

## September 10, 2014

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on September 10, 2014, in the Lincoln County Courthouse. Present are Commissioner Tony Berget, Commissioner Mike Cole, Commissioner Greg Larson, Executive Assistant Bill Bischoff and Clerk and Recorder Tammy Lauer.

9:00 AM: Commissioner Berget **opened the meeting** with the Pledge of Allegiance.

9:00 AM: **Final Budget adoption:** The Public Safety fund has a transfer from PILT of \$153,000 to increase reserves. Commissioner Larson moved to retain the funds in the PILT fund and reduce the reserves in the Public Safety fund and it carried. This will allow more funds in the PILT reserve which is more readily available for general use. Commissioner Cole asked about the increase for the Eureka Annex to allow for additional help in the office. The commissioners discussed the need for additional people in the Eureka Annex. There are three scenarios for additional help and the one that Commissioner Cole feels is the best option is the third which is one full time person and two people at 19 hours per week. This would be at an additional cost of \$9,791 for one year. Commissioner Larson moved to adopt option 3 for the Eureka Annex and it carried. Commissioner Larson moved to adopt the FY 2014-2015 budget with the 2 amendments and it carried.

9:30 AM: The **Sheriff's Department** has a dispatcher that is leaving and they are requesting that they be allowed to replace that person. The sheriff's department has cut employees down as low as they are able in the dispatch. Commissioner Cole moved to approve the replacement of a dispatcher and it carried. The commissioners discussed the remodeling of the jail that is currently underway.

10:00 AM: **EPA Update:** Mike Cirian is the only EPA representative here today. Rebecca Thomas and Christiana Progress are on the conference phone from Denver. Rebecca started by talking about the Regional Administrator Shaun McGrath's visit to Montana this month. He will be in Kalispell on September 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Senator's offices and hopes to meet with the commissioners there. Then on Tuesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> there will be a meeting in Libby at 1:30 PM with EPA and the commissioners. OU1 is currently going under the Post Construction Risk Assessment. OU2 and OU5 have additional sampling being gathered for further study. There will be a slash pile burn ABS testing next spring. There is a study on the Mine site of Logging and Pulaski activity that has been sent for evaluation and the data should be back in October. Mike updated the commissioners on the construction in 2014. They are on track for completion of 81 properties this year. Mike said they have put in over 500,000 man hours without an accident. He is excited about that because some of the working situations are less than ideal. They have had no call backs this year to properties that are not satisfied with the work. Investigations are the main focus; they have done over 600 this year. They have found only 10% that needed clean up, or 60 properties. Based on those numbers, it is tough to make a determination as to how many properties they will be cleaning next summer.

11:00 AM: **FWP/USFW Update:** Wayne Kasworm, USFW, Kim Annis, Ryan Sylvester and Jim Dunnigan from the Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks are present today. The group discussed future meetings and who may be available to attend. The commissioners would like to have the regional director for FWP come in the future. Commissioner Berget asked about a road access to state land on a road between Flower Creek and Parmenter Creek. Kim said that there is no park land there so they would need to talk to DNRC for access to the State land. Kim explained that there is access to the land already at the parking area by Upper Flower. Tonya would be the one to talk to and Kim will have her call Commissioner Berget. The residents are having a huge problem with the dust on the road and met with the commissioners recently to discuss it. If the county were to take over the road and chip it, the dust would be taken care of and there would be access to the state land. Wayne talked about doing some additional trapping in the cabinets of Grizzly bears. They are using the data to determine a trend for the bears. They can find out reproductive information from this as well. They have caught 5 different grizzlies in the Yaak. Three were younger and two were older and 4 were males and one female. Commissioner Cole asked about the location of grizzlies in Lincoln County and where they are categorized. Commissioner Berget asked about a newer density study about the grizzly on the roads. Wayne talked about the bears in the Selkirk mountain range by Priest Lake, Idaho. Jim and Ryan updated the commissioners on fish. Jim talked about sign kiosks that are being put up in areas on the Kootenai. He is impressed with the signs and thinks they will be a welcome addition to some of the fishing areas.

1:30 PM: **Heavenly View Subdivision**, final plat approval: Kristin Smith, Planning Director, presented the subdivision. All conditions have been met. Kristin recommends approval. Commissioner Cole moved to approve the final plat per planning staff recommendation and it carried.

1:35 PM: **North Portal Tracts Subdivision**, extension request: Tungsten Holdings, developer, is requesting to extend the preliminary approval period for one year. The preliminary plat has already received a one year extension in 2013. This extension is consistent with provisions in the Montana Subdivision and Platting Act. Commissioner Larson moved to extend the preliminary plat to September 8, 2015 and it carried.

1:40 PM: **Little Country Road Subdivision, Phase II**, Preliminary Approval Extension: Tungsten Holdings, developer, is requesting to extend the preliminary approval period for one year. This Phase received an extension in 2013. Commissioner Larson moved to approve the extension of the preliminary plat for one year to October 6, 2015 and it carried.

1:50 PM: **Resolution #923** is a resolution Recognizing the Montana Association of Counties and Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association Recommended Jail Standards. These detention standards are recognized solely for the purpose of guiding the County in the future and ongoing operation of the detentions center subject to the limitations imposed by the facility and the availability of resources. Commissioner Cole moved to approve Resolution #923 and it carried.

1:45 PM: The commissioners wrote a **letter to the BSTF Grant Review Committee of the Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund** at the Montana Department of Commerce. This letter is to support the Kootenai River Development Council and a Big Sky Trust Fund application for a Planning Grant for Preliminary Engineering Report. The money will be used for the Kootenai Industrial Park assessment. Commissioner Larson moved to approve signing the letter and it carried.

2:10 PM: The commissioners read the **minutes of the September 3, and September 9, meetings**. Commissioner Cole moved to approve the minutes as amended and it carried.

2:30 PM: **Decision on the Video Conferencing equipment:** The commissioners discussed the presentation made by Ric Kesling, IT Director two weeks ago. Commissioner Larson moved to approve the purchase of the equipment for video conferencing. Commissioner Cole seconded for discussion. Commissioner Cole said he feels like we have a great deal of equipment that is not used as it should be. He feels that this could save money over time, but wonders if it will be utilized as it is presented. Commissioner Berget feels that it will be used a lot and save a lot of money. Krista Nemeroff of the Tobacco Valley News is on the conference phone. The commissioners asked Krista if she would utilize this service on commissioner meeting days, and she answered that she thought she would. Commissioner Larson pointed out that Lincoln County has much greater distances to drive than many counties. Chris from the Kootenai Valley Record asked if the commissioner's office would be open on Wednesdays when the commissioners are in Eureka. He was told that it would. The commissioners voted on the motion and it carried.

3:00 PM: The **meeting was adjourned**.

#### **LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

---

Anthony Berget, Chairman

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Tammy D. Lauer, Clerk of the Board