

**March 3, 2021**

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on March 3, 2021 in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Peck, Commissioner Letcher, County Administrator Patrick McFadden and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson.

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

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues:** Present were Sheriff Darren Short, Sedaris Carlberg, Cheri Dunbar, Martin Dunbar, Arlene Elletson, and Derrick Perkins. Present via phone were Nikki Meyer and Ray Stout.

- Commissioners approved and signed the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service Communications Use Lease for the construction and maintenance of a new communication facility on Yaak Mountain. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to approve the special use permit as submitted. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.
- Patrick submitted a consulting contract with Bruce Vincent for assistance regarding natural resources. Commissioners tabled for further review and will place on the agenda next week for discussion.
- Commissioners approved and signed Resolution 2021-04 Budget Amendment. The Commissioners did approve the budget for FY 2019/2020. The original revenue and expenditures did not include funds that have been received and/or expenses not known at the time of budget approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to approve Resolution 2021-04 as submitted. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.
- Commissioner Peck discussed a brochure/pamphlet about forest management, and Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Management. Commissioner Peck explained it is educational and talks about the importance of forest management. Commissioner Peck said several stakeholders have contributed monies and the brochure will be mailed to all citizens to help with public engagement and improve the discussion of the importance of forest management. Commissioner Peck said he recommends a county contribution of \$10,000 to be paid out of Title III funds.
- Robin submitted the minutes for February 10, 2021 for approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Letcher to approve minutes as submitted. Second by Commissioner Peck, motion carried unanimously.

10:45 AM **Public Comment:** Present were Sheriff Darren Short, Sedaris Carlberg, Marc McCully, Jan Ivers, Cheri Dunbar, Martin Dunbar, Arlene Elletson, and Derrick Perkins. Present via phone were Nikki Meyer and Ray Stout.

Arlene asked about dust abatement plans for the Panoramic View area, especially as we get closer to spring and summer months. Arlene commented she is hoping the county will at least oil the road if the responsibilities are not decided and the dust issue is not mitigated.

Martin expressed frustration regarding lack of a dust mitigation plan for the residents.

Commissioner Bennett said he attended a meeting two weeks ago and those discussions are still taking place, but he does acknowledge the process can be slow and frustrating.

11:00 AM **Eureka Dispatch Board Appointment:** Present were Sheriff Darren Short, Marc McCully, Jan Ivers, Cheri Dunbar, Martin Dunbar, and Derrick Perkins. Present via phone were Nikki Meyer and Ray Stout. Present Eureka, via VisionNet were Joyce Hudson, and LeeAnn Schermerhorn.

Robin said the Eureka Dispatch Board has a mid-term vacancy. Two applications were received, and the Eureka Dispatch Board submitted a recommendation to appoint Brent Holder to fill the vacancy. **Motion** by Commissioner Letcher to appoint Brent Holder to serve on the Eureka Dispatch Board as recommended by the dispatch board. Second by Commissioner Peck, motion carried unanimously.

11:15 AM **Road Dept. Lease/Purchase Equipment Discussion:** Present were Sheriff Darren Short, Cheri Dunbar, Martin Dunbar, Ray Price, Marc McCully, Derrick Perkins, Dennis Totten, David Kyriss, and Dustin Welch. Present via phone were Ray Stout and Nikki Meyer.

Road department supervisors talked about capital improvement funds, budgets and lease/purchase options for road department heavy equipment.

Commissioners agreed lease/purchase options will be further discussed and approved during the fiscal year budget process. The commissioners encouraged the road supervisors to have preliminary budget discussions with the county administrator. Patrick suggested showing comparison budget reports with prior years.

11:45 AM **County Forester/Funding for Burn Permit:** Present were County Forester Jennifer Nelson, Kathi Hooper, and Derrick Perkins.

Jennifer briefed the commission on a State of Montana burn permit platform which can be individualized for each participating county on the montana.gov website. Currently there are 20 counties using the platform for issuing burn permits; Lincoln County is not one of them. Jennifer talked about the benefits to the county and citizens of utilizing this online service and gave a brief overview of fees and annual costs.

Kathi commented on budgets and potential grant options to absorb the cost. Based on current volume (1160 burn permits), cost per year would be approximately \$3,540.

Commissioner Bennett commented this would be part of the new fiscal year budget process.

12:00 PM **Special District Election/Appointments by Acclamation:** Present were Election Administrator Paula Buff and Derrick Perkins.

*Paula provided the following Notice of Cancellation of Election/Notice of Trustee Election by Acclamation to the commissioners for approval.*



**Paula Buff**  
Elections Administrator  
Lincoln County

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**NOTICE OF CANCELLATION OF ELECTION  
NOTICE OF TRUSTEE ELECTION BY ACCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, the number of filed candidates is less than or equal to the number of positions open for the Special Districts listed below, **THEREFORE**, the regularly called for Special District Elections to be held on May 4, 2021, is cancelled, **BE IT RESOLVED** that the following candidates are duly elected by acclamation for 3-year terms:

Bull Lake Fire District Board (2 positions open)

- Gerald Wallace
- Steven Munyan

McCormick Fire District Board (3 positions open)

- John Driebush
- No Candidate Filed – Open
- No Candidate Filed – Open

Troy Rural Fire District Board (3 positions open)

- Herbert Gregory
- Robert Welch
- Larry Chapel

Lincoln County Rural Fire District Board (2 positions open)

- Jay Dinning
- Kirby Kulbeck

Libby Park District (2 open positions)

- No Candidate Filed – Open
- No Candidate Filed – Open

Troy Park District Board (2 open positions)

- Tabitha Smail
- No Candidate Filed - Open

**Motion** by Commissioner Peck to approve the Notice of Cancellation of Election/Notice of Trustee Election by Acclamation as submitted. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

12:10 PM **Meeting Adjourned**

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Jerry Bennett, Chairman

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