

## August 10, 2022

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on August 10, 2022 in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Letcher, Commissioner Bennett, County Administrator Jim Hammons and Deputy Clerk Corrina Brown.

Meeting allows for teleconferencing and VisionNet availability.

Commissioner Bennett opened the meeting with the **Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer**.

09:45 AM **Flood Plain Administration: Regulation:** Present were Jesse Haag, Veronica Bovee-Anderson, Brian Alkire, Ray Stout, and Rebecca Nelson.

- Jesse presented the new proposed flood plain regulations stating it has been reviewed by the state and City of Libby. Jesse surmised this will more clearly define the process. Commissioner Teske questioned DNRC's approval which Jesse confirmed they have approved these regulations. Jesse advised the ARM's and MCA's are updated and are in compliance with state and national regulations. Commissioner Teske commented this consistent regulation will go a long way toward efficient enforcement. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve the Flood Plain Administration Regulation. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Letcher questioned how the regulation will include EMA in situations such as flooding. Jesse responded he will work closely with Tom Lane to facilitate communications.
- Jesse advised Lincoln County can now get an updated state flood study done. Jesse advised the State needs a letter of support from Lincoln County Commissioners and later will need to apply for a grant from FEMA. Jesse will work with the state to pinpoint problem areas with the goal to allow homeowners, realtors, etc to go online for flood plain information. Commissioner Bennett questioned what effect this would have on existing structures to which Jesse advised this would be used for future growth.

10:00 AM **Health Department:** Present were Jesse Haag, Veronica Bovee-Anderson, Kathi Hooper, Jenn McCully, Rebecca Nelson, Bryan Alkire and Ray Stout.

Kathi advised the Health Department Board officially approved the County Commissioners as the overseeing body. Jenn advised Electronic Health Records is fully hooked up. Kathi stated the Website design is now underway and should wrap up in the next couple months. Kathi said the site is called Lincoln County Connections. Jenn presented \$42k task order for second year of workforce supplemental funding.

**Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve the Lincoln County Public Health Crisis Workforce Supplemental Funding Contract for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bennett requested that in the future Jenn take care of the doc-u-sign with the state contracts and bring printed copies to the board for approval. Kathi advised they received zero bids for drilling wells for the expansion. Commissioner Teske commented the logging operation for the expansion looks good and questioned the remaining piles. Kathi advised of a bear at Happy's Inn they are attempting to trap. Kathi stated they are looking for someone to close the lids at night until the bear moves on. Commissioner Bennett questioned using a temporary employee to work around the need for a contractor license. Kathi reported the annual e-waste will need to be at the Eureka or Libby collection site by Aug 16<sup>th</sup>. Kathi commented they are waiting on the final word on boxes for the fair. Commissioner Letcher toured the landfill and Kathi offered Jim a tour as well. Kathi advised they are switching to Star Link and are awaiting a part prior to completely switching over from Zipy. Kathi advised they are meeting with FDA Representative next week for inspections. Kathi updated the commissioners they are looking to revise the wastewater regulation which will then go to the state for review. Kathi said they are reaching out to the licensed septic installers. Kathi is looking into the Presby Advancetech System.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues/Old Business:** Present were Thomas Lane, Rebecca Nelson and Ray Stout.

- Corrina submitted the minutes for August 3, 2022 regular meeting for approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Letcher to approve minutes as submitted. Second by Commissioner Teske, motion carried unanimously.
- Commissioner Teske advised he has Libby and Eureka but not Troy regarding the marijuana tax vote. Commissioner Bennett will get with the Troy Mayor.
- Tom Lane advised the trailer is available to be viewed and discussed the capabilities as a mobile command.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time:** Present were Rebecca Nelson and Ray Stout.

No public comments.

10:46 PM Break

1:30 PM **Public Hearing: Happy's RV Park Subdivision Review:** Present were County Planner Jesse Haag, Kristin Smith, Gary Isaacson, Tamara Tanberg, Marc Ufehiti, Charlie & Julie Helback, John & Karen Wickersham, Cody & Barbara Parks, Tom Parks, Guy Uithof, Jennifer Nelson, Kenny Rayome Jr. and Sheriff Darren Short.

- Commissioner Bennett opened the Public Hearing. Kristin Smith presented information on the 69-unit park. The park is to be built in 4-phases which will include individual RV, Tents sites and water and septic systems.
- Kristin mentioned in the review process Fish Wildlife & Parks (FWP) had no comments on the proposed RV park.
- There were recommendations for thinning of trees in the area for fire.
- Kristin told the commissioners that the Planning Board has approved the RV park.
- Members from the public attending the meeting voiced their concerns including speed on Highway #2 in this area was a big concern for residents. Commissioner Bennett mentioned a "Speed Study" was being done at the location.
- Other concerns brought up by folks living in the area included the impact to facilities in the area. Wells and lakes being impacted by more use, with the potential to cause issues of contamination to water in residents' homes.
- Jesse Haag said all the comments would be sent to DEQ for review. He said the septic systems will have to meet State regulations.
- Commissioner Bennett spoke about the well monitoring and water issues, saying that the DEQ and Montana State DNRC handles the water determinations.
- There were several letters received and will be included in public comment.
- Commissioner Bennett let everyone know they are going to look at the plan and concerns of residents and make a decision on August 24th.

**Notes from Happy's RV Park – Public Hearing/Public Comments**

Public Comments and Concerns: (Some comments were shared by multiple persons)

- Water well on neighboring property not shown on state map website – they worry it therefore runs risk of contamination from the RV Park septic system as it may not have been considered by the engineers.
- High volume of ground water used for RV park (Commercial use at a proposed >6900 gal/day) could cause water well levels to drop for residents in the area. Numerous comments regarding the aquifer water levels.
- Concerns over the further dropping of water levels in Crystal lake.
- Chain of Lakes development plan is outdated, since that was written Plum Creek has sold an additional 26,000ac. of land to the public. Original intent is no longer valid.
- Fish Wildlife and Parks is already dealing with over-use issues at lake access points.
- High potential for contamination risk to nearby resident water wells due to shallow static water levels in the wells by the large amount of septic being pumped into the ground by the proposed RV park.
- The park will be a tax burden due to the cost for emergency services being needed by non-locals using the RV Park – Fire, Police, ambulance, Garbage, Roads etc.
- Crystal lake boat ramp is already overburdened, a reported 36 vehicles park along road for only 5 official parking spots at the boat ramp. The large increase in users due to the RV park will only further increase the safety risk and lessen access to locals.
- Road safety and approach issues. Is already a concern, people walking across hwy to get to Happy's Inn create more potential for accidents.
- Concerns over the RV park and associated increase in usage degrading the local heritage. Expressed disappointment over profits for a few being considered over local quality of life for many.
- Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology is apparently in the process of conducting a study on the aquifer in the chain of lakes area. Current recharge source and area is currently unknown. Suggestion to shelve approve of park until this data becomes available.
- County doesn't have money or staffing to provide basic services in a timely manner in that area as-is. Cites lack of volunteers, long response times for fire and police > 1hr.
- Report of 85 people on Pebble Beach, no public bathroom at site = sanitation and environmental issues.

2:00-2:15 PM **Planning: Hubbard Subdivision: Preliminary Plat Review:** Present were County Planner Jesse Haag and Kristin Smith.

- Kristin presented the Preliminary Plat for the Hubbard Subdivision to the commissioners. Commissioner Letcher would like to add an additional condition to the plat. The developer would have to be removed from the Glen Lake Irrigation District, or have infrastructure installed to connect the properties to the district.
- **Motion** by Commissioner Letcher to approve with the additional condition added. Commissioner Bennett seconded the motion, motion carried unanimously.

2:40 PM **Adjourned**

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jerry Bennett, Chairman

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Corrina Brown, Deputy Clerk of the Board

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Hammons, County Administrator