

July 12, 2016

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a special work session on July 12, 2016, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Cole, Commissioner Peck, Commissioner Larson, and Clerk & Recorder Robin Benson.

10:00 AM Planning Department: Present were Planning Manager Deb Blystone. Discussion focused on how to plan ahead for Deb's retirement March 31, 2017; is the county hiring a GIS Tech or a Planning Manager, rate of pay, and when Deb's replacement would begin working prior to her retirement. Robin relayed information from Lisa Oedewaldt that the new position does not replace Deb's duties and that she (Lisa) would take over the budget and claims so the wage should be only at the 13.00/hr. range and that the new hire would only need to begin 2 to 3 months prior to Deb's retirement. Commissioner Peck said he agrees with the timeline. It would be ideal to hire and allow 6 months of training before Deb's retirement, but the funds are not there, adding that it is not what we want to do, but what we can afford to do. Commissioner Peck said he feels Lisa already has a lot on her plate. The Commission agreed to hire a new employee at a grade 12 to begin working January 1, 2017.

10:30 AM Road Department: Present were Dan Williams, Dave Kyriss and Tim White, Eureka via Vision Net.

Dave Kyriss is requesting to hire a new employee and reduce fabricated materials accordingly. Commissioner Peck explained that the road departments are funded mainly by reserves and SRS. Without the SRS, reserves will drop from approx. 14 million to 12 million. Commissioner Larson commented that he would rather not see cuts in personnel, but in materials or equipment. Commissioner Peck agreed that personnel are more critical than material cost. There was a brief discussion about fabricated materials should be reflective of actual anticipated amount to be spent in a fiscal year. If that line item is bloated it would increase allocated cost expenditures. If a road department goes over their budgeted amount, the money is still there and can be absorbed. Robin requested each road supervisor contact her with their actual anticipated amount to be spent for fabricated materials at their earliest convenience so she can adjust the preliminary budget accordingly.

The road supervisors were in agreement to help the weed department with costs associated with weed control on county roads up to \$30,000. Dan Williams will track specific roads and expenditures for auditing purposes. Dan asked whether to increase Fund 2140 Weed or 2141 Weed Revolving as the fund for work done on county roads. Robin suggested it would be beneficial to the taxpayer to use the revolving fund since it is a non-levied fund. Everyone agreed.

11:00 AM **Library Department:** Present was Library Director Rick Ball. Rick explained line items/costs and reasons for asking for approx. 12,000 budget increase for FY 16/17. Rick said the increase is for operational costs to meet current needs. Rick is still coordinating efforts for a mill levy special election in April or May of 2017. No budget decisions were made at this time.

Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson said she is very happy to see the Commission looking at the individual line items in each budget and questioning the percentage spent to help determine where budgets may be reduced. As the budget managers for the county, that is a good way to ask department supervisors about specific expenditures.

12:00 PM **Meeting Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mike Cole, Chairman

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