

May 6, 2020

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on May 6, 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 present, Eureka via VisionNet.

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

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues:** Present was Derrick Perkins, Jake Mertes, and Jennifer McCully. Also present was Kevin Letcher and Douglas Letcher, Eureka via VisionNet.

- Robin presented the minutes for April 29, 2020 for approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve minutes as submitted. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.
- Commissioner Peck commented that discussions between ARP Director Virginia Kocieda and DEQ are moving along well. Discussions are centered on property owner liability, refusals and new owner liabilities, county liabilities, flexibility indicating this is a living process, and homeowners not responsible to find contractors unless they volunteer to do so. Commissioner Peck said the good news is DEQ is very amenable working through these issues.
- Commissioner Peck signed an Environmental Liability Application to support the Lincoln County ARP Department for insurance coverage.
- Jennifer said the County and Tribal Matching Grant-Covid 19 grant has been re-released for those counties that did not receive the first round of grant funds. There are no matching funds in the re-release. The grant funds are for behavioral health and Covid response, up to \$40,000. Jennifer said her goal is work alongside the jail for telehealth service for inmates. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve moving forward with the County and Tribal Matching Grant-Covid-19 Application for telehealth in the sheriff's department. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.
- Commissioner Bennett commented that he has talked with Mike Hedges regarding RAC money for a project at Abayance Bay in Eureka. Commissioner Bennett said MACo said it was fine to use the county as a pass-through agency, but he still questions why the forest service does not act as the pass-through agency since the project is a special use permit on a forest service road. Commissioner Bennett said he has talked with Chad Benson and he will get back to the county regarding those questions of the forest service being the conduit of the RAC grant funds.
- Patrick submitted Resolution 2020-04. A resolution establishing a Lincoln County Finance Department and Finance Officer. Lincoln County established a finance department in 2017, but inadvertently did not pass a resolution. The resolution is retroactively applied. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve Resolution 2020-04 as submitted. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

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

11:00 AM **Planning / White Pine Subdivision Extension Request:** Present were County Planner Jake Mertes and Derrick Perkins. Also present was Kevin Letcher and Douglas Letcher, Eureka via VisionNet.

- Jake said first extension was granted for one year in December 2018 for White Pine Subdivision. That extension expired due to confusion about the length of the extension as the planning department was moving to 3-year extensions. The Planning Department should have requested a three-year extension and believes that had it done so it would have been approved. Jake said the Planning Staff recommends approval amending the extension granted in December of 2018 to be a "first three-year extension". Amended expiration date of first extension to be December 16, 2021. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve the White Pine Subdivision extension request backdating the extension to Dec 16, 2021 based on the planning staff recommendation. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

11:15 AM **Airport / Snowplow Contracts:** Present was Bill Caldwell. Tim Orthmeyer present via telephone conference. Also present was Kevin Letcher and Douglas Letcher, Eureka via VisionNet.

Tim updated the commission regarding status of three airport grants. The Eureka Airport received \$20,000 and the Libby Airport received \$30,000 from the Cares Act. Commissioner Peck commented that he is happy regarding funds for the airports but questioned how Covid relates to our airports. Tim explained how the Cares Act related to commercial airports but did affect revenues for small airports. Tim said there are no matching county dollars for the snow-plow truck grant. Tim explained a change order stating that it is recommended they have a steel snowplow blade vs. the poly blade that was originally specified. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve the change order for a steel blade. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously. Credit to the cost is \$1,500.

Tim said we need to do consultant selection before the airport runway project begins. Airport consulting services are conducted every 3 to 5 years. Tim said the airport board can do the administrative work and bring a recommendation to the commissioners. Patrick commented that he is available to assist the airport board.

11:30 PM **Meeting Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mark Peck, Chairman

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