

APRIL 22, 2015

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on April 22, 2015, in the Lincoln County Courthouse. Present were Commissioner Mike Cole, Commissioner Greg Larson, Commissioner Mark Peck, Executive Assistant Bill Bischoff, and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson.

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

10:00 AM Department Supervisor Budget Meeting: Present are David Kyriss, Marc McCully, Susan Farmer, Brent Faulkner, Tom Magone, Rick Ball, Deb Blystone, Vic White, Lori Faulkner, Bernie Cassidy, Nancy T. Higgins, Dan Williams, and Chris Nelson. Also present via Vision Net from the Eureka Annex are Svea Jorgensen, Lois Sciligo, and Micki Carvey.

Commissioner Cole welcomed the group and said the meeting is a continuation in the budgeting process, moving forward to plan and prepare for the upcoming budget cycle. The budget will remain, holding the line is the best interest right now. Commissioner Cole said that SRS money has been approved which is a huge help to Lincoln County and other counties across the state. There are no major cuts planned for FY 15/16, and we are moving forward with teamwork and effective communication to make our county the best it can be. Commissioner Larson said he has been reviewing budgets and compliments the supervisors for their budget management practices.

Commissioner Larson gave a brief overview of the SRS funding and how it can and cannot be spent. SRS funding is restricted for county roads and schools. Commissioner Peck said it was great to see a bipartisan decision from our delegation and further explained that the commission is communicating with legislatures to build relationships and work towards economic solutions. Commissioner Larson conveyed that SRS funding will not meet our needs as far as forest productivity and health but it does give us two years to allow for long term predictable stable county government planning. Commissioner Peck thanked the department supervisors for their role in budget management and said he is looking forward to the next six years. Commissioner Peck expressed his belief that if we communicate and work alongside each other, we can overcome the issues. Commissioner Peck said we have a lot of work ahead of us, but feels there is real positive activity in the community towards economic efforts. Commissioner Peck gave a brief overview of his trip to Washington DC stating he left Washington optimistic. The fix is in Washington DC; forest management is not just a Lincoln County issue, but nationwide.

Commissioner Cole welcomed input from the department supervisors regarding budget issues. Susan Farmer asked about the county health insurance. Bill Bischoff said we may not have the new rate until end of May, but we are anticipating a rate increase. Last year's increase was approximately 9%. So far, the county absorbs that within the budget which is a huge benefit to employees. There are no plans to change the policy. Vic White expressed how not having to pay any co-pays has been a life saver to his family. Vic said he thinks of it as a huge benefit, and said he felt it adds to employees' quality of life.

Nancy Higgins asked for clarification regarding the county having a "hiring freeze". Commissioner Peck said hiring is on a case by case basis, and decisions will be made by the commission.

Ric Kesling stated he feels the employee morale has dropped in the past few years and talked about his thoughts as to the cause and offered solutions.

Commissioner Peck said the county is not looking at cuts for at least the next couple of years, but realistically the issues are deeper than that and said the commission needs to increase its level of communication so the culture is collectively working together and being a part of the budget process. Commissioner Cole reminded the group that the commission is very open to one on one discussions.

Bernie Cassidy asked about the status of the county compensation board, stating he never found it really satisfactory, and felt it lacked transparency, stating his point is to have it be a more meaningful process. Ric said a huge bone of contention is the elected officials annual 1% longevity and employees 1.5% longevity every 5 years. It's the perception; employees are the ones meeting the public doing the work. Everyone agreed.

Commissioner Peck said the point is well taken and it's a huge step forward to have this dialogue. The other reality is everybody deserves a pay raise, including the public. The public is paying our salaries and everyone deserves a pay increase. The reality right this minute is to maintain our insurance for employee benefit.

There was a brief conversation about employees working shifts of 4-10's, and if there would be a cost savings, whereby allowing staff an extra day off. Brent Faulkner said it works great in his office and it has been a morale booster, but it's a different situation; a 24/7 operation and cross training was critical to its implementation. Commissioner Peck said anything that we can look at that provides the service and is legal; the commission is willing to take a look at all options and welcomes innovative ideas.

11:00 AM Personnel Issue:

The Commission met in a closed session to discuss a personnel issue.

1:00 PM Planning Department: Present are Lisa Oedewaldt, Deb Blystone, Karla Barnes, Dan Nelson, and Kurtis Hafferman.

Bull Lake Ranch Proposed Subdivision: SW4SW4, S28 T29N R33W

The proposed subdivision will create 2 residential lots. The Lincoln County Planning Department recommends approval of Bull Lake Ranch Proposed Subdivision with conditions. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to approve Bull Lake Ranch Proposed Subdivision subject to planning staff recommendations. Second by Commissioner Peck, and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.

Shooting Star Subdivision: NE4, S1 T36N R28W

The Planning Department received a request for an extension to the preliminary plat approval period for Shooting Star Subdivision by Dixie Linnell, property owner. This is the first request to extend the preliminary approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to grant a one (1) year extension until April 25, 2016 subject to planning staff recommendations. Second by Commissioner Peck, and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.

Lazy AJ Acres Subdivision: SE4, S34 T37N R27W

The Planning Department has received a 2nd request from Marquardt & Marquardt Surveying, Inc. on behalf of the developers to extend their preliminary approval period. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to grant a one (1) year extension until May 25, 2016 subject to planning staff recommendations. Second by Commissioner Larson, and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.

Lopez Family Transfer: Tract 2 (4C1) in S30, T36N R26W.

The Planning Department received a request from Ken Davis (E.I.D., LLC) on behalf of Betty Lopez to transfer a portion of her property to her children. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to approve the Lopez Family Transfer, subject to planning staff recommendations. Second by Commissioner Larson, and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.

It's A View 2: S21, T29N R30W

Tony and Cindy Johnson, owners of the property comprising It's A View Subdivision are petitioning for a variance to remove condition 1 from the preliminary plat approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to grant the variance subject to planning staff recommendations and with a stipulation that "any further development of any private lots along Overview Drive will be subject to contributing to a re-review for improvements to the road." Second by Commissioner Peck, and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board. In addition, a letter depicting the variance approval and stipulation will be mailed to all property owners who border Overview Drive.

Pitcher Subdivision, Final Approval: Parcel B, COS 3046, SW4, S28 T27N R28W

Motion by Commissioner Peck to approve final plat of Pitcher Subdivision subject to planning staff recommendations. Second by Commissioner Larson, and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.

1:40 PM **Administrative Issues:**

- The Commissioners read the minutes for April 13, 2015 and April 15, 2015. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to approve minutes for April 13 and April 15, 2015. Second by Commissioner Cole, and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.
- The Commission signed a letter to Jerry Okonski requesting further discussion of the concept of a Forest Trust model on the Kootenai National Forest.
- **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to approve three (3) grant agreements between the Montana Department of Agriculture and the Lincoln County Weed District for the purpose of continued noxious weed control in Lincoln County. Second by Commissioner Cole, and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.
- Clerk & Recorder Robin Benson asked the Commission for guidance regarding **public notice of district board openings**. She is asking if the Commission wants her office to public notice district board openings in newspapers and the county website prior to board appointments by the commission. Letters of interest would be submitted to the Clerk and Recorder's office. Robin submitted a policy on county board and committee appointments by Lewis and Clark County for their review. The Commission will review the policy submitted and will discuss it at next week's commissioner meeting.
- The Tobacco Valley Industrial District's Board of directors recommends Ethel White and Wayne Robinson for another term on the TVID board. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to approve request of Ethel White and Wayne Robinson to serve another term on the TVID board. Second by Commissioner Cole, so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.

3:30 PM **Health Board Meeting:** Nick Raines, Kathi Hooper, Jennifer McCully, Doug Roll, Peggy Williams, Paul Rumelhart and Micki Carvey from Eureka via Vision Net.

Jennifer gave an overview of the System Improvement Grant. The grant is the 1st tier in a group of 3 tiers. The requirements of the grant are to convene at least four health board meetings with minutes and to complete a comprehensive community health assessment that is in compliance with Public Health Accreditation Board standards as interpreted by MT DPHHS Public Health and Safety. Commissioner Peck felt this would better the understanding of what the role of the Health Board is. Commissioner Cole feels the grant would provide something tangible that can be used for the betterment of community. Commissioner Larson said the information provided would also be usable information for other potential grants. **Motion** by Mayor Doug Roll to allow Kathi Hooper to move forward with the System Improvement Grant. Second by Commissioner Peck, and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.

The Commission congratulated Jennifer McCully for receiving her certification. The National Board of Public Health Examiners offers the Certified In Public Health credential as the only voluntary core credential for public health professionals. The recertification process elevates public health professionals to be on par with other health professions maintenance of their licenses, certifications, and credentials.

Micki Carvey told the Commission that May is Hepatitis C Awareness Month. She wrote an article for the newspapers and is working towards a big push to provide information to the public. Micki said Hepatitis C is a chronic liver disease and it is her opinion that it is a reflection of the drug traffic in our county. Jennifer is coordinating with Micki to do a four month public awareness with weekly informational media releases. Costs are being shared with Flathead Chemical Dependency Clinic.

Jennifer gave an update on the Pertussis outbreak. The county is officially out of the outbreak as of April 2nd. There were 60 cases, all in Eureka. Guidelines have not been set yet because professionals are still trying to determine the cause.

The Environmental Department is seeking individuals or groups to recognize for their environmental work...tree planting or garbage pickup for examples; anything environmental friendly.

Nick Raines said ARP and TAG/CAG are partnering to target many local groups as an outreach attempt for input after EPA releases the Proposed Plan. ARP coordinated with TAG/CAG will give presentations of what the Proposed Plan is and engage the public for 60 days during the comment period to attain public input and feedback especially pertaining to institutional controls.

Commissioner Cole said there has been no input or feedback regarding the Healthy Communities Initiative letter since the Health Boards last meeting. Nick will send a reminder to the Health Board members to submit feedback or input. Nick is working with Dr. Black on a fact sheet that is simple, accurate information for local agencies to use. The fact sheet will also provide a synopsis of the history of the asbestosis issue in Lincoln County.

4:30 PM The **meeting was adjourned.**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mike Cole, Chairman

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