

April 25, 2018

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on April 25, 2018, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Cole, Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Peck, County Administrator Darren Coldwell and Deputy Clerk and Recorder Chris Nelson.

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

10:00 AM **Adoption of Ordinance Codification and Adoption of 2018-01; 2018-02; 2018-03; 2018-04 Ordinances:** Present were Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson, Deputy County Attorney Josh Nemeth, Alan Gerstenecker and John Blodgett.

Commissioner Bennett conducted a first reading of Ordinances 2018-01, 2018-02, 2018-03, and 2018-04. **MOTION** by Commissioner Peck to approve the first reading of Ordinances 2018-01, 2018-02, 2018-03 and 2018-04. Commissioner Bennett commended Robin and Josh on their hard work. Josh gave a brief description of the ordinance process and their importance. Commissioner Peck also commended Robin and Josh on their work. Motion passed unanimously. Robin will schedule a second reading of the ordinances in May.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues:** Present were Mike Rooney, John Blodgett, Alan Gerstenecker, Larry Smith and Robin Benson.

Robin said they had the fire district elections and there is a set filing deadline. McCormick ended up with one vacant position for which they received one application to fill the vacancy with Joanna Los. **MOTION** by Commissioner Bennett to approve the appointment of Joanna Los to the McCormick Fire Board. Second by Commissioner Peck. Motion carried unanimously.

Robin received an email informing her that at the last Upper Yaak Fire Board meeting they voted to recommend George Lacy and Robert Goodwin to be appointed by the commissioners to the Upper Yaak Fire Board. **MOTION** by Commissioner Peck to approve the board's recommendation of Robert Goodwin and George Lacy to serve on the Upper Yaak Fire Board. Second by Commissioner Peck. Commissioner Bennett said that he and Commissioner Cole had wanted to follow up with the board previously to make sure the proper process was followed for the appointments. Motion carried unanimously.

Robin next presented the minutes for April 17th and 18th 2018 to the board for approval. **MOTION** by Commissioner Bennett to approve the minutes of April 17th and 18th 2018 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Peck said the Idaho Forest Group is asking for a letter of support to the USFS that all the bids remain open until they complete going through a three-year adjustment period after their purchase of TriCon Timber.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time:** Present were Mike Rooney, John Blodgett, Larry Smith and Alan Gerstenecker.

Mike Rooney said he wanted to see if the board had a chance to look at the letter he had presented them concerning the selenium in the reservoir and Kootenai River from coal mines in Canada. Commissioner Bennett said it is important there is an established threshold of selenium. Commissioner Cole said his biggest concern isn't the fish first it is the dust that comes from the reservoir and what the effects of the selenium in the air could be. Commissioner Peck said the data he has seen from the monitoring of the water coming in to the lake needs more study.

Larry Smith said Leona Road cuts through his property providing access to the river. He would like permission to put speed bumps in during the summer to slow drivers down in that area which he would be willing to pay for. He said there is also a problem with dust in that area which higher speeds exacerbate. Commissioner Bennett said he will research the issue, but believes speed bumps on county roads are illegal, as well as the minimum speed limit on a county road is 25 mph.

11:00 AM **Road Abandonment/Snowshoe Trail Road:** Present were Marc McCully, Kathleen Disney, Alan Gerstenecker, Charlie Harple and John Blodgett

Robin said the meeting is a public hearing for the abandonment of Snowshoe Trail Road. Commissioner Cole asked for public comment. Charlie Harple asked if it was a public road now. Marc said it was. Kathleen Disney said her family has patented mining claims in that area and want to make sure they would have access to their claims. Marc said they would still have access. **MOTION** by Commissioner Peck to declare the Snowshoe Road that runs through Steve Byington's property abandoned. Second by Commissioner Bennett. Motion carried unanimously

11:00 AM **Approval of Weed Grants:** Present were Dan Williams, Alan Gerstenecker, Nikki Meyer and John Blodgett. **MOTION** by Commissioner Bennett to approve the Lincoln County Cooperative Rush Skeletonweed Management Grant, the Cooperative Tansy Ragwort Management Grant and the private Cooperative Tansy Ragwort Grant. Second by Commissioner Peck. Motion carried unanimously.

11:30 AM **Pacific Northwest Trail Discussion:** Present were John Blodgett, Nikki Meyer, Jessie Grossman and Alan Gerstenecker.

Commissioner Peck said they are not necessarily opposed to moving the trail but the lack of public involvement and stakeholder involvement. Commissioner Bennett also wondered where the funds would come from. Commissioner Peck said he would be reluctant to sign a letter of support without congressional dialogue in Montana and Idaho and more public involvement. feels he would be reluctant to sign a letter of support without some of those things. He said it would be very beneficial if the project was made clearer to the public. Commissioner Peck said it is also vital the congressional representatives from Montana and Idaho speak with each other.

1:00 PM **Salary Review Decision:** Present were Roby Bowe, Brent Faulkner, Brian Griffeth, Brad Dodson, Dallas Bowe, Wendy Drake, Alan Gerstenecker, and Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

Darren said the finance department has been reviewing salaries, and has found some errors. Darren is requesting to table this discussion to give H.R. and Finance a couple weeks to ensure we are voting on correct base salaries. Darren said it is important to be sure that everyone receives the correct base wage and that we are following the Montana Code.

Commissioner Bennett commented that when we find an error, we have an ethical obligation to fix it. The commission agreed to table this discussion for a couple more weeks.

1:30 PM **Planning Department:** Present were Jake Mertes, Kristin Smith, Alan Gerstenecker,

- **Shelterwood Park Subdivision Road Question:** Jake is requesting clarification on the issue of the road sign requirement. Condition #12 under Road Maintenance reads: *The roads that are indicated need to be amended to read Mud Lake Road and Shelterwood Trail; (N. Mud Lake Road is not acceptable as road physically connects. If road was to be blocked, then maybe a new (unique) road name could be used.)*

Developers have blocked off the road and are requesting a unique road name per discussion in condition #12. Kristin commented that emergency services and a secondary access should be taken into consideration before any decision. Commissioner Bennett expressed a concern that if a new road name is established, jersey rails or enforced concrete need to be placed and never be moved. Commissioner Peck said he sees two issues; emergency egress and access to properties. Commissioner Cole requested the planning staff to conduct more research prior to any decision. Kristin said the question is what legal access is there on Mud Lake Road and also suggested an inquiry to the Troy or Bull Lake Fire Department. Discussion tabled until May 9, 2018 to allow planning staff and commission time to research easements and make a site visit

2:00 PM **Meeting Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mike Cole, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Robin Benson, Clerk of the Board