get treatment. Vanessa discussed some of the successes of people she is helping that are in GED classes, employed, renting apartments, and those who have tested clean for several months.

Commissioner Bennett expressed that he is grateful for Vanessa's proactiveness to assist those who are willing to help themselves find ways to lead a positive lifestyle.

Judge Sheffield commented that 95% of the offenders is fueled by substance abuse. This position has created an excellent foundation, but approximately two months in, we already have substantial benefit for the offenders, jail, and court system.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues/Resolution 2019-01 Holidays, Mileage, Food 2019; Ron Pearson, Examining Land Surveyor:** Present were Jeff Hoyer, Alan Gerstenecker, and Ben Kibbey. Also present was Krista Nemeroff, Eureka via VisionNet.

- Robin presented Resolution 2019-01 for commission approval. The resolution sets the 2019 holiday, mileage and meal reimbursement rates for county employees. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve resolution 2019-01 as presented. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.
- Robin presented a letter/agreement to the Clerk and Recorder from Examining Land Surveyor (ELS) Ron Pearson outlining his service and fees. Robin said she requested the letter because she could not find an agreement of

record although Mr. Pearson has been providing ELS service to Lincoln County for 11 years. Robin said she discussed the service with Brett McCully and we both agreed the service is valuable to Lincoln County. Brett commented that its advantageous to the county to have more than one set of eyes on plats and surveys for errors prior to recording; the system is working, and preference is to keep the service in place. Robin said the agreement request is to have a document of record and services will continue to be paid from the Clerk and Recorder's budget. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve the agreement between Lincoln County and Pearson Consulting Services. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously. Consulting services are \$70.00/hr. Last fiscal year total fees paid were \$4,470.00. Commissioner Bennett stated that the Clerk and Recorder can hire this type of service within the department without commissioner approval if it is budgeted. Robin said this is more informational to keep the commission informed.

- Robin presented the minutes for December 12 and December 17, 2018 for Commissioner approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve minutes as presented. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.
- Commissioner Peck commented that he is seeking permission to move forward with the new ARP position before Noah Pyle leaves. The job description has been expanded. ARP was revised and now reports directly to the Board of Health (BOH). The position is paid out of the ARP fund this year and then will be funded through DEQ. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to give the BOH permission to move forward with the new expanded position for the ARP Program. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.
- Commissioner Bennett announced that he has scheduled Dan Clark from Local Government Services to conduct district board training tentatively on February 21, 2019. Commissioner Bennett said he would like to schedule the training every few years especially for the new board members.
- Commissioner Peck said he will be attending meetings in Helena next week with County Forester Jennifer Nelson.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time:** Present were Jeff Hoyer, Alan Gerstenecker and Ben Kibbey.

Jeff informed the commission that power is out today at Middle Thompson Lake and there is no phone service. Jeff said he has been told the battery has been down close to one year and questioned how long it takes to get a battery and install it. Jeff said there are a lot of people out there without a phone system and he is asking for any help.

Commissioner Peck stated the commissioners did meet and talk with Frontier, working close with Testers office, and has met with the sheriff and county attorney regarding this issue to see if we have any avenue since the county is required to provide 911 service. Commissioner Peck said that in his last conversation with Frontier, he was told the batteries would be replaced by January 19. Commissioner Peck expressed frustration about how this is routine maintenance and feels it is completely unacceptable from a public safety standpoint.

11:00 AM **Brad Salonen/PayneWest:** Present were Wendy Drake, Ernie Anderson, Alan Gerstenecker and Ben Kibbey.

Brad Salonen, PayneWest submitted the update as follows:

Lincoln County worker's compensation claims update meeting 1/9/19

The claims data below is from 1/1/18-12/31/18

There were 9 claims turned into Maco. 2 of the 9 claims were \$0 claims. The other 7 claims totaled \$15,461. Based on the information I provided last year this is the lowest claim year since 2012/2013.

Last year I stated that about 26% of your claims come from slips, trips and falls. 26% is very low as most of my clients have more like 40%-50% of their claims from slips, trips and falls. In the last year Lincoln County did not have one slip, trip and fall turned into Maco. This is amazing. Congratulations.

I do not see any red flags within Lincoln County. No trends that concern me. This past year's claims were from a couple strains, a couple auto accidents, a couple lacerations, a couple that are asbestos related and a PTSD claim.

The safety committee is doing well. Good representation at most of the meetings. Very proud of the effort the entire committee is giving but especially proud of Robin and Brent for their efforts.

Darren commended Maintenance Director Joe Nagle, commenting that he shows up to work very early to clear sidewalks, stairs, preparing for the employees and the public to arrive.

Brad talked about the top-notch safety committee efforts, giving credit to Brent Teske, Ernie Anderson and Robin Benson for their work revamping the safety committee and creating the countywide safety culture.

11: 30 AM **Fraser Engineering Contract Renewal; DNRC Septic Tank Grant Approval; Land Solutions Contract:**

Present were Wendy Drake, Jake Mertes, Kathi Hooper, Alan Gerstenecker and Ben Kibbey.

Fraser Consulting Contract: Commissioner Peck submitted the annual Fraser Consulting Contract stating Mr. Fraser does very good professional work for the county. Contract is \$200.00 per month. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to renew the annual Fraser Management & Consulting Services Contract. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

DNRC Septic Tank Grant Approval: Kathi explained the grant is for homeowners that cannot afford to repair their septic systems. Qualifications include verification the homeowner has been denied by a bank and requires two bids from septic installers. Payments are set by homeowner affordability at 4% interest to go back into a revolving fund. The DNRC Grant is for \$40,000; the county will match \$4,000. Darren said it's a great opportunity and Lincoln County is the first to receive this grant. Darren commended Wendy Drake for her work to obtain the grant. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve the County entering into the Renewable Resource Project with DNRC. Commissioner Letcher asked for clarity that the interest would stay in the account for this purpose. Kathi commented funds and interest would stay in the revolving loan fund. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

Land Solutions Contract: Contract is between Lincoln County and Land Solutions, LLC for development of Lincoln County Growth Policy and Lincoln County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. Darren commented that all suggestions from the commission have been incorporated into the contract. Commissioner Peck clarified the contract did go out to bid, and Land Solutions, LLC was the only bid received. Commissioner Peck stated that Land Solutions is a good company and this project is paid by a CDBG grant.

Motion by Commissioner Bennett to approve the bid and contract from Land Solutions, LLC. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

11:45 AM Airport Board/Fuel Tender Discussion: Present were Bill Caldwell, Alan Gerstenecker and Ben Kibbey. The commissioners signed a letter of support and request to DNRC for a large fuel tender supplied by the Federal Excess Property Program for the airport increasing total fuel capacity and to provide better service by meeting the demand for Jet A fuel to support helicopters contracted by the Kootenai National Forest for wildland fire suppression. The fuel tender will remain as federal property and Lincoln County will be responsible for its maintenance and proper operation as well as transportation costs. On October 24, 2018, the commission did discuss that it is the airport board's role to make the decision to move forward.

1:30 PM Planning Department/Doble Family Transfer/Board Appointments/Wilderness Club Lot 28 Final Plat:

Present were Jake Mertes, Brett McCully, Alan Gerstenecker and Mark Liechti.

- **Doble Family Transfer:** Jake said request meets criteria and there is no intent to evade MSPA. Planning staff recommends commission to approve request to use exemption. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve the Doble Family Transfer subject to planning staff conditions and recommendations. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.
- **Wilderness Club Lot 28 Final Plat:** Jake said developers have met all conditions and planning staff recommends approval of final plat. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve Wilderness Club Lot 28 Final Plat subject to planning staff conditions and recommendations. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.
- Robin said she advertised four vacancies for the **Planning Board** and four applications were received; Michael G. Hobbs, John Damon, Robert Haidle and Scott Mattheis. Jake said he emailed the applications out to all the current planning board members for comment. All comments came back positive and the planning boards request is to appoint all applicants. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to reappoint John Damon and Michael Hobbs and appoint Robert Haidle and Scott Mattheis to serve on the Lincoln County Planning Board. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

2:00 PM Sheriff Dept. 911 System Discussion: Present were Sheriff Darren Short, Undersheriff Brian Griffeth, Boyd White, Ernie Anderson, Alan Gerstenecker, and Ben Kibbey.

Ernie submitted two quotes for the voice recording system for the sheriff's department. The VoiceProducts quote came in at \$29,863 plus annual maintenance. Frontier quote came in at \$28, maintenance included. Ernie reminded the commission that currently the sheriff's department is not on the same phone system as the rest of the county; we are still paying separate cost. Commissioner Bennett suggested taking a couple weeks to review the quotes before making any decisions. Darren commented funding will come from the existing 911 fund; not new money.

2:15 PM Sheriff Department Vehicle Discussion: Present were Sheriff Darren Short, Undersheriff Brian Griffeth, Boyd White, Ernie Anderson, Wendy Drake, Alan Gerstenecker, and Ben Kibbey.

Brian commented about two totaled sheriff department vehicles over the past two months and is requesting \$45,000 for one vehicle with complete build out. Commissioner Peck stated that instead of authorizing funds to be moved at this time, to authorize the purchase now, but usually at the end of fiscal year there is budget money left over, we can JV the funds at that time for any overage. Commissioner Bennett agreed to wait to see what the overage is instead of transferring money now. Brian commented the sheriff's department is still waiting to hear about a grant opportunity.

Brian commented how the county nurse tending to the inmates has significantly reduced medical costs and prescription costs with less doctor visits.

Darren commented the sheriff's department to work more alongside the safety committee, stressing safety to sheriff department personnel. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett for the sheriff's office to purchase a new vehicle now and transfer funds at the end of the fiscal year for any overages. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

2:30 PM Treasurer Sedaris Carlberg/Delinquent mobile home taxes & Interlocal Agreement Motor Vehicles:

Present were Alan Gerstenecker and Ben Kibbey.

Sedaris submitted the Interlocal Agreement with MDOJ, Motor Vehicle Division and Lincoln County outlining the roles and responsibilities between Lincoln County and the State. Sedaris said the county attorney's office has reviewed the agreement. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve the Interlocal Agreement as submitted. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

Sedaris submitted a list of delinquent mobile home taxes. Sedaris said the mobile homes have been moved or destroyed and is requesting to have them deleted off the tax rolls. Sedaris said the county will never receive those taxes. Sedaris also submitted a list of mobile home with 5 years delinquent taxes and is requesting approval to remove those taxes, so owners are owing less. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to remove mobile home units moved or destroyed and abate those taxes. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by commissioner Bennett to remove mobile homes 5-year delinquent or more and abate those taxes. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Peck asked about the superintendent of school responsibilities. Sedaris commented that she feels it is not fair to the schools; not getting the best representation. Commissioner Peck suggested to think about it and discuss any changes for next fiscal year.

3:00 PM Meeting Adjourned

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mark Peck, Chairman

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