

February 28, 2017

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a special session on February 28, 2017, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Cole, Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Peck, County Administrator Darren Coldwell and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson.

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

9:00 AM **Treatment Court Discussion:** Present were JP Judge Jay Sheffield, Deputy County Attorney Marcia Boris, Jennifer McCully, Sheriff Roby Bowe, and District Court Judge Matt Cuffe.

Jennifer said this conversation is the beginning discussion for competitive planning...a year ahead of a grant cycle. The name of the grant is the Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program. It's a 3 year grant up to \$350,000 with a 25% match. The purpose of the program is to enhance drug court programs and systems for nonviolent criminally involved persons with substance use disorders.

Jennifer said a treatment court would have a project coordinator and an outpatient therapist. Both of those positions would be included in the 3 year grant. Mr. Cuffe said the whole treatment court is funded and designed to be fully grant funded; not asking the county for any money.

Jennifer said there are time saving benefits in the long run for judges, courts, and law-enforcement. Commissioner Cole asked if there were tangible results that are tractable. Commissioner Peck asked where this is going to be housed at; location needs to be considered.

Robin questioned the 25% county portion and how it will be paid for. Jennifer said matches can be by donations such as DUI Task Force, MDT, and a portion of law enforcement and judge's wages can be a part of the match. Jennifer said collectively the match builds up quickly. Jennifer stated there would be no hard match requested from the county.

10:00 AM **Budget Work Session:** Present were Accounting Deputy Wendy Drake.

- Robin discussed a conversation she had with Department of Administration, Lead Accountant Magda Nelson regarding McCormick Fire District. Magda received a complaint from a taxpayer with allegations of misuse of funds. Robin said that according to Magda, if the district is set up by the county it gives the commissioners power if it comes to misuse of funds. There is evidence in the M.C.A. that requires the county to act if allegations are valid. Fire District language in particular states the county must act. Commissioner Bennett said he is aware of the complaints and public allegations and attended the last McCormick Fire District Board meeting and will continue to be involved to address those concerns. Commissioner Peck suggested potentially combining McCormick Fire District and the Yaak Fire Service Area.
- Robin questioned the grant administrator position; how serious is the commissioners to pursue this avenue to oversee all federal funds received by the county. The grant administrator would also write county grants to generate revenue and the administrative fees within the grants would be the main source of their income. The commissioners and Darren agreed this avenue should be further discussed as we enter into the FY 17/18 budget process.
- Robin submitted 5 years of PILT expenditure reports with pay detail for commissioner and county administrator review. The commissioners agreed that all claims submitted by departments to be paid out of PILT should have commissioner or county administrator approval.
- Robin said she is coordinating with Magda Nelson, Lead Accountant for the Department of Administration to set up meetings with her and Darren to plan a new district budget process. Robin said she is also coordinating with Magda to participate in this year's County Board training. Robin will keep everyone informed.
- Commissioner Peck commented that during the Department Supervisor training we should discuss vacancy savings, and potentially putting a cap on vacation and comp time.
- Darren said he is currently reviewing all the current contracts to determine if there can be any savings to the county. Darren said he is also reviewing all the county properties and determining use vs. cost of maintenance.
- Darren asked about vacation on a use it or lose it basis and potentially offering an incentive for retirement. Commissioner Peck said everything needs to be on the table and reviewed.
- Darren is researching different road department levies or possible gas tax instead of a levy. Robin said she had done some research with other counties and will get that information to Darren to review.
- Commissioner Peck said he has not been able to narrow down a date yet with Dan Clark to lead the Budget Committee. Commissioner Peck commented that he sees no reason to have 2 dispatches in South Lincoln County. He does not care where dispatch is located, just makes no sense since it is technology driven.
- Darren asked about a potential hiring freeze. The commissioners said it is on a case by case basis. Department supervisors must receive permission. Darren said the GIS position may be a viable option to look at to restructure internally and not hire outside. Darren suggested consolidating employees.

12:00 PM **Meeting adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mike Cole, Chairman

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