

October 23, 2019

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on October 23, 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**.

9:30 AM **EBMS Insurance Update:** Cancelled

10:30 AM **Lincoln County Superintendent of Schools Agreement:** Present were Sedaris Carlberg, Brady Selle, and Ray Stout. Also present was Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

Darren submitted the agreement between Lincoln County and Brady D. Selle with no changes except dates. Purpose of the agreement is for Brady to perform teacher evaluation duties and controversy appeals required of a County Superintendent. Contract is through 2022. Sedaris expressed appreciation for all that Brady does for the schools. Brady said it's a good team effort and he tries to decrease some of the workload for County Treasurer/Superintendent of Schools Sedaris Carlberg. Brady discussed the budgets and enrollment for all the schools in Lincoln County.

**Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve the County Superintendent of Schools Agreement as presented. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

10:50 AM **Administrative Issues:** Present was Ray Stout. Also present was Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

- Commissioner Peck commented that he will be contributing \$3,000 to Libby Video Club from the Libby Economic Development Fund.
- Robin presented the minutes for October 2, 2019 regular meeting for Commissioner approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve minutes as presented. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.
- Darren said the county medical insurance cost has not changed. Darren said the Pure North Athletic Club allows for a reduced rate to enroll the county in the Pure North Athletic Club. Commissioner Peck suggested calling Studio B to provide employee options. Jake mentioned Libby Gym as another option. Darren said he will contact athletic facilities in Eureka. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to give Darren authority to research corporate rates and discounted memberships and to create an employee process. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time:** Present were Kristin Smith, Ray Stout. Also present was Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

There were no public comments

11:00 AM **Resolution for Growth Policy and CEDS:** Present were County Planner Jake mertes, Tina Oliphant, William Cady, Dave DeGrandpre, Kristin Smith and Ray Stout. Also present was Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

Dave submitted Resolution 2019-18, a Resolution of Intent of the Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County to Adopt the Lincoln County Growth Policy 2019 Update. Dave also submitted Resolution 2019-19, a Resolution of Intent of the Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County to adopt the Lincoln County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2019 Update. Darren commented that both resolutions have been approved and vetted through County Attorney Marcia Boris.

Dave explained history, research and the process to get to this point. Dave said the Lincoln County Planning Board was very thorough, and now the commissioners can add any language or make amendments before final approval.

Tina said it's a tricky process because of so many opinions and input countywide. Tina said the superfund clause is in the resolution because there are very serious issues that may have future impact and explained how the superfund language can be a real strength for potential future funding. Commissioner Bennett questioned if the superfund language is a benefit or is it additional words. Kristin explained that from a land use standpoint, a Growth Policy has been upheld in legal cases, but said there were no ties to the superfund language. Dave reiterated that today's resolutions are only intent, and amendments can be made prior to final adoption. Darren said the commissioners will consolidate their comments and he will forward them to Dave for any amendments. Kristin explained the superfund language is for potential future planning and shows that it was considered.

**Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve Resolution 2019-18 and 2019-19 as submitted. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

11:15 AM **Petition to Reduce Speed Limit:** Present were Road Supervisor Marc McCully, William Cady, Dick Wernham and Pat Shira.

Marc commented that the road department did conduct work on Silver Butte Road between Libby and Kalispell. State law says the speed limit is to be 35mph, but all landowners have signed a petition requesting the speed limit be reduced to 25mph for safety purposes as stated in the petition. The election department will validate petition signatures. Robin explained the ordinance process requiring a public notice and two readings prior to adoption. Robin said she would need the language for the ordinance and then she would create the ordinance for county attorney review.

**Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to accept the petition as submitted and allow the ordinance process to move forward. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

11:30 AM **Volunteer Ambulance Update:** Present were Dick Wernham, Pat Shira, Jeff Holder and Ray Stout. Also present were Rachel Durham, Sylvia Moeller and Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

Dick said the ambulance departments appreciate the funds received from the county, however, now that the ambulance department can no longer be on the county workers comp and county insurance, it is more difficult to stay within budget. Dick mentioned that workers comp and insurance rates has caused a significant burden to the ambulance budgets for Libby, Troy and Eureka departments. Dick asked the commissioners to keep in mind of this additional cost when considering the number of mills approved for ambulance departments. Darren explained that voted mills cannot float, but the voter approved floating mills will increase or decrease dependent on the value from the Department of Revenue; the number of mills will need to go back to the voters for any changes. Commissioner Peck clarified the county is not increasing or decreasing mills or budgets for the ambulance departments since those mills are set by voter approval. Darren explained the entitlement funds and how they are distributed. Commissioner Bennett explained where the entitlement funds come from. Commissioner Peck said their needs to be a comprehensive look at costs projected out over 10 years; it is time to do a mill levy to the voters looking long-term at ambulance service costs.

Sylvia and Pat talked about the need for younger volunteers in all three ambulance departments countywide.

Commissioner Bennett explained that he is communicating with a company that can conduct a thorough analysis to help determine future needs and costs, potentially with financial support from the County, Cabinet Peaks Medical Center and Kalispell Regional Medical Center to pay for that cost.

Jeff commented there is not enough volunteers for all the transports to Kalispell; can be up to 3 or 4 a day, but our first responsibility is to cover local 911 calls. Cabinet Peaks Medical Center and Kalispell Regional should be more involved with costs and personnel for transport services. Commissioner Peck talked about the increase revenue going to Kalispell Regional for those multiple transports per day and expressed frustration that they are not contributing to the cost of those transports.

Rachel talked about the advisory group and commented that it is a national problem that not enough people are joining emergency services. Rachel explained ambulance costs outside Lincoln County are much higher in other towns, but we always consider the community, senior citizens and affordability.

Rachel questioned why the county would pay for the analysis when the issues stem from the hospitals. Commissioner Peck stated that all those patients being transported are our people; if the hospital controls cost, those costs could be significantly more. Its best to keep the county at the table, right alongside those decisions.

Commissioner Letcher said the evaluation or analysis may be significantly helpful with the public information process as to why the increased number of mills are necessary.

Commissioner Peck commented that we need to turn over every rock to determine how to keep the ambulance services efficient and affordable.

The ambulance personnel expressed their appreciation to the commissioners for taking the time to meet for this discussion.

12:00 PM **Meeting Adjourned**

## **LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Mark Peck, Chairman

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

Robin A. Benson, Clerk of the Board