

September 4, 2019

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on September 4, 2019, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Letcher, Commissioner Peck, County Administrator Darren Coldwell and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson.

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

9:30 AM **Forest Supervisor Update/Chad Benson:** Present were County Forester Jennifer Nelson and Ray Stout. Also present was Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

Ripley Project: Large acreage, comment period ended, no negative or adverse comments received so far.

Black Ram Project: Working through the comments, hoping to make a decision soon.

Pacific Northwest Trail: Intent to sue from Yaak Valley Forest Council over process which forces the forest service to shut down the project. Commissioner Peck asked how the county can support the forest service. Chad said we can only work through it; it's basically a lawsuit about inaction, which is different from the norm.

Hoo Doo Project: Looking good, moving along and is on track. Chad expressed a desire to sit down with the commissioners to talk about opportunities available. Commissioner Peck commented he would like to talk about the long-term picture.

Goal: 65mmbf for this year, shooting for more next year; on track to meet goals.

Fire Season: Current and future weather conditions has opened up opportunities for some prescribed burns.

Flower Creek Road: Chad said the question is the gate and who takes maintenance. If there are easements, what's the language on this. Commissioner Peck said that would be more aligned with the city, the county has no interest on maintaining that road.

Other Projects are on track, Pinkham Meadows signing should take place just after the first of the year. Chad said the forest service continues to work with W.R. Grace on potential fuels treatment projects.

Commissioner Letcher commented about the reservoir in North Lincoln County, and the long-distance citizens need to drive to get to a boat ramp.

Commissioner Bennett commented about moving forward, and how the county can help or partner; just let us know.

Commissioner Peck talked about having a joint planning meeting with state, county, and federal to walk through all the new authorities and launch into a quick planning for shared stewardship in Lincoln County and what that looks like; there is grant money available for this.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues:** Present were County Forester Jennifer Nelson. Also present was Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

- Robin presented the minutes for August 28, 2019 regular meeting for Commissioner approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve minutes as presented. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.
- Commissioner Bennett commented that he and Commissioner Letcher will be in DC next week at the invitation of the White House and to meet with our Montana legislators. The White House invitation is something fairly new, this is the 2nd year. The White House invites county commissioners for an update from several states at a time.
- Commissioner Bennett commented that the secondary access at the port authority is moving forward with no conditions.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time:** Present were Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

There were no public comments.

11:00 AM **Adoption of 2019/2020 Annual budget:** Present were Finance Director Wendy Drake and Ray Stout. Also present was Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

Darren submitted the final Levy Requirement Schedule and Non-Levied Funds Spreadsheet for FY 2019/2020. Non-levied funds are mostly grants, PILT, and fee based budgets for a total of \$3,650,962.

The Lincoln County Levy Requirement Schedule reflects a balanced budget of \$10,039,070. Permissive Insurance Levy budget is \$843,986, SRS budget is \$68,859, road budget is \$3,593,057 for a total of \$14,544,972.

Darren commented the budget is supporting itself and we are hopeful the revenues continue to increase.

Commissioner Bennett read Resolution 2019-12 in its entirety. Resolution 2019-12 adopts the levies for operation of Lincoln County for FY 2019/2020. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve Resolution 2019-12 as presented.

Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Peck asked about acknowledging employees because they are a big part of a balanced budget. Darren suggested atta-boy cards to show employee appreciation. The commissioners discussed creating a policy for department heads to come to the commissioners for atta-boy type recognition for employees on a limited basis approved by the commissioners.

The commissioners commended the finance department for all their work and efforts.

11:15 AM **Eureka Sports Facility Contribution:** Present were Ray Stout. Also present was Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

The commissioners expressed support for the Eureka sports Facility contribution.

Motion by Commissioner Bennett to approve taking \$10,000 from Hard Rock Trust Reserve for the Eureka Sports Facility. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

11:30 AM **Approval of District School Budgets:** Present were County Treasurer/School Superintendent Sedaris Carlberg and Ray Stout. Also present was Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

Sedaris presented the school budgets for commissioner approval.

Motion by Commissioner Bennett to approve Lincoln County school budget reports for:

Troy Elementary

Troy High School

Eureka Elementary

Lincoln County High School

Fortine Elementary

McCormick Elementary

Yaak Elementary

Trego Elementary

Libby K-12 Schools

Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

Sedaris commented that investment returns came in at approximately \$31,000 in interest in one month.

Sedaris talked about potentially implementing e-statements for tax bills. A letter would be sent to property owners on payment method preference.

11:45 AM **Weed Department Acquisition of Side by Side:** Present were Weed Director Dan Williams, Mike Bradeen and Ray Stout. Also present was Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

Mike submitted 2 quotes for a new utility vehicle for the Weed Department. Quotes were from Montana Power Products/\$22,346.22 and Dream Marine/\$22,746.59. Dan stated the money is already set aside; not asking for any budget changes.

See quotes in their entirety at lincolncountymt.us (see minutes).

Motion by Commissioner Letcher to purchase a utility vehicle for the weed department from Montana Power Products, Libby for \$22,346.22. Second by Commissioner Bennett, motion carried unanimously.

Dan clarified the weed department does not have a capital improvement fund but does maintain a revolving loan fund for these types of purchases. Dan commented that all the weed department buildings and equipment are funded through the revolving loan fund; the weed department is self-sufficient.

12:00 PM **Meeting Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mark Peck, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Robin A. Benson, Clerk of the Board