

**June 8, 2022**

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on June 8, 2022 in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Letcher, Commissioner Bennett, and County Administrator Jim Hammons.

Meeting allows for teleconferencing and VisionNet availability.

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

Commissioner Bennett spoke about the lost child over the weekend and how great the Sheriff's Office and volunteers worked together to find the child safe. Commissioner Bennett commended the volunteers helping with counting of the ballots for the Primary Election.

9:25 AM **Mac Kirk, Montana State Fund:** Present were Mac Kirk, Ray Stout, Rebecca Nelson, and Scott Shindledecker. Mr. Kirk informed the commissioners on the county's safety record. He explained the E-Mod number for the county was very good and this number is what the premium is based on. Lincoln county has one of the best safety records in the state.

Mr. Kirk handed out information and told the commissioners Lincoln County is in the "Blue Group" and because of the outstanding safety record the county would receive a dividend check from Montana State Fund. In a comparison to last year's payroll, Lincoln County increased about \$1,000,000. This also is used to base the counties Workers Compensation Premium.

In closing Mr. Kirk congratulated the commissioners on the counties outstanding worker comp safety record and said to keep up the good work.

10:00 AM **Health Department Update:** Present were Ray Stout, Rebecca Nelson, Scott Shindledecker, Maranda Davis, Jesse Haag, Jennifer McCully, and Kathi Hooper.

Jennifer presented a task order for signature to be signed by the commissioners. This is for the Immunization Program from the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services.

**Motion** by Commissioner Teske to sign the Immunization Program. Second by Commissioner Letcher.

Commissioner Letcher spoke to the Health Department that he would like to see the department focus on long term health care for the county.

Motion passed.

Kathi talked about the number of permits for septic systems being issued. The department has a new employee who is spending a lot of his time answering questions for people putting in systems and it's taking a lot of his time. The new employee Jesse Haag explained he was getting calls from the same people over and over and from licensed contractor who should know how to install systems.

Commissioner Bennett told the department that people who want to self-install a system, they need to do the research on how to do the work. Commissioner Bennett asked if they were going to hire temps to help with the information input to set up the Accela Program. Kathi commented that this would help once they begin the process.

Other issues Kathi talked about was complaints regarding litter, extended response time, change voicemail messages, 3 weeks for septic permit, change land research requests & homeowner self-install processes, change septic installer licenses to annual, review wastewater fee schedule, update website and information packets.

Kathi brought up the floodplain administration. The mapping the department has is outdated and they would like a letter of support to the DNRC for help with putting together digital floodplain mapping. This will help people to identify areas in the flood plain before they buy property or build.

On the Accela program, the next meeting is June 16th, and they are hoping for an early July kick-off. Their timeline is 3 to 5 months before going live, aiming to complete in 2022.

In solid waste and recycling, Kathi said they would like a process for waiving fees, need to have a consistent process for non-profits, schools, churches. She would like to see a cap set at 20 cubic yards. Mrs. Hooper used the new museum roof as an example as this roof was 100 cubic yards of material.

The new loader and attachments arrived at the land fill and by buying a used one with only 170 hours saved \$69,000. The bear has returned this year at the Glen Lake green box site, and the fence was repaired again. Land fill expansion update, they have not received a letter from DEQ yet, but it has been approved. Will have a task order with Great West signed next week.

10:00 AM **Administrative Issues/Old Business:** Present were Ray Stout, Rebecca Nelson, Scott Shindledecker and Don Clark.

Jim Hammons submitted the minutes for June 1st regular meeting for approval. **Motion** to approve the June 1 minutes as submitted by Commissioner Teske. Seconded by Commissioner Letcher. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bennett asked if there was any old business. Commissioner Teske asked where we were on the Recreational Marijuana Excise Tax with the City. Commissioner Bennett replied we need to look at it and we can have it on next week's agenda.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time:** Present were Ray Stout, Rebecca Nelson, Scott Shindledecker and Don Clark.

Commissioner Bennett asked if there was any public comment. Don Clark said he was there for the Snowshoe Trail issue on the agenda. He went on to explain some of the issues with the trail and the location of where the trail head was located. Mr. Clark said the road that originally led to the old mine where the trail head started was the only way to access both drainages.

11:00 AM **Snowshoe Trail Head:** Present were Jeff Koskela, Don Clark, Ray Stout Rebecca Nelson, and Scott Shindledecker.

Mr. Koskela spoke to the commissioners regarding the meeting held a couple years back when the commissioners closed the road, and the Forest Service was to make a new trail head and parking area.

Mr. Koskela said the commissioners told everyone it would be a win win for the public. He said the trail head only has enough parking for a couple of vehicles, the trail itself is too steep for anyone to use. They have a \$400,000 bridge that the taxpayers put in that only benefits the property owner at the mine site.

Don Clark expressed agreement with Mr. Koskela and talked about the trail being a safety issue as people have been hurt on it. He told the commissioners he worked for the Forest Service putting in trails and this trail would not meet their standards. Commissioner Letcher asked who the property owner was. Mr. Koskela said his name is Steve Byington. Commissioner Teske said he drove to the trail head and saw the trail going up the mountain and the size of the parking lot. Commissioner Bennett said he has been in contact with Mr. Koskela regarding the trail and they agreed to get together to walk the trail.

Mr. Koskela mentioned the county road crew did a lot of work on the road to the trail head, calling it the road to nowhere, and expressed the county should not be spending money in the road budget to maintain this road.

11:21 PM **Meeting Adjourned.**

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Jerry Bennett, Chairman

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Hammons, County Administrator