

March 23, 2022

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on March 23, 2022 in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Letcher and Deputy Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown.

Meeting allows for teleconferencing and VisionNet availability.

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

9:00 AM **Judge Sheffield: Office Upgrade:** Present were Jay Sheffield, Vanissa Williamson, Rebecca Nelson, Ray Stout and Derrick Perkins.

Judge Sheffield spoke of the request submitted to upgrade and use the former Weed Department room to house the Lincoln County Crisis Response Team. Judge Sheffield advised volunteers will paint if materials are supplied and provided a quote to replace the old flooring. Commissioner Teske asked if this room is of sufficient size. Judge Sheffield said the room has 17' X 12' office space. Commissioner Bennett proposed funding from PILT to upgrade first this room and then look at the entire lower level. Commissioner Teske commented he likes to see these spaces utilized for more than storage. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to fund up to \$2,000 toward this upgrade. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

9:15 AM **Libby Food Pantry:** Present were Karen Casey, Chloe Adamson, Rhea Bernardy, Neil Bernardy, Rebecca Nelson, Ray Stout and Derrick Perkins.

Commissioner Teske gave an overview of relocating the Libby Food Pantry. After scouring the county, Commissioners signed a lease for the Jaycee Clubhouse last week located on Balsam Avenue. The Libby Food Pantry is requesting funding for renovations needed to bring this facility up to code. Grants have been sought yet not approved for various reasons including not owning the building. The Pantry reported receiving \$21,000 in grants to date. Chloe stated they are serving 220 residents this week, and commented they are seeing requests from Troy and Eureka residents as well. Commissioner Teske reiterated the need within our community for this service. The Libby Food Pantry is seeking \$115,000 from the county to complete essential renovations. Commissioner Bennett advised they may seek funds through an ARPA grant as it is allocated via needs. Commissioner Bennett wants to see what the exact match is for the minimum allocations and if it is even applicable within the guidelines of the funds. This funding will require quote submittals from the Pantry. Chloe advised they need to move quickly as their current facility is no longer available as of May 2022. Commissioner Teske confirmed the commissioners will have funding answers to the Libby Food Pantry by next week.

9:30 AM **Adam Gill: MFFA:** Present were Adam Gill, Rebecca Nelson, Ray Stout and Derrick Perkins.

Adam explained the statewide program for properly assessed enhancements to commercial facilities to save energy. This is available through special assessment of property allowing longer financing terms and lower interest rates. The loan transfers to the new owner when a facility is sold as the loan's tied to the property. Adam reviewed the criteria of what is eligible and some types of applications: commercial, industrial, agricultural, housing, mixed use facilities, and workforce housing. Adam stated this loan is not tied to income level. Adam reviewed the process to establish this program in Lincoln County. Commissioner Bennett advised they will look at some model resolutions along with the county attorney and thanked Adam for his information regarding ways to assist residents to enhance their facilities.

10:15 AM **Kimberly Mole: Troy Dispatch:** Present were Robert E Hamlyn, Kimberly Mole, Mike Bradeen, Veronica Anderson, Brent Faulkner, Darren Short, Rebecca Nelson, Ray Stout and Derrick Perkins.

Kimberly reiterated her reporting to the commissioners over her frustration with a public safety issue regarding Troy Dispatch response. Kimberly advised she heard Commissioner Bennett has publicly stated he is making a priority of this public safety issue. Commissioner Bennett commented that he is looking into not only the dispatch delay but also the financing. Sherriff Short advised he is not aware of any other county in the state that has three dispatch centers. Commissioner Bennett advised he will prioritize a discussion of balancing community needs with the tough financial times on the horizon.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues: Mike Bradeen, Compliance Letters. Resolution of Intent #2022-9:** Present were Tom Lane, Mike Bradeen, Kenny Raymore Jr, Veronica Anderson, Rebecca Nelson, Peggy Williams, Ray Stout and Derrick Perkins.

- Corrina submitted the minutes for March 16, 2022 regular meeting for approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve minutes as submitted. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.
- Mike advised he submitted copies of the compliance letters being sent out. Mike advised he has met with Stimson and discussed specifics to Lincoln County. Commissioner Teske commented that awareness of this weed requirement is needed. Commissioner Bennett reviewed the three identical letters. **Motion** by Commissioner Letcher to Approve and Sign the letters to Green Diamond Resource Company, Southern Pines Land and Timber Company and Stimson Lumber Company regarding a weed management plan. Second by Commissioner Teske, motion carried unanimously.
- Resolution of Intent 2022-09. Commissioner Bennett advised this resolution for Trego Fortine Stryker Fire Service Area is to amend their Fee Schedule. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to Approve Resolution 2022-09. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Bennett commented that 30 years is a bit long to address fee schedules.
- Kenny Raymore Jr. submitted a letter to define the City of Libby's ability to provide water and sewer to the Port Authority without annexing the Port into the city limits. Commissioner Teske advised the MCA's supported this option for the city.

- Commissioner Bennet entertained a motion to authorize signing the MCEP and RRGL grant applications. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to Approve MCEP and RRGL applications to improve the water & sewer systems at the Libby Creek Community, Inc. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.
- Commissioner Letcher submitted a letter on behalf to Kathi Hooper regarding her designation as Environmental Certifying Official for the CDBG-CV grant awarded to Lincoln County, Montana for HVAC Improvements to the TFS Community Hall. Commissioner Letcher discussed the required ADA county building assessment. Commissioner Bennett advised Jim Hammons will work to compile a list of facilities and required postings.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time:** Present were Veronica Anderson, Peggy Williams, Rebecca Nelson, Ray Stout and Derrick Perkins.

Peggy Williams discussed City of Libby actions regarding marijuana. Commissioner Bennett commented they are putting information together for the various cities to review regarding marijuana.

11:00 AM **Mike Satre; Hecla Mining** Present were Mike Satre, Chas Vincent, Peggy Williams, Veronica Anderson, Rebecca Nelson, Ray Stout and Derrick Perkins.

Mike introduced himself and discussed Hecla's intent to roll out changes in unlocking the value in ore deposits at Rock Creek and Montanore. Mike advised they have taken existing permits as far as they could. Mike went on to say, they have come to the decision that they need to do something different to open a mine. Hecla has filed a new plan of operation for a distinct and separate evaluation project. Hecla is seeking authorization for new exploration and will collect and analyze the data. Hecla will then proceed given the results of the findings. Hecla anticipates a 6-year window for this exploration. Hecla is walking away from Rock Creek for now and focusing on the exploration of Montanore. During this time, they will maintain the water treatment process, access and will have no surface disturbance. Hecla will review the exploration and return with the results. Commissioner Bennett inquired of the drilling to be done. Mike confirmed the additional footage. Mike advised the Forest Service has the plan of operation in hand and their response will guide their operation in the coming month. Mike advised he is available for communications. Commissioner Teske suggested Mike take his presentation of the new Hecla Mining plan to the City of Libby and Peggy Williams concurred. Commissioner Bennett suggested Mike also get on the meeting agenda with the City of Troy.

11:20 PM **Meeting Adjourned**

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Jerry Bennett, Chairman

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Corrina Brown, Deputy Clerk