

July 31, 2019

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on July 31, 2019, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Letcher, Commissioner Peck, County Administrator Darren Coldwell, and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson.

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

10:15 AM **Weed Board Appointment:** Present were Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

Robin informed the commission that Weed Director Dan Williams requested advertising for one vacancy on the Lincoln County Weed Board. Robin said she placed the ad in the paper of record, county website and courthouse bulletin boards, but received no applicants. The Weed Board is looking for a Troy preferred board member. Robin said she will run the ad again per Dan Williams approval.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues:** Present were Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

- Robin presented the minutes for July 16 finance meeting and July 17, 2019 regular meeting for Commissioner approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve minutes as presented. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.
- The commissioners signed a letter to the USFS supporting the preferred Alternative 3 of the Evaluation Project for the proposed Montanore Mine.
- Commissioner Peck commented about the annual agreement between DEQ and the county for managing ARP. DEQ is requesting a commissioner to be listed as the contact person.
- Commissioner Letcher said the Mud Bog Club in Eureka is requesting a lease agreement to use property at the fairgrounds. Commissioner Letcher said he will place this on the commissioner agenda for discussion. Commissioner Bennett suggested putting in language for an annual review if the lease is for 5 years or longer.
- Commissioner Letcher commented about the lease with the Eureka Sports Complex; still working on the insurance. May re-write that portion of the lease agreement to come up with something more affordable.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time:** Present Blake Lancaster, Mike Lancaster, and Donald Cox. Also present was Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

Blake said he is here to update the commissioners on the skating rink project in Eureka. Blake said the lease with the school is complete, looking into insurance options, established a working group to help assist, met with Lincoln Electric, established a website and Facebook campaign page, and received an estimate for a sprinkler system. Blake said there is \$15,000 cash and another \$15,000 pledged. Blake said a contractor meeting is scheduled and the project will have an information booth at the Lincoln County Fair. A community meeting is tentatively scheduled September 3rd. Blake requested funding help from the county. The commissioners said they will look into any potential funds available, but it will need to be placed on the agenda. Darren will write a letter of support from the commission. The commissioners commended Blake on his hard work and professional presentation.

11:00 AM **Planning / Cummings Split:** Present were Jake Mertes, Brett McCully, Clyde Ross, Chris Nelson and Donald Cox. Also present was Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

- **Cause No.: DVxxxx Request for Comment:** The Lincoln County Planning Staff received a request from Kootenai Surveyors on behalf of the Estate of Jeanette Cummings soliciting comments on a proposed Court Ordered Split. The county Planning and Platting staff met to review and found no evidence of an attempt to evade the MSPA and recommends approval of the Court Ordered Split as presented. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve the court ordered split as presented based on the planning staff review and recommendation. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

11:15 AM **EMA Fire Restriction Discussion:** Present were EMA Director Brent Teske, Ray Stout, and Donald Cox. Also present was Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

Brent submitted and is requesting signatures for the proposed *Restrictions and Closures Northwest Area 2019-2021*. The document is a multi-county, multi-agency agreement. Brent also submitted *Frequently Asked Questions About Fire Restrictions*.

Brent updated the commission on current fire status in Lincoln County. There have been several small start-up fires, but all of them are controlled.

Commissioner Peck read from the restrictions and clarified differences of Stage I and Stage II restrictions.

Motion by Commissioner Bennett to approve the *Restrictions and Closures Northwest Area 2019-2021* as presented. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

11:30 AM **Tax Abatement-Daniel Nelson, Wayne Crowley, Bob Payne:** Present were Nikki Meyer, Eureka

Darren submitted two tax abatement requests for commissioner decision to abate fees and penalties.

Dan Nelson and Wayne Crowley both purchased property in 2018 right at the cut off for taxes. Darren said neither property owner received a tax statement, both owners are requesting fees and penalties be waived.

Dan Nelson \$35.93

Wayne Crowley \$23.02

The commissioners agreed to honor the tax abatements because the tax bill probably went to the previous owner and is of no fault to current owners. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to allow tax abatement for Nelson and Crowley as presented. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

Discussion on Bob Payne was tabled.

12:00 PM **Meeting Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mark Peck, Chairman

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