

October 12, 2022

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on October 12, 2022 in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Letcher, County Administrator Jim Hammons, and Clerk & Recorder Robin Benson. Commissioner Bennett was excused.

Meeting allows for teleconferencing and VisionNet availability.

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

10:00 AM Health Department: Present were Kathi Hooper, Jennifer McCully, Bryan Alkire, Veronica Bovee-Anderson, Tom Lane, Ray Stout and Rebecca Nelson.

Kathi talked about the Accela software program; there have been some delays but starting to progress again. Will be migrating in the septic permits and will request a temp to help with that process. Customizing the permit application and will coordinate a meeting with septic installers to train them how to use the software. Accela will help improve public service and county employee time. Septic permit applications are not slowing down, 106 applications received in the 3rd quarter.

Kathi said two employees plan to retire this fall at the landfill. Advertising for the assistant manager position, hoping for good applications. Bryan commented that employees will have training on operating the air curtain burner and it should be operational next week. Kathi said the landfill expansion project is moving forward. Currently working on finalizing the contract.

Jennifer shared a video to promote the Zero to Five Program. Zero To Five is a multi-agency collaborative program to positively affect the lives of young children ages zero to five. Zero To Five Program connects children, parents, and community agencies, providing positive opportunities and resources to children and families in Lincoln County.

Commissioner Letcher commented that Zero To Five is a great program, but it saddens him that we need a program to get parents, children and community to interact; it used to be just a normal everyday part of life.

10:30 AM Administrative Issues/Old Business: Present were Veronica Bovee-Anderson, Tom Lane, Ray Stout and Rebecca Nelson.

- Robin submitted the minutes for October 5, 2022 regular meeting for approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve minutes as submitted. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried.
- Brent said he went out to look at a bridge in the Silver Butte area on Barren Peak road, nice bridge. Gathering costs and other information to be useful for bridge assessments on some of our county bridges.

10:45 AM Public Comment Time: Present were Veronica Bovee-Anderson, Tom Lane, Ray Stout, Scott Shindlecker, and Rebecca Nelson.

There were no public comments.

11:00 AM HECLA Mining: Present were Bruce Vincent, Doug Stiles, John Downey representing HECLA Mining. Also present were Veronica Bovee-Anderson, Tom Lane, Ray Stout, Scott Shindlecker, and Rebecca Nelson.

Doug gave a general update on HECLA. Acquired a new company in the Yukon, good jurisdiction and project, mainly silver mining. As an organization, looking for those silver type mining projects and continue to grow and be the largest silver producer in the Northwest.

Doug commented that in 2021, Montanore received an adverse ruling from Judge Maloney. Decided to rescind both projects, Rock Creek and Montanore and move more to additional work under ground. Rather than continue going for permitting, we are refocused to conduct more exploration, infrastructure projects. Makes sense to get more underground information. Do not plan to resubmit Rock Creek at this time. Submitted plan to the forest service just for exploration at Montanore, to continue to use forest service roads. The forest service will complete an environmental assessment, and a decision will probably happen by this time next year. As well as a NEPA assessment, working to get a new discharge water permit with DEQ. Hoping by this time next year to continue dewatering. Doug explained that folks who will oppose, will try to make it bigger than it is. It is important to understand, this is not a mining project, it is an exploration project. There is basically no material impact.

12:00 PM Break

1:30 PM Planning / Final Plat Review, Meadow Peak: Present were County Planner Jesse Haag, Brett Duvall and Byron Sanderson.

Jesse presented Meadow Peak Subdivision for final plat approval. Meadow Peak is a 36-lot subdivision located on Hwy 2, East of Happy's Inn. Preliminary plat was approved June last year with 19 conditions. All conditions have been met, and planning staff recommends commissioner approval. All the roads have been named through county addressing.

Motion by Commissioner Teske to approve final plat to Meadow Peak Subdivision based on planning staff recommendation. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried. Robin asked if the lots were addressed yet. Jesse said the addressing of lots will happen during the preliminary process moving forward.

2:00 PM Adjourned

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jerry Bennett, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Robin Benson, Clerk of the Board