

**July 13, 2022**

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on July 6, 2022 in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Letcher, Commissioner Bennett, 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**.

9:00 AM **Library Update:** Present were Library Director Alyssa Ramirez Peck, Sharee Miller, Veronica Bovee-Anderson, Brent Faulkner, Rebecca Nelson, Solomon Alcain and Ray Stout.

Alyssa provided and gave an overview of library services, activities, events and interaction with Lincoln County Communities.

- Circulation in Eureka is back to pre-covid circulation, total circulation countywide is 70,387. Digital item circulation is at 16,693.
- There are 577 programs & events offered with 13,389 attendees. Alyssa gave a brief overview of community programs & events and talked about the many partner relationships and collaboration countywide to help provide these programs and event services.
- Library Services include computer sessions at 7,281 and items transferred between partner libraries is 25,120, patron visits are 57,442 and answered reference questions is 27,863. Alyssa noted there has been a significant increase in new library memberships/registrations; 731 new people registered over the last year.
- Notable achievements: 101 Birthday Celebration, exciting that the libraries have been around for over 100 years. It is historical to know that Lincoln County was the first community to have a book mobile. Alyssa gave an update of the programs that are now offered countywide with high participation in Libby, Troy and Eureka areas. Programs encourage early literacy, as well as teen and family programs/events; Kid's Corner, Beanstack, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, Technology Specialist, Troy Library & Opportunity Center. Alyssa explained that Town Pump grants helped with the Summer Reading Program costs.
- Since the Technology Specialist came on board (position was provided with an ARPA Grant), all library buildings have been rewired, new computers and equipment in Eureka and Troy branches. Libby has all new computers since the flood event. Alyssa expressed how beneficial it is to employees, but also the public computers to have the library technology getting up to standard.
- Sharee gave an overview (Project Report) of the Troy Library & Opportunity Center, focusing on transforming the Troy Branch into the Troy Library and Opportunity Center (TLOC) to access services and resources and will improve health outcomes for the citizens of Troy, Bull River, Yaak and surrounding remote areas. Sharee explained the variety of work that is conducted daily at the Troy Branch and expressed how allowing computer use and connecting people to community resources support and help citizens in their daily lives.
- Alyssa talked about the library grants and explained how grant funds are used to provide services and activities.

Commissioner Teske commented that it would be good for these statistics to be provided to the cities, so they are aware of the services provided to them.

Commissioner Bennett suggested that when there are free events and supplies, to put out a donation box and give people an opportunity to contribute to costs.

10:00 AM **Health Update:** Present were Kathi Hooper, County Planner Jesse Haag, Bryan Alkire, Jennifer McCully, Tom Lane, Brent Faulkner, Rebecca Nelson, Ray Stout and Solomon Alcain.

Jennifer gave a brief overview of ARPA projects: Electronic Health Records (EHR) Software and the Resource Guide are both ongoing, employees are being trained. Jennifer expressed she is excited to have those software systems fully implemented soon.

Kathi talked about the wastewater fees and explained proposed changes to the 2017 wastewater fee schedule. Kathi said the proposed fee schedule has been presented and approved by the Board of Health. Kathi shared fees from other counties for comparison indicating Lincoln County fees are low in comparison. **Motion** by Commissioner Letcher to approve wastewater fee changes as presented. Second by Commissioner Teske, motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Bennett commented that with the new legislation regarding Health Boards, discussions should come to the commissioners for approval before changes are implemented.

The Accela Software employee training is ongoing, and Kathi hopes to have this fully implemented by November. The Accela Software was funded through ARPA and is specific software for the Environmental Department for tracking and allows for the public to apply for permits online.

Kathi commented on the two vehicles used by the department and the amount of money being invested into repairs. Kathi requested to sell both vehicles and purchase one that is reliable.

Bid is going out for drilling at the landfill expansion project. Drilling work has been approved by the State.

Bryan commented they were servicing the dumpsters once a week at the Happy's Inn site and now twice a week for pick up. Bryan conveyed there are more events and more people using the green box site and wanted commissioners to be aware. Commissioner Letcher commented that all the Eureka green box sites were over full after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. Commissioner Bennett commented that when the Troy site is over full and the landfill is only one mile away, people are just being lazy.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues/Old Business:** Present were Sheriff Darren Short, Rebecca Nelson, Solomon Alcain, and Ray Stout.

- The commissioners conveyed that the RFP Bid for the Public Safety Communications Optimization 911 has been extended one week.
- Commissioner Bennett provided a County Superintendent of Schools Agreement for approval. Commissioner Bennett explained that two people were interviewed and clarified the position will be filled on a contract basis through December 2022. Suzy Rios has accepted to fill the position. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve the County Superintendent of Schools Agreement with Suzy Rios through December 2022. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.
- Robin submitted the minutes for July 6, 2022 regular meeting for approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve minutes as submitted. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.
- Commissioner Teske asked about the agreement with the Yaak Community Center. Commissioner Bennett said Robyn King has made some requested language changes and they are still seeking some grant funding for the project.
- Commissioner Bennett and Commissioner Letcher explained they are reaching out to the City of Troy and Town of Eureka regarding the Marijuana Tax proposal to determine if they wanted to join the City of Libby.

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

11:00 AM **Planning: Final Plat Laud Subdivision / Final Plat Glen Ridge Estates:** Present were County Planner Jesse Haag, Rebecca Nelson and Ray Stout.

- Jesse presented final plat for Glen Ridge Estates located near Glen Lake in Eureka. All conditions have been met, and planning staff recommends approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Letcher to approve final plat for Glen Ridge Estates based on planning staff recommendation. Second by Commissioner Teske, motion carried unanimously.
- Final plat for Laud Subdivision was postponed.

**Meeting Adjourned**

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Jerry Bennett, Chairman

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Robin Benson, Clerk of the Board