

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on February 5, 2020 in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Peck, County Administrator Patrick McFadden and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson. Commissioner Letcher was excused.

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

10:15 AM Troy Rural Fire District Annexation: Present were Election Administrator Leigh Riggelman, Chris Nelson, Derrick Perkins and Ray Stout.

Leigh submitted a Troy Rural Fire District Annexation Summary for review. Leigh said she was presented the annexation request on January 29, 2020. There is one property requesting to be annexed owned by James and Mindi Roberts. Property is located in Lake Creek Hideaway Subdivision. Leigh said that in accordance to 7-33-2125, the 40%/40% required for annexation of adjacent territory that is not contained within current Lincoln County Rural Fire District boundaries has been met; supporting documents were submitted. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to move forward with the annexation process. Second by Commissioner Peck, motion carried.

10:30 AM Administrative Issues: Present were Derrick Perkins and Ray Stout. Also present was Nikki Meyer, Eureka via phone conference.

- Robin presented the minutes for January 29 regular meeting for approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve minutes as submitted. Second by Commissioner Peck, motion carried.
- Robin informed the commissioners that she received a letter from Robin Swimley, Fisher River Fire Service Area (FRFSA) Board Chairman, saying that a board member has resigned and the FRFSA Board is requesting the commission to appoint Jerry Auger to fill the unexpired term. Robin said the last time she ran ads for board appointments for the FRFSA Board, there were two vacancies and only those two people applied to be reappointed, no other applications were received. Robin questioned if the commission desires her to advertise the vacancy again to fill the unexpired term to end June 2022. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to appoint Jerry Auger to fill the unexpired term on the FRFSA Board. Second by Commissioner Peck, motion carried.
- The commissioners signed a letter to the Highway Commission in response to its speed study on county roads. **See link on county website to view the letter in its entirety.**

10:45 AM Public Comment Time: Present were Gary Armstrong, Derrick Perkins and Ray Stout. Also present was Nikki Meyer, Eureka via phone conference. There were no public comments.

11:00 AM Library Update: Present were Library Director Alyssa Ramirez, HR Director Dallas Bowe, Ray Stout and Derrick Perkins. Also present was Nikki Meyer, Eureka via phone conference.

Alyssa submitted the following Mid-Year Report:



FY 2019-2020 Mid-Year Report

Circulation

Eureka Branch	9,069
Libby Branch	19,067
Troy Branch	6,173
Digital Items	8,350
Total	42,659

42,033

PATRON VISITS

Lincoln County Library's busiest month was July 2019, with over 8,900 visitors to all 3 branches.

16,741

ITEMS TRANSFERRED BETWEEN PARTNER LIBRARIES

Each month, nearly 3,000 items transfer each month between Libby and Kalispell.

Collection Size

Eureka Branch	12,424
Libby Branch	22,465
Troy Branch	9,832
Digital Items	46,070
Total	90,791

Service Levels and Programs

18,439

REFERENCE QUESTIONS ANSWERED

7,701

COMPUTER/ WI-FI SESSIONS

185

PROGRAMS OFFERED

3,916

PROGRAM ATTENDEES

Alyssa said there was an increase in patron visits by approximately 1,000 more than last year and expects this trend to continue as the libraries are being visited by the public for a variety of services and programs.

Alyssa said she has visited with the Library Board of Trustees and they have approved a request to promote a library employee. Alyssa is requesting approval to promote an employee that has achieved certification and has increased duties and responsibilities, placing her in a supervisory role.

The commissioners agreed to the promotion and pay increase if those costs can be absorbed in the current budget. It was noted that the Library Board of Trustees has authority of how the library budget is spent.

11:15 AM **Treasurer/Mobile Deletes:** Meeting Cancelled.

11:30 AM **Libby Airport Projects:** Present was Tim Orthmeyer, Bill Caldwell, Tina Oliphant, Gary Armstrong, Ray Stout and Derrick Perkins.

Tim talked about the current status of FAA grants and explained the engineering fees pertaining to the snowplow truck for the Libby Airport. Tim talked about the bid process and said the engineering fees are part of the grant. The county obligation is \$15,000 if the grant comes in at \$300,000 for a new plow truck. If the grant comes in lower, the county match will be reduced proportionately. Bill thanked Commissioner Bennett for loaning the airport a plow truck from the Troy Road Department. Bill talked about the airport budget and expressed limited ability to contribute to the \$15,000 grant match.

Commissioner Peck commented how expensive supporting the airport has been. Commissioner Bennett agreed, saying we need to find ways for the airport to become more self-supportive. Commissioner Peck talked about upcoming expenses with the emergency service upgrade and pending upgrades to the jail. The commissioners agreed they have always been supportive of the airport but want to be upfront about big future expenses for the county. Bill commented that the county has been very supportive. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to provide up to \$15,000 in support of the FAA Grant for the plow truck to be paid out of the PILT fund. Second by Commissioner Peck, motion carried.

11:45 AM **Western Montana CRDC:** Present were Tina Oliphant, Derrick Perkins, Gary Armstrong and Ray Stout. Tina said she is here to ask if the commissioners want to further explore participation in Western Rural Development Corporation, a Certified Regional Development Corporation (CRDC). Tina explained that Lincoln County has opportunity to join an existing 3-county partnership comprised of Lake, Sanders, and Mineral Counties. The CRDC program was created by the 2003 Montana legislature to encourage a regional approach to economic development that facilitates the sharing and leveraging of regional resources for economic development programs. Tina talked about the CRDC background, specific functions and funding. Tina will set up a meeting with other counties involved for further conversation.

1:30 PM **HECLA Update:** Present were Bruce Vincent, Nick Raines, Craig Barringer, Virginia Kocieda, Elzhon Anderson, Ray Stout and Duncan Adams.

Nick updated the Commissioners regarding aspects of Montanore, Rock Creek and the Troy Mine.

Montanore: Nick said the forest service put out its draft SEIS June 2019 and that comment period is over. Comments are still being reviewed. The tentative schedule for final SEIS and ROD is late 2020.

Rock Creek: The forest service issued the ROD in 2018. Nick said there is close coordination with the forest service on HECLA's Plan of Operations. DEQ is reviewing HECLA's amendment to ensure it works alongside the ROD; waiting for authorization to proceed.

Troy Mine: HECLA is continuing reclamation in Troy; covered soil, revegetated, planted over 200,000 native seedlings around the Troy Mine; the 400-acre site is doing well. Nick said HECLA may open doors and invite tours for people to see how the reclamation has allowed to turn the site back to its natural state.

Commissioner Bennett asked for a bullet point written update. Bruce asked if the update could focus on the biological aspects. Commissioner Peck commented to keep the commissioners informed for any help or support they may be able to provide.

1:45 PM **Discussion regarding purchase of building:** Present were Virginia Kocieda, Elzhon Anderson, Mandy Harcourt, Dallas Bowe, Wendy Drake, Joe Nagle, Ray Stout and Duncan Adams.

Commissioner Peck said the purpose of this meeting is to discuss the potential purchase of a building located at 503 California Avenue across from the courthouse. Commissioner Bennett recommended an inspection and appraisal. The building is currently listed at \$250,000.

The building would give the Asbestos Resource Department needed space and allows more space to open up at the Annex building on Mineral Avenue. Commissioner Peck commented that anytime property adjacent to the courthouse is available for sale, it is worthy to check into it, allowing for expansion. Commissioner Peck and Commissioner Bennett agreed that with the rent received from ARP, it could be a sound investment.

Virginia said she is excited for this opportunity; the building would serve the community well. Virginia said she is currently working on the budget and rent would be part of the future cooperative agreement. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve moving forward with exploring the purchase and Buy/Sell Agreement. The Buy/Sell Agreement would be pending appraisal, inspection and a negotiated locked in price. Second by Commissioner Peck, motion carried. Payment would come out of the PILT fund, with revenue from rent reimbursing the PILT fund.

2:00 PM **Meeting Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mark Peck, Chairman

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