

August 15, 2017

Gilbralter Ridge Fire Update

Present were Commissioner Cole, Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Peck, County Administrator Darren Coldwell, Brent Teske, Brent Shrum, Dan Rose, Rick Connell, Jim Oberhofer, Chris Savage, Ernie Anderson and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson.

10:00 AM Incident Commander, Rick Connell presented an area map showing the status of the Gilbralter Ridge Fire. Rick informed the commission that approximately 30 homes or 60 residents previously evacuated have been let back into their homes. The goal now is to keep the fire on forest service land and away from public lands by creating a fuel break. Commissioner Cole said he appreciates the hard work and effort to contain the fire by law enforcement and forest service, fire departments, and other responders. Commissioner Cole commented that he did receive a call from Senator Daines with the same sentiment. Vic said the first 24 hours, the deputies made hard and fast decisions, the IT Department was called in in the middle of the night to begin mapping the area, Eureka Fire Department began structure protection right away, the Red Cross Shelter was implemented quickly and other agencies such as forest service, border patrol all contributed to the best cooperation that can be expected. Sheriff Bowe said the connectivity was good between agencies and personnel. Jim personally wanted to thank Sheriff Bowe for being very engaged and super to work with. Rick showed a Power Point of pictures of the area before and after the fire.

10:45 AM County Buildings/Structures:

Darren submitted a report indicating Libby District and Troy Road Department buildings/structures that are and are not insured for commission review. Darren said he would arrange a meeting with Road Supervisor Marc McCully and Glacier Insurance to follow up.

1:00 PM Sheriff Department Budget: Present were Sheriff Roby Bowe and Undersheriff Brandon Huff.

Roby shared his disappointment after reading minutes from previous finance meetings, specifically May 30, July 6, and August 1, 2017. Roby said he feels there is a communication problem that needs to be discussed. Roby said he has looked into the overtime and comp time hours for July and submitted a report detailing those hours. Brandon explained the overtime hours and requested to be included in all finance meetings if the sheriff's department is to be part of the discussion so he can explain expenses directly to the Commission. Brandon pointed out that one of the budget increases is due to the cost of feeding prisoners which is not expected to go down. Commissioner Peck thanked Roby and Brandon for the report detailing expenditures, stating it was very beneficial. Darren said he would email or communicate with the sheriff's department so expenditures are accurately defined and communicated.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mike Cole, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Robin Benson, Clerk of the Board