

**February 26, 2020**

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on February 26, 2020, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Letcher, Commissioner Peck, County Administrator Patrick McFadden and Deputy Clerk and Recorder Chris Nelson.

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

**10:15 AM Treasurer: Mobile Home Deletions:** Present were Nikki Meyer, Sedaris Carlberg and Derrick Perkins.

Treasurer Sedaris Carlberg presented some mobiles that she would like to delete from the rolls before she starts sending delinquent notices out. MOTION by Commissioner Bennett to approve the deletion of the mobile homes as presented. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

**10:30 AM Administrative Issues:** Present were Nikki Meyer, Derrick Perkins, Jason Moothart, Kirsten Holland and Robert Little.

- **MOTION** by Commissioner Bennett to approve the February 19, 2020 with one correction. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.
- Commissioner Bennett asked about the email from Brad Solenan. He said he would make a phone call and check in to the workman's comp. Commissioner Letcher would also like to see the costs for all the options for potential savings.
- Commissioner Letcher had a letter he needed Commissioner Peck's signature on that will be sent to the Town of Eureka requesting sewer connections for the Eureka Fairgrounds.

**10:45 AM Public Comment Time:** Present were Nikki Meyer, Derrick Perkins, Jason Moothart, Kirsten Holland and Robert Little.

Maggie Craig asked about the property tax overcharge from several years ago and wanted to know what the status of the payment is. Commissioner Peck said that prior administrations had made an error on how many mills are levied. As far as paying it back, Commissioner Peck said they did not have enough money to pay back what had been overtaxed. The board voted to suspend the payback. She also asked if the county has made progress with recycling. Commissioner Bennett said that all depends on the market; whether plastics and paper are in demand or not. If there is a market for it, you can break even. Commissioner Peck said to get a full answer they would need to talk to the solid waste department. Maggie also asked if they visit the dumpsters south of town by Libby Creek. Maggie said it's always a mess and there is garbage everywhere, both in and out of the fence. Commissioner Bennett said in Troy they have had to put up cameras and write tickets. Commissioner Peck said he would check with Kathi Hooper. Sherriff Darren Short said if there is an ordinance that has teeth, he would gladly ensure it is enforced.

Sherriff Short said they have an out of date agreement for the old juvenile detention building that the county is still paying half of the electric each month. He is having Clerk

and Recorder Deputy Clyde Ross check the minutes for anything pertaining to why we would be paying that.

**11:00 AM Interbell Telephone Cooperative EDA Grant:** Present were Amber Holm, Tina Oliphant, Nikki Meyer, Derrick Perkins, Jason Moothart, Kirsten Holland and Robert Little.

Kirsten introduced herself and is writing a grant to bring broadband to our area serviced by Interbel. Kirsten said they would like the counties support. Jason said their original plan hasn't changed; the primary goal is to provide an alternative for people. They are hoping to be centrally located for convenience and build out from there. Commissioner Peck was curious how this would all work with already having Montana Sky. Jason said it would just be an alternative to current services and they will be exclusively fiber based being able to provide speeds up to 1 gigabyte. They probably won't be cheaper, but they feel it will help the business community. Commissioner Bennet said the City of Troy is trying to decide if there will be money available for them. Jason said there is a lot of opportunity so multiple organizations can go after the same thing but have more than one or two choices. The transition for Frontier will be complicated with the new company. Robert said it will be part of their plan to have a local office for ease of the consumer and provide good customer service. Commissioner Bennett asked about the timeframe for the grant. Kirsten said they will be submitting it in the next couple of weeks. She would like a letter of support, which she could prepare, that shows they are not picking a best company but supporting competition and giving consumers multiple choices. The board was agreeable to having Kirsten draft a letter. Amber Holm from Montana Sky asked if the first phase of the grant project would they be putting in line where it already exists. Jason said yes, they are going to overbuild in areas already being served. Jason said the desire was to poll the community on what they want and said there are about 50 customers who are dissatisfied with their current internet. They plan on focusing on those areas and believes those are primarily copper fed and said there are slow speeds and outages they are worried about. They feel the new project would significantly decrease those issues.

**11:15 AM Budget Amendment:** Present were Nikki Meyer, Derrick Perkins and Wendy Drake.

Finance Director Wendy Drake presented a budget amendment resolution. **MOTION** by Commissioner Bennett to approve Resolution 2020-05. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

**11:30 AM Kootenai Business Park TEDD, approval of documents:** Present were Nikki Meyer, Wendy Drake and Tina Oliphant.

Tina Oliphant presented the commissioners with Resolution 2020-07, a resolution to Create the Kootenai Business Park Targeted Economic Development District Advisory Board. Commissioner Peck asked what the driving authority is. Tina said it is the Treasurer. Commissioner Bennett said he would like to sit in when the auditor comes to answer a couple of questions.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Bennett to approve Resolution 2020-07 creating a TEDD Advisory Board. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

1:30 PM **Tour of Lincoln County Shooting Complex:**  
Commissioners toured the shooting complex.

12:00 PM **Meeting Adjourned**

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

---

Mark Peck, Chairman

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Nelson, Deputy Clerk of the Board