

**July 27, 2022**

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on July 27, 2022 in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Letcher, Commissioner Bennett, County Administrator Jim Hammons and Clerk & Recorder Robin Benson.

Meeting allows for teleconferencing and VisionNet availability.

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

09:45 AM **Planning/Laude Subdivision Final Plat:** Present were County Planner Jesse Haag, Tom Lane, Rebecca Nelson, Ray Stout, and Solomon Alcain.

Laude Subdivision Final Plat/2 lots located on the South side of Island Lake, SE Corner of Lincoln County. All conditions have been met and planning staff recommends approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve final plat for Laude Subdivision based on planning staff recommendation. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Teske commented to update subdivision regulations to include assigning an address at the time lots are created, to ensure correct county issued physical addresses are being used.

10:00 AM **Sydney Blair/Many Rivers Whole Health:** Present were Angela Otto, Sydney Blair, Veronica Bovee-Anderson, Tom Lane, Rebecca Nelson, Ray Stout, Scott Shindledecker, and Solomon Alcain.

Sydney talked about Many Rivers Whole Health, formerly Gateway Community Services. Long term plan is to combine resources and grow in health services offered. In 2021 Gateway Community Services served 181 clients and 150 clients in 2022. Sydney discussed substance abuse disorders and mental health services provided by Many Rivers Whole Health. Many Rivers Whole Health does have an intensive outpatient program and services and the Libby location does utilize the Lincoln County Drug Court Program. Sydney commented that Montana is not in good shape regarding behavioral/mental health and suicide rates. Many Rivers Whole Health focuses on long term recovery and caring for the whole person utilizing Lincoln County and Flathead County resources.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues/Old Business / Resolution 2022-20 Burial Ground Notice / Third Signal Contract:** Present were Sheriff Darren Short, Veronica Bovee-Anderson, Tom Lane, Rebecca Nelson, Ray Stout, Scott Shindledecker, and Solomon Alcain.

- Robin submitted the minutes for July 20, 2022 regular meeting for approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Letcher to approve minutes as submitted. Second by Commissioner Teske, motion carried unanimously.
- Robin commented there is no resolution but wanted to briefly discuss and talk about private property burials. Montana allows burials on private properties. Robin commented that for improved public service, she wants the public to be aware of a document called Private Family Burial Grounds Notice that can be recorded, to acknowledge burial location and help protect the burial site from disturbance or destruction into perpetuity, let's say 50+ years down the road. The Clerk & Recorder's Office tracks all other land issues, boundaries, history of ownership, easements etc... The question that should be part of the family discussion is does the family want the burial site attached to their legal description (made of public record) to help ensure the protection of their family burial site into the future. Robin noted the notice for recording is not required but recommended.
- Commissioner Bennett noted that he has asked Commissioner Teske to take his seat and be appointed to the Libby Asbestos Superfund Oversight Committee (LASOC). **Motion** by Commissioner Letcher to appoint Commissioner Teske to serve on the LASOC committee. Second by Commissioner Teske, motion carried unanimously.
- The commission has accepted the Third Signal Proposal and Commissioner Teske will follow-up with Third Signal to have an agreement drawn for review. Third Signal submitted an RFP to conduct an analysis for optimization of all aspects of public safety communications in Lincoln County.
- The commissioners signed a support letter to Community Action Partnership of Northwest Montana for the Cabinet Affordable Housing Project. The project includes single family duplexes located on Commerce Way, Libby. Commissioner Bennett questioned if Lincoln County residents will have first rights or preferred access to the housing.

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

11:00 AM **Bruce Vincent:** Present were Bruce Vincent, Mark Peck, Sheriff Darren Short, Veronica Bovee-Anderson, Tom Lane, Rebecca Nelson, Ray Stout, Scott Shindledecker, and Solomon Alcain.

Bruce talked about the Shared Stewardship, county efforts and the forest service announcement to have the Kootenai chosen as one of the 10 places to receive funds from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill. Bruce commented that for the first time in many years there is now the possibility to conduct work that the forest needs done. Lincoln County was the lead to push to promote work within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). Bruce expressed the importance of traveling to

Washington DC and relaying a big thank you to the Chief and the Delegation first and foremost, and to ask to keep an eye on Lincoln County for future infrastructure opportunities. Bruce said this is a game changer and will have a positive impact for Lincoln County for decades. Bruce strongly encouraged public meetings to educate the community and to be aware that this was done by and led by the efforts of the county commission and local stakeholders.

**Meeting Adjourned**

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

---

Jerry Bennett, Chairman

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