

September 18, 2019

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on September 18, 2019, in the Lincoln County Annex, Eureka, Montana. Present were Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Letcher, Commissioner Peck, and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson. County Administrator Darren Coldwell was absent.

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

10:00 AM **County Forester Grant Update/Jennifer Nelson:** Present was Nikki Meyer.

- The shooting range logging contract is being put together. Project is to enlarge the rifle range; ongoing.
- Western States Grant for the Swede Mountain area subdivision area is due on the 27th. Currently completing final draft for \$260,000 with \$200,000 going to fuels reduction projects. There are 1800 acres in scope of the project, targeting 370 acres over 3 years. Property owners will have opportunity to apply for 75/25 cost-share funding.
- Kootenai Forester Rivers Initiative (KFRI) grant for \$400,000+. Should be seeing first installment of \$200,000 by end of the month. The state has been conducting all the screening and will be submitting a list of names to the county for 50 properties totaling 140 acres in Libby and Eureka for cost share fuels reduction treatment. There is a 3-year window to get the work done. The second installment of grant funds will be for another area; hoping to have this grant spread across the county.
- Pinkham Meadows Project in the Rexford - Fortine Ranger District and Ski Dale in Libby are both currently up for comment.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues:** Present was Nikki Meyer.

- Robin presented the minutes for September 3 finance meeting, September 4 regular meeting, September 6 special session and September 11, 2019 bid opening for Commissioner approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve minutes as presented. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time:** Present were Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet. Also present were Darald Kelley, Harold VanOverbeck, Doug I. Shaw, Ron Denowh, and Jerry Hoover, Libby via VisionNet.

Harold commented that he owns property on Frazy West/Frazy Loop and has heard of plans for a new casino, laundromat and more homes. Harold expressed he is not fond of this idea, there are plenty of casinos in town and the new construction/business would disrupt the quality of our neighborhood. Harold said he is concerned about wells and septic systems and received no notice for any input regarding the new construction and businesses.

Doug said he agrees with Harold and questioned how this will affect taxes. Doug expressed that he is a landowner paying taxes and should have been notified.

Ron said he has the shallowest well and expressed concern that the laundry business may affect his well water. Ron said there are three widows who live on the corner of the area and they will be looking into the back door of casino. Ron expressed concern of potential crime from the casino/bar in the neighborhood, but the biggest concern is the water. Ron said he does not want to see his well destroyed.

Darald expressed concern about the sewage, water and the safety of kids in the neighborhood.

Commissioner Peck suggested the issue to be placed on the agenda for further conversation.

Robin commented the county received a request from Hank LaSala asking for his letter to be read into the minutes.

Robin read the following letter in its entirety. Attached to the letter was a copy of the July 10, 2019 commissioner minutes.

174 Timber Lane
PO Box 640
Troy, MT 59935
1 sept 2019

Lincoln County
Board of County Commissioners
512 California Ave Libby, MT 59923

Gentlemen:

This is in reference to the Troy Dispatch Office.

At the 10 July 2019 County Commissioners Meeting there was an agenda item on the Troy Area Dispatch.

In the minutes of the 10 July 19 meeting (Copy Enclosed) it is stated, in part:

"Commissioner Peck talked about the dispatch system and 911 technology. We need to look at the entire way we are doing business to fix this and provide the best service, by taking time to consider all options and make it a much better service and more cost effective. Commissioner Peck expressed that he believes we can lower the cost for everyone; we are all paying too much for dispatch services in Lincoln County. Commissioner Peck suggested putting together a committee including the City of Troy. Commissioner Peck stated we cannot rush right in and push it upsetting everyone. We have any opportunity to fix this, to put together a group of people from city, county and emergency services to figure this out, but we do need to fix right away the call transfer problem."

"The commission agreed that they are committed to diligently work on this over the current fiscal year."

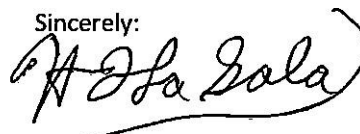
"Commissioner Peck said he is willing to give 6 to 8 months to figure this out and reassess; in 30 days to have a group of about 7 or 8 people that do not come in with an agenda. If in 6 to 8 months there is no progress, he is willing to look at the statutes."

As of this date (1 Sept 2019) there has been nothing in the minutes of the commissioners meetings reflecting any further action on the matter.

Please inform me of the status of the action on the Troy Dispatch matter or let the action show in the minutes of coming commissioners meetings.

Please have this letter read into the next County Commissioners meeting under "PUBLIC COMMENT TIME"

Your consideration of this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely:

Henry J. (Hank) La Sala

Henry J. La Sala
PO Box 640
Troy, MT 59935

406-295-4053

lasala@frontiernet.net

11:00 AM **Public Hearing/5th Street Extension:** Present was Nikki Meyer. Commissioner Peck opened the public hearing and read Resolution 2019-13 in its entirety. Resolution 2019-13 is to establish as a county road a portion of 5th Street Ext. and to alter said road for relocation purposes. Commissioner Peck said Kootenai Surveying has been requested to survey the property. There were no public comments. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve Resolution 2019-13 as presented. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

11:15 AM **Resolutions to set Elected Officials and Justice of the Peace Base Salaries:** Present were Nikki Meyer. Commissioner Peck read Resolution 2019-15 to set elected official base salaries in its entirety. Commissioner Peck read Resolution 2019-16 to set Justice of the Peace base salary in its entirety.

Motion by Commissioner Bennett to approve Resolution 2019-15 and Resolution 2019-16 as presented. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Peck commented that all commissioners were uncomfortable with this decision and explained how deputy wages needed to be brought up. Commissioner Peck commented that the elected official salary increase may initiate more people running for office in the future and that he respected John Righters wisdom to get wages up to where they should be all at once instead of incremental increases over a period of years.

11:30 AM **County Attorney Contract Resolution / Sheriff Patrol Officer Discussion:** Present was Nikki Meyer. Also present were Sheriff Darren Short and County Attorney Marcia Boris, Libby via VisionNet. Commissioner Peck read Resolution 2019-17 in its entirety. A resolution appointing special deputy county attorney for the purpose of assisting with prosecuting violations of Title 45 of the Montana Code Annotated. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve Resolution 2019-17 as presented. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously. Nikki asked if the resolution is for specific cases. Marcia explained that Jinnifer Mariman has volunteered her assistance to help maintain her courtroom skills; there is no cost to the county.

Sheriff Short said that Undersheriff Griffeth's last day to work was September 6 and the new undersheriff will come from within the sheriff's department which will open up a deputy patrol position. Sheriff Short said the selection of a new undersheriff will be announced no later than this Friday. Sheriff Short asked permission to advertise the vacant deputy patrol position. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to advertise for the patrol position. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Short is requesting permission to fill a vacant position in detention. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to move forward with advertising to fill the vacant position in detention. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

11:45 AM **Class ABC USFS Road Maintenance Agreement:** Present was Nikki Meyer. Commissioner Peck commented on two changes; added the old railroad grade for timber sale up Tamarack, and language for the forest service to be able to conduct work on county roads. Commissioner Peck commented the county will no longer maintain Cherry Creek for one resident that lives nine miles off the highway. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve the 2019 Revised Lincoln County/Kootenai National Forest Schedule A Road Agreement. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

12:00 PM **Meeting Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mark Peck, Chairman

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