

Lincoln County Local Government Review Commission

Meeting of September 28, 2016 – 2:15-3:00

Presentation of Findings of Fact to Lincoln County Board of Commissioners

Commissioners Present: Mike Cole, Greg Larson, Mark Peck

Lincoln County Local Government Review Commission Members Present:

Steve Curtiss, Rita Windom, Josh Letcher and Bonnie Larson

Also attending were:

Robin Benson (Clerk & Recorder), Alan Gerstenecker, Mike Cuffe, Jennifer Curtiss, Rhoda Cargill, Bob Windom, Steve Gunderson, John Rios, Charles F. Woods, Charlotte Woods, Robert Mast, and Leland R. Kibler.

Steve Curtiss, Chairman, presented the Findings of Fact of the Lincoln County Local Government Review Commission.

Bonnie Larson presented information regarding discussions with attorneys and a district judge. "Partisanship" is the equivalent to an Executive branch of county government. As we now know Lincoln County is not compliant with the law and the Montana state constitution, it is our responsibility to bring the county into compliance. There is potential for retrials and lawsuits if not corrected.

Commissioner Rita Windom reported she would like to have investigated and seen how the county offices really function. Also, she and her husband, Bob Windom were at the County Commission meeting in 2009 in which she said publicly the Commissioners actions are not legal. There was no apparent regard for her input. They did it anyway.

She reported there is unanimous support of the Lincoln County Study Commission's Findings of Fact and request the Commissioners bring Lincoln County into compliance with the Montana State constitution and law.

Josh Letcher stated he concurred entirely with the Findings of Fact presentation and comments.

Steve Curtiss indicated the Study Commission members would appreciate being able to include the correction success in the final report. He invited the Commissioners to participate in the October 12 and October 13, 2016 public meetings in which the Study Commission members present the Findings of Fact public meetings at Libby and Eureka.

Steve Curtiss and Rita Windom asked for comments from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Mark Peck replied he is inclined to support the correction, and will want to make sure the "process" is correct.

Commissioner Greg Larson stated he is convinced the correction needs to be made. He commented he has worked closely with the Study Commission and fully appreciates the complexity, hard work and thoroughness of the Study Group.

Commissioner Mike Cole said he will investigate procedures and information to seek the best course of action. Some discussion did take place regarding Prosecuting Attorney Bernie Cassidy's opinion and best outcome regarding legislative or legal action.

The Board of Commissioners, Robert Mast, John Rios and Mike Cuffe thanked the Study Commission for such hard and completeness of work.

The Commissioners did motion, discuss and approve a motion that they will issue a decision before December 15, 2016.

Bonnie Larson for Bobbie Stoken

Lincoln County Local Government Review Commission Findings of Fact Presentation Minutes September 28, 2016

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