

September 7, 2022

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

Meeting allows for teleconferencing and VisionNet availability.

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

10:30 AM Administrative Issues/Old Business: Present were Ray Stout, Ken Withee, Gary Isaacson and Michael Roediger, and Scott Shindledecker.

- Corrina submitted the minutes for August 31, 2022 regular meeting and September 2, 2022 special session for approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Letcher to approve minutes as submitted. Second by Commissioner Teske, motion carried unanimously.
- Commissioner Bennett advised he along with a couple others are planning a trip to Washington DC and wanted to publicly receive approval to under-write the trip. Commissioner Teske commented that seems to be the only way to gain the attention of the Chief of the Forest Service. **Motion** by Commissioner Letcher to under-write the DC trip for flights and hotel. Second by Commissioner Teske, motion carried unanimously.
- Commissioner Bennett requested authorization for \$3,000 TEDD funds to the Port Authority. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve the annual funding to the LCPA with TEDD funds. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.
- Commissioner Bennett requested discussion regarding completing a lake shore permit for Dorr Skeels Road. Commissioner Letcher commented that the Forest Service probably may not have known that they needed to get a county permit for their project on their lands.
- Commissioner Letcher advised the Tobacco Valley Industrial District has been subdivided from its creation but no deeds were created for the individual lots. Commissioner Bennett will discuss waiving recording fees with Robin Benson, Clerk & Recorder.

10:45 AM Public Comment Time: Present were Ray Stout, Ken Withee, Gary Isaacson, Michael Roediger and Scott Shindledecker.

Michael commented this setting is different than two years ago when they had good public notice and about 30 people in attendance for assessment changes. Michael advised there are improvements with the Fisher River Fire Service Board, the tax base and cell tower. Michael is concerned with the community volunteer fire department not being used exclusively for public service but rather being contracted to DNRC.

Commissioner Bennett confirmed they have not received any request for additional funding from Fisher River Valley Fire District (FRVFD).

Commissioner Teske advised there is no change in the current budget for FRVFD, the assessment fee is unchanged.

Commissioner Teske commented that public notice will be made if a proposal is received.

Gary asked about how the public has a say. Commissioner Teske advised there will be a public hearing where everyone can have a say.

Commissioner Bennett advised the State policy is to take private fire service over district service except for initial attack.

Gary questioned the criteria with assessment of structures. Commissioner Teske provided informational documents.

11:30 AM Public Hearing, Final Budget Resolution and Adoption: Present were Finance Officer Wendy Drake, HR Director Dallas Bowe, Veronica Bovee-Anderson, Scott Shindledecker, Tom Lane and Ray Stout.

Commissioner Bennett opened the public hearing for comment.

Wendy noted the budget is balanced for FY 22/23.

Commissioner Bennett expressed that although he will not be here, the two biggest departments, public safety and the library, moving forward the county will need to look at the non-tax resources going to those departments. We do have a balanced budget, wish the federal government could do that.

Commissioner Letcher read Resolution 2022-22 Mill Levies Adopted FY 2022/2023.

Commissioner Bennett noted that the employee wage and insurance increase came to approximately \$277,000.

Commissioners will need to look at this going forward. There comes a point where it is not feasible, although nobody wants to hear that.

Dallas commented that employee insurance is approximately 1.6 million. Wendy noted there is permissive mills that help with the insurance cost.

Motion by Commissioner Teske to approve Resolution 2022-22 Levies for Lincoln County FY 2022/2023. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Teske commented about Department Head budget training. Wendy noted that she did put training webinars on the county website and sent the information to the department heads.

There were no public comments.

12:00 PM Break

1:30 PM **Planning / Preliminary Plat Sherwood Subdivision / Final Plat Lake Creek Phase III:** Present were County Planner Jesse Haag, and Planning Consultant Kristin Smith.

Sherwood Subdivision is located in Eureka, north of Hwy. 37 and access is off Kooconusa Estates Drive from Douglas Hill. Proposal is for two 10-acres parcels with a shared driveway. Kristin gave an overview of the subdivision report and 9 conditions. Planning staff recommends commissioners to grant preliminary approval to Sherwood Subdivision subject to conditions and based on the findings in the staff report. A new Condition #10 will be added that addresses be assigned to both lots prior to final plat. Commissioner Bennett requested additional language to Condition #3, add specific standards for driveway minimum of 14 ft wide with 2 ft shoulders, grade not to exceed 9%.

Motion by Commissioner Teske to approve with additional language to Condition #3 and new Condition #10 as stated above. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

Jesse presented final plat for Lake Creek Ranch Phase III. All conditions have been met and planning staff recommends approval of final plat to Lake Creek Ranch Phase III. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to grant final plat to Lake Creek Ranch Phase III based on planning staff recommendation. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried.

2:00 PM **Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jerry Bennett, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Robin Benson, Clerk of the Board