

March 27, 2019

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on March 27, 2019, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Peck and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson. Commissioner Letcher and County Administrator Darren Coldwell was absent.

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

10:15 AM Public Hearing / Troy Rural Fire District (TRFD) Annexation: Present were Election Administrator Leigh Riggleman, Alan Gerstenecker, McKenzie Williams, and Ben Kibbey.

Leigh read Resolution 2019-06 in its entirety: A Resolution to Annex Property into the TRFD. The annexation is for one property. Owners are Bryan and Carrie Pope and is 9.07 acres located in the Lake Creek Hideaway Subdivision. Leigh confirmed that MCA 7-33-2125 requirements for annexation have been met. Commissioner Bennett commented that it is great when people want to be included in a fire district, but the county is going to move forward with defining "adjacent" and establishing the process of how the county is going to handle annexations when properties are not touching the fire district boundary. Commissioner Peck recommended talking with Jennifer Merriman to help with establishing the process. There were no public comments for or against the annexation. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve Resolution 2019-06 for the Pope property to be annexed into the Troy Rural Fire District. Second by Commissioner Peck, motion carried.

10:30 AM Administrative Issues: Present were Alan Gerstenecker, McKenzie Williams, and Ben Kibbey

- Robin presented the minutes for March 20, 2019 for Commissioner approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve minutes as presented. Second by Commissioner Peck, motion carried.
- Commissioner Bennett submitted a bankruptcy notification regarding Dalmatian Fire Incorporated. Commissioner Bennett questioned how this applies to the county or maybe fire districts. Tabled for further clarification.
- Commissioner Peck talked about MACo Public Defender funding and said he talked with both Senator Mike Cuffe and Representative Gunderson who in turn has talked with appropriation chair Matt Regier. Commissioner Peck and Commissioner Bennett expressed their opposition to the legislature rating the entitlement share funds.
- Commissioner Bennett said he received a request from Tracy McNew for a letter of support for a grant that will help funding over the next five years for the Center for Asbestos Related Disease (CARD). Commissioner Bennett will draft a letter of support.
- Commissioner Peck received a request for a letter of support for a grant for the museum. Commissioner Peck will write a letter of support.

10:45 AM Public Comment Time: Present were Dave Hadden representing Headwaters Montana, Brett McCully, Dallas Bowe, Alan Gerstenecker, McKenzie Williams, and Ben Kibbey.

Dave thanked the commission for the letter of support last December for continued scientific data collection on the Kootenai River and the reservoir. Dave is here to formally request another letter, specifically to the governor, basically for the same thing. The study would help Lincoln County with a better understanding of the selenium in the reservoir. Dave said there is a potential four state appropriations for money for continued assessments. Commissioner Bennett expressed concerns that before he signs a letter of support, he would want assurance the funds will go to the current working group and that the county is in unison with legislators moving forward to avoid creating confusion. Commissioner Peck recommended putting this on the agenda next week for further discussion.

11:00 AM Department Head Meeting Update: Present were Dallas Bowe, Alan Gerstenecker, McKenzie Williams, and Ben Kibbey.

Dallas said she will be scheduling department head meetings on the commissioner agenda for periodic updates and asked if the commissioners had any specific requests.

Commissioner Bennett said the county has 26 departments and expressed we should go through the whole rotation so it's consistent. Commissioner Peck said we may need to meet more often with bigger departments that have larger budgets and the department heads should have some input on how often they may need to meet with the commissioners.

Commissioner Bennett asked if we could create a countywide brochure of information/services with direct phone numbers to be given to the public and potentially be printed in the newspaper semi-annually. Robin commented that is a great idea and offered to help coordinate those efforts.

11:30 PM James Freyholtz / Department of Transportation / Discuss speed limits and safety concerns: Present were Alan Gerstenecker, McKenzie Williams, and Ben Kibbey.

James is here to talk about speed limits and discuss any safety concern requests. James discussed how speed limit studies are conducted and the recommendation process that follows the study. US 93 to the Canada border is currently being studied. The county has requested speed limit studies on Pipe Creek Road, existing speed limit is 45mph and has not been looked at since the late 90's. Referring to an area on Kootenai River Road, James explained that MDOT does not look at just curves, but the entire corridor. Commissioner Peck said the key to River Road is the number of homes in that area; it is a high traffic road.

Commissioner Bennett commented on the extensive traffic during a 3-month period on US HWY 2 at the Kootenai Falls Site; it is a congested area that may need signage with a reduction in the speed limit. There have been several fatal accidents and/or injuries and numerous close calls. The RV's park close to the highway side of the parking area and visibility is severely reduced. James said MDOT will look at that area more as a safety study than a speed study.

Commissioner Peck commented if the increase in usage continues; we may need to look at a redesign of the parking area to set the RV parking away from the highway. Commissioner Bennett commented that he carried a bill as a legislator for bike safety. When building highways in the future, why not make them 6' wider for bicycle use and safety. Commissioner Peck commented that recreational road bicycling is continually increasing, especially in Montana.

1:30 PM Planning Update / Bache Family Transfer: Present were County Planner Jake Mertes, Brett McCully, Jeff Bache, Byron Sanderson, and Alan Gerstenecker.

Jake said the planning department received a request from Kootenai Surveyors on behalf of their clients Frank and Sondra Bache to transfer a 4.98-acre portion of their property to their son Jeffery F. Bache and retain the remaining 4.98-acre portion for themselves. Jake said there is no attempt to evade Montana Subdivision Review. The planning board recommends commissioner approval to use exemption. Property is located in the W2E2NE4NW4 and the W2NE4NW4 of Section 24, T29NR31W. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve the Bache Family Transfer subject to planning staff conditions and recommendations. Second by Commissioner Peck, motion carried.

2:00 PM Meeting Adjourned

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mark Peck, Chairman

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