

December 7, 2022

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on December 7, 2022 in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Letcher, Commissioner Bennett, County Administrator Jim Hammons, and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson.

Meeting allows for teleconferencing and VisionNet availability.

Commissioner Bennett opened the meeting with the **Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer**.

**9:30 AM Troy Rural Fire Annexation Proposal:** Present were Herb Gregory, Noah Pyle, Veronica Bovee-Anderson, County Planner Jesse Haag, Jerry Regh, Ray Stout, Rebecca Nelson, and Scott Shindledecker.

Herb submitted petitions for inclusion into the Troy Rural Fire District and explained that initially a resident came to a fire district meeting requesting to be annexed and went out to neighbors to attain other requests within the Eagle Cove Subdivision. Herb is requesting annexation of Eagle Cove Subdivision and 12 properties at the end of Kootenai River Road. Land Specialist Noah Pyle verified the 40% requirement pursuant to 7-33-2125(a) has been met. Herb commented that it would be beneficial if new developments/subdivisions could all be included when they are within the fire district.

Commissioner Bennett said those conversations are taking place and fire districts would have to sign off on that.

Robin read MCA 7-33-2125(b) regarding scheduling public hearing and public notice for the annexation.

The Commissioners directed Robin to move forward with the public notice and to schedule the public hearing on January 4<sup>th</sup>. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to accept the petition and move forward with the public hearing process. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

**9:45 AM GIS Contract/Update:** Present were Veronica Bovee-Anderson, County Planner Jesse Haag, County Addressing Michelle Byrd, Jerry Regh, Kenny Rayome Jr., Ray Stout, Rebecca Nelson, and Scott Shindledecker.

Ashley briefed the commissioners about her work going through all county addresses in Lincoln County, saying the goal is making sure everyone knows their correct address. Ashley commented that she has received 21 responses from the online GIS/Addressing Verification and only 3 needed readdressing. Ashley explained that approximately 60 residents in the Troy area (mainly along Bull Lake Road) and approximately 50 residents in Libby and Eureka combined will need to be readdressed per the 50' standard set by commissioners for readdressing. Robin commented that is not bad actually, when considering 14,000+ structures.

Robin explained that a letter will go to those residents who will need to readdress on Commissioner letterhead, and further explained that the address verification tool on the county website needs to be publicized on websites and facebook pages, and via newspapers. Robin clarified that you do not get correct addresses from google or cadastral; Lincoln County is the only source for correct address verification. Robin said she will contact local realtors via letter, hoping that address verification could be done during the home buy/sell process.

Commissioner Teske agreed it would be helpful to reach out to realtors with address verification information.

Commissioner Letcher commented that we have come a long ways and appreciates everyone's help.

Robin requested commissioners to review the draft readdressing letter that will go out to residents.

Commissioner Bennett submitted OutlawGIS contract for GIS services through December 2023.

**Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve the GIS/Addressing Contract as submitted. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

**10:00 AM USFS:** Present were KNF Forest Supervisor Chad Benson, Veronica Bovee-Anderson, Jerry Regh, Kenny Rayome Jr., Ray Stout, Rebecca Nelson, and Scott Shindledecker.

The commissioners and KNF Forest Supervisor Chad Benson discussed current projects that are moving forward.

There are still several projects tied up in litigation and Chad said he will keep commissioners posted; right now we are all waiting.

Chad said he is trying to get meetings set up about the Snowshoe Trail project.

Commissioner Teske said he appreciates any efforts keeping that project moving forward.

Chad talked about grants/federal funds that will open up work on the Kootenai and the hope of getting a few things out of the litigation. Chad expressed there is a lot of support across the region to keep putting work into the system.

Commissioner Letcher talked about dead ponderosa pines along Hwy 37 near Rexford and that he has received complaints. Commissioner Letcher expressed concerns regarding fire hazard and did not want to see the trees go to waste.

**10:30 AM Administrative Issues-Old Business:** Present were Veronica Bovee-Anderson, Ray Stout, Rebecca Nelson, and Scott Shindledecker.

- Robin submitted the minutes for November 21 special session and November 30, 2022 regular meeting for approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve minutes as submitted. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.
- Commissioner Letcher noted that a payment has been received from the Tobacco Valley Rodeo Association. That revenue will go towards fairground maintenance.

**10:45 AM AM Public Comment Time:** There were no public comments.

**11:00 AM Planning / Montana Lakes II Final Plat:** Present were County Planner Jesse Haag, Toby Liechti, Scott Shindledecker, Ray Stout, and Rebecca Nelson.

Jesse explained there are a couple of errors on the mylars regarding driveways, addressing, and a statement regarding a waiver for special improvement district all need to be noted on the final plat.

Toby commented he will make those additions.

No decisions were made at this time.

11:15 AM **Review/Approval regarding Meadow Peak Communications Tower Grant:** Present were Sheriff Darren Short, Undersheriff Brent Faulkner, Kirk Kraft, Brent Shrum, Scott Shindledecker, Ray Stout and Rebecca Nelson. Sheriff Short said all bids were reviewed. All requirements were met for low bid Buchholz, out of Kalispell total \$149,873.

**Motion** by Commissioner Teske to accept bid from Buchholz for \$149,873 as presented. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Teske noted that he has worked with Buchholz in the past and expressed they are very capable.

11:30 PM **Adjourned**

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Jerry Bennett, Chairman

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Robin Benson, Clerk of the Board