

March 13, 2013

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on March 13, 2013, in the Lincoln County Courthouse. Present are Commissioner Tony Berget, Commissioner Ron Downey, Commissioner Mike Cole, Executive Assistant Bill Bischoff and Clerk and Recorder Tammy Lauer.

9:30 AM: Commissioner Berget **opened the meeting** with the Pledge of Allegiance.

9:30 AM: **John Rios:** John is here to discuss the formation of a Cabinet View Fire District. Dennis Souther, Patty Rambo, Mike Agresta and Ron Miller are with John. John began by introducing his group and asking the public to introduce themselves. He said that they are interested in providing fire protection for the Cabinet View area. Commissioner Berget said he had spoken to the County Attorney and the attorney representing Lincoln County on the lawsuit brought by Cabinet View Fire and was advised to not talk to anyone until the lawsuits are settled. However, he chose to meet with them anyway. Commissioner Berget said that he had looked at the MCA laws pertaining to fire districts and they may have to go to a vote of the people in the district even though they have a petition. Ron Miller stated that this group is not part of the lawsuits; the former group of people is gone. Commissioner Berget said that there is still an association with Bull Lake and that lawsuit. Commissioner Berget also spoke about the need to follow the leadership of who is on scene and Roby Bowe's direction. Alvin Benitz talked about the fact that there is an excellent fire department covering the area now. He said that a lot of the same people are still involved and it will turn into the emotional sessions it was before. Commissioner Berget added that there has been little cooperation with the finances of the fire company. The County Auditor tried to get information and could not. John assured the commissioners would have all the answers concerning finances and ownership of equipment and the building. Ron Miller talked about leasing fire engines to wild fires out of Lincoln County and said that is not his intention. John said that he does recognize that the commissioners are representatives of the people and they intend to comply with every law. Commissioner Berget said that the county cannot stop this group from starting a petition to begin the process however; he does not think it can be considered until all lawsuits are settled.

10:10 AM: **EPA Update:** Rebecca Thomas began by speaking about a report out soon that will spell out the Libby project. Jim Martin has retired as regional administrator. Rebecca talked about the testing of ambient air and surface water. John talked about the Troy site and said that there may be as many as 20 properties cleaned this summer. Commissioner Berget congratulated Rebecca on being named head of the Libby project.

11:00 AM: **FWP and USFW:** Wayne Kasworm, Mike Hensler, and Jim Dunnigan are present. Commissioner Berget began by speaking about the intent of the monthly meetings which is good communication with the county and the public. The group discussed the people that they would like to see at the meetings and when and where they will meet. They talked about meeting in Eureka quarterly as well.

12:00 PM: The commissioners went to the **Chamber of Commerce of Libby** meeting to do a presentation about the county.

1:30 PM: The Commissioners read the **minutes of the March 6, 2013, meeting**. Commissioner Downey moved to approve the minutes as written and it carried.

1:50 PM: **Tammy Lauer, Election Administrator and Leigh Riggelman, Assistant Election Administrator:** The legislative boundaries have changed all over Montana this year. As a result, it has become necessary for Lincoln County to adjust precinct boundaries to align to the new legislative boundaries. Leigh presented the commissioners with maps showing the new proposed precinct boundaries. Commissioner Downey moved to approve the new precinct boundaries as proposed by the election department and it carried.

2:05 PM: The **meeting was adjourned**.

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tony Berget, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Tammy D. Lauer, Clerk of the Board