

February 9, 2022

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on February 9, 2022 in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Letcher, County Administrator Jim Hammons and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson.

Meeting allows for teleconferencing and VisionNet availability.

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

9:30 AM **Executive Director Amy Pearson, Yaak Valley Forest Council:** Present were Brett McCully, Derrick Perkins, Kenny Rayome Jr., and Ray Stout.

Amy introduced herself as the new Executive Director of the Yaak Valley Forest Council and provided a brief work history. Amy said it is important to get to know the community and be engaged and she is open to conversations about the Yaak and the landscape there.

Commissioner Bennett talked about the importance of good communication and the work of the stakeholder's group. Good work was disrupted when dialogue became minimal, and it will be good to see thorough conversations again. As we move forward, we need to have conversations, although sometimes difficult and not in agreement. Some of this is in the courts and we need to allow that to take its course. Our jobs as commissioners is about public safety and that is a high priority to us.

Commissioner Teske talked about recent fires close to communities and those safety concerns by the public.

10:00 AM **Health Department Update:** Present were Kathi Hooper, Nick Raines, Bryan Alkire, Kenny Rayome Jr., Derrick Perkins, Rebeca Nelson and Ray Stout.

Solid Waste & Recycling:

Air Curtain Burner-seeking approval of ARPA funding. Received one bid for 220 model, and 223 model, difference is tons per hour. Requesting approval to purchase the 223 model for \$184,180. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to purchase proposed Air Curtain Burner as presented utilizing ARPA funds. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

- Will advertise existing seasonal positions.
- Will be advertising for a gatekeeper at the Libby Creek green box site.
- Working with Great West Engineering on the Scope of Work and draft contract for the expansion project.

Environmental Health:

Fire Safe Council Subcommittee is helping launch the online burn permitting system by end of February within the Libby Air Quality District for residential burn permits.

Nick talked about software programs for use in the Health Department. The county previously authorized \$10,000 for software for licensed retail establishment inspections. Nick explained the expanded scope of software to be used across the health department for a variety of processing, receiving, tracking and how we manage and provide access to that data for the public. Software allows for completing inspections electronically. The goal is information management and user-friendly public access to the data, utilizing a consistent process and workflow. The cost is offset by the amount of time and effort currently just in data retrieval. After reviewing 4 different software options, the Health Department proposes to use Accela which is already an existing platform and is more focused on environmental health, planning, zoning, food safety, septic permitting and complaint tracking- for the overall variety of public health services. Accela is very user friendly and ties into GIS/mapping. System initial cost is \$64,000-\$74,000, but Nick said he is reviewing possibilities/options to pare that down. Annual cost is 3,000 per user (3 users). There is potential for the software to be used countywide.

Public Health:

Kathi said that Sarah Sweet has completed training for Certified Car Seat Technician and will work with the Zero to Five Program, utilizing the mobile resource van to offer service.

Public Health received 4,717 home covid tests on January 27 and 75% of the tests received have already been distributed.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues:** Present were Derrick Perkins, Ray Stout and Rebecca Nelson.

- Robin submitted the minutes for February 2, 2022 regular meeting for approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Letcher to approve minutes as submitted. Second by Commissioner Teske, motion carried unanimously.
- **Library Board Appointment:** Robin said she received a letter from Chuck Gerheim resigning from the Library Board. Chuck is moving to Missoula. Library Director Alyssa Ramirez requested the vacancy to be public noticed. One application was received from Rory Kane. The Library Board recommends the commission to appoint Rory Kane to serve on the Library Board through 6/30/2025. **Motion** by Commissioner Letcher to appoint Rory Kane to serve on the Lincoln County Library Board as recommended. Second by Commissioner Teske, motion carried unanimously.
- **Public Administrator Position:** Jim Hammons explained that a person in Eureka passed away and he was called by the funeral home to handle the estate. The appointed County Public Administrator no longer works for the county and Jim explained he needs to be officially appointed to move forward. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to appoint Jim

Hammons as Public Administrator to handle and complete this one case. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously. The Public Administrator is an elected position and will be placed on the 2022 ballot.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time:** There were no public comments.

11:00 AM **Angel Island Bridge Replacement Documents:** Cancelled.

11:30 PM **Meeting Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jerry Bennett, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Robin Benson, Clerk of the Board