

**April 9, 2014**

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on April 2, 2014, in the Lincoln County Courthouse. Present are Commissioner Tony Berget, Commissioner Mike Cole, Executive Assistant Bill Bischoff and Deputy Clerk and Recorder Leigh Riggelman. Commissioner Ron Downey was absent due to illness.

9:30 AM: The **meeting was called to order** with the Pledge of Allegiance.

9:30 AM: **Nancy Higgins, County Treasurer:** Nancy presented her monthly report of cash, reconciliation and investments. Nancy said investments generally did better than anticipated. Nancy had a discussion with Bonnie Drews concerning delinquent taxes of deceased and non-payment of taxes by tax payers. The Department of Revenue has exempted these persons per the list provided by the Treasurer's office. The discussion pertained to taxpayers who have paid and should not be charged if others are exempted and all should be treated the same by exempting all equally. She is asking the Board to delete those taxes off the books. Commissioner Cole moved to delete all and exempt all properties in the future with the exception of one and to take care of that piece next week when Commissioner Downey is back. Berget seconded – motion passed unanimously. Nancy also has a list of delinquent mobile homes and personal property list that was also provided by Department of Revenue. She stated that the Department of Revenue has exempted those pieces where there is no ability to contact or to get in touch with taxpayers. Commissioner Cole moved to delete delinquent mobile home taxes and it carried. Commissioner Cole moves to delete delinquent personal property taxes of the Dirty Shame and Sunrise Capital with the rest of the delinquent personal property on hold until the next Commissioner meeting and it carried. Nancy said that historically there is no seizure of property to liquidate to pay taxes and wanted to let the Commissioners know that there is no follow through on the writs. She will bring back all that were not voted on at the end of April.

11:00 AM: **USFW & FW&P:** Jim Dunnigan, Ryan Sylvester and Mike Hensler are present today to speak with the commissioners. Mike Hensler spoke about the Fish Pond at the port authority property. They are planting grass around it but Commissioner Berget asked about the funding from FW&P for the project. Mike Hensler said funding is available to build the inlet and outlet gate structures since no permitting needs to be done for water rights and early spring is the ideal time to seed, but water rights need to be addressed. Commissioner Cole gave an update on the Eureka Fish Pond. He said it has come up and the stream is running to the pond and there are still live fish in the pond. Property behind the fairgrounds is the Forest Service property and a few problems come in on the diversion area with brush and some leaking, but the pond is ready to go with stocking and is usually coordinated with events there Jim Dunnigan explained. The need for signage for public areas was discussed and they may need to apply for grants for the same pond in consecutive years, but in-kind dollars are usually required. DEQ is doing study on the Fisher River and runoff tests. They are looking at temperature and particulate studies that are stream specific impairments. Sometimes it comes down to finding additional opportunities for funding for projects like repairing fences close to streams and other impairments. A discussion followed about creek erosion and solutions to stabilize and repair. The property behind McGrade School was discussed as being turned into a County Park and gold panning, which is acceptable as long as it isn't mechanized and other activities that might be enjoyed by the public. General discussion followed about selenium levels in Burbot and other fish.

2:30 PM: **Lincoln County Rural Fire District Annexation** – Tom Wood and Steve Lauer, Chiefs for Libby Fire Department, are in attendance. The annexation of property in the Swede Mountain Area and includes Swede Bluff Estates, Swede Mountain and Swede Lookout Estates. The annexation net acreage and total signature counts for a total of 31 signatures. Bruce Witt thinks that there is a lawsuit for Cabinet View Fire Department and wanted to know how the Commissioners could annex into the fire district when there is a lawsuit pending? Commissioner Cole pointed out that this annexation has nothing to do with the Cabinet View Fire District. Commissioner Cole moved to include the annexation into the Lincoln County Rural Fire District and it carried. Mr. Lauer asked how the process works and Bill Bischoff explained that the information goes to the Planning and Mr. Bischoff's office to ascertain the boundaries of the annexations and his office will send letters to all property owners within the district.

2:45 PM: Commissioner Cole moved to approve **the minutes of April 2, 2014 meeting** as amended and it carried.

2:55 PM: The commissioners received a letter of interest from Ron Hart to apply for an open position on the **Lincoln County Airport Board** representing the Eureka area. Commissioner Cole moved to appoint Ron Hart to the Lincoln County Airport Board and it carried.

3:00 PM: There was a discussion about the need to write individual letters for **Forest Plan process**.

3:07 PM: The **meeting was adjourned**.

#### **LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Anthony Berget, Chairman

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Leigh Riggelman, Clerk of the Board