

November 13, 2019

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on November 13, 2019, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Letcher, Commissioner Peck, and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson.

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

9:15 AM **KRDC-Targeted Economic Development District (TEDD)/Tina Oliphant:** Present was Finance Director Wendy Drake.

Tina explained the TEDD history and how it is a Lincoln County District; the county implemented the district by resolution in 2016. In order to implement the TEDD, the commission needs to consider or take action on managing the entity of the TEDD and potentially appoint an advisory board. Tina suggested the port board as the advisory board. Commissioner Bennett clarified that the majority of the money will be used within the boundaries of the port site for improvements. Tina said she will place this on the commissioner's agenda for further discussion.

9:45 AM **Public Hearing Silver Butte Road Ordinance:** Present were Derrick Perkins and Ray Stout.

Robin presented Ordinance 2019-01 to Decrease the Speed Limit on a Portion of Silver Butte Road. Commissioners received a petition on October 23, 2019. Advertisement for today's first reading was placed in the paper of record (Western News) on October 30 and November 6, 2019. Robin said she also placed the public notice on the county website and two courthouse bulletin boards. Robin will schedule the 2nd reading to be placed on the commissioner agenda no less than 12 days from today. The ordinance will be posted on the courthouse bulletin boards and the Clerk and Recorder's Office will have copies available to the public. There were no public comments.

10:00 AM **Health Department Update:** Present were Dustin Webb, Kathi Hooper, Maranda Davis, Jennifer McCully, Jake Mertes, Bryan Alkire, Derrick Perkins and Ray Stout.

Kathi said the new sign at the courthouse is working and will be placing air quality information on it soon.

Environmental Health: Kathi introduced Dustin Webb from Virginia Beach as the new Sanitarian in Training (SIT) who will be doing inspections and is focused on food safety in county food establishments.

Maranda talked about litter and decay properties that she is working on and investigating. Kathi said it is a complaint-based system. It is not something the environmental department goes out looking for. Maranda is also working on kennel licensing and on septic permits.

Kathi said she is working on attaining signage with MDT regarding burn permit requirements.

Public Health: Jennifer said there are no cases of flu yet, but its early in the season. The county nurse is distributing flu shots at this time and has conducted 40 flu clinics countywide.

Animal Shelter: Kathi said the animal shelter is at full capacity for cats; the animal shelter has taken in approximately 450 cats since May. Many of them are feral and are going to barn homes.

Solid Waste & Recycling: Kathi said the expansion application is moving forward.

FWP took nine deer from the landfill and 8 of them tested CWD positive. Kathi commented that FWP said this was not surprising since the landfill is a place where the deer congregate.

Kathi briefed the commission on county green box sites. Kathi commented she is looking for a gatekeeper at the Happy's Inn site.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues:** Present were Derrick Perkins and Ray Stout.

- Robin presented the minutes for November 6, 2019 for Commissioner approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve minutes as presented. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.
- Robin commented that she did forward an email from Land Solutions Dave DeGrandpre with a list of changes to the growth policy for commissioner review.
- Robin shared that she received a report from MACo regarding the 2018/2019 Annual Safety Audit. The county received 21 of a total of 25 points. Robin said she received a check for \$4,443 as the Loss Control Credit from the MACo Workers' Compensation Trust. The check will be deposited in the general fund.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time:** There were no public comments.

11:00 AM **EBMS Update:** Present were Leavitt Group Pete Shatwell and Holly Wagner. Also present was HR Director Dallas Bowe and Ray Stout.

Pete talked about the different way's health insurance can be financed and discussed fully insured marketplace options. The group talked about how other counties provide employee health care insurance. Pete said the group plans that the county is in are still the most affordable option. There was no employee health care insurance cost increase to the county from last year.

Dallas said that since Prompt Care has closed, worker's comp patients have to go to the ER, so those cost will increase; there are no walk-in type facilities currently in Libby.

Holly shared about the benefits of captive and/or privately-owned companies in the health care system and how they function.

1:30 PM **Airport Projects/Tim Orthmeyer:** Present were Airport Board Chairman Bill Caldwell, and Ray Stout.

Tim submitted a 6-year Capital Improvement Plan for the Libby Airport for commissioner review. Tim also submitted loan and grant applications for a snowplow and runway rehab for the Libby airport. The FAA has a design grant for the rehab next year, 2020 and the actual work to begin in 2021. Total project is estimated at 3 million. There is potential for no county match through a state grant.

Tim said the snowplow truck at the airport has no useful life; recommending a state grant with 100% match as well through the state. The initial estimate on repairs is approximately \$30,000.

Tim explained FAA entitlement funds and how that money can be utilized in the project.

Commissioner Peck commented about the need for the truck and for resurfacing. Tim said current runway at the Libby airport is 20 years old. Tim said he will talk with the state to see how state grants can be tied into the project foreseeable into 2021. Tim said he will apply for the entire project in one grant application to ensure monies necessary will be available. The commissioners agreed to allow Tim Orthmeyer to move forward with grant applications for the snowplow truck and for the runway rehab for the Libby airport. Road Supervisor Dave Kyriss will provide a truck for the current winter season if necessary.

2:00 PM **Election Judge Wage Discussion/Election Administrator Leigh Riggleman:** Present were HR Director Dallas Bowe and Finance Director Wendy Drake. Also present was Krista Nemeroff, Eureka via VisionNet.

Leigh said she is requesting commissioner approval to change election judge wages due to an increase in minimum wage from \$8.40 per hour to \$8.75 per hour. Leigh is requesting Election Judge wages to be set at \$9.25, Chief Table Judges at \$9.75 and Precinct Supervisors at \$10.25. Leigh commented that historically election judges have been paid approximately .50 above minimum wage. The commissioners discussed the important role election judges have in our local elections.

Motion by Commissioner Bennett to approve the wage increase for election judges as presented. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

Leigh commented that approximately 50% of the Lincoln County voter population has requested absentee ballots; the majority of those ballots by absentee voters are returned completed.

2:15 PM **Meeting Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mark Peck, Chairman

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