

**June 5, 2024**

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on June 5, 2024 in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Hammons, Commissioner Letcher, Commissioner Teske, Administrative Assistant Jennifer Brown and Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown.

Zoom participation: Present were Alyssa Ramirez, BreeAnna Adamson, Chanel Geer, Dell, Feleisha Storkson, Ray Stout and Rebecca Nelson.

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

10:00 AM **USFS**: Present were Billy Day, Brian Berreman, Carolyn Peterson and Chad Benson.

Chad provided updates on summer hiring of about 50 permanent employees with a seasonal track to include benefits designed to reduce turnover. He added fire crews are separately hired and fully staffed. He noted the following project updates: The biological opinion for the Mitchell Jackson project has been received and the public kickoff of a comment period took place last week. The Norman McCedar biological assessment is underway. The Trojan Defense project is ready to go with planned road work. Commissioner Teske noted this is for public safety of communities. The Eureka fire salvage is on a fast track and work on the Edna Fortine project is in progress. Ripley may be reconsidered in July. Granite 1000 is in process and there was a discussion of Snowshoe Trail and recreational sites.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes / Stimson Lumber Company Noxious Weed Management Plan – Mike Bradeen / Petitions 15183 & 15184 for Annexation into TRFD / County Policy Regarding Longevity of Return Employees / Resolution 2024-16 Resolution to Invest Lincoln County Cash Reserves**: Present were Billy Day, Brian Berreman, Carolyn Peterson and Mike Bradeen.

- Review of May 29, 2024, meeting minutes for approval: **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the May 29, 2024 minutes. Second by Commissioner Teske. No comments. Motion carried.
- Stimson Lumber Company Noxious Weed Management Plan: Mike Bradeen, Weed Director, presented this plan, which includes 118,740 acres in Lincoln County. He advised the Weed Board has approved the plan and it requires Commissioner approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve the Stimson Lumber Company Noxious Weed Management Plan, updated Fall 2022. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion carried.
- Corrina Brown, Clerk and Recorder, presented petition PF#15183 for annexation of ten lots within the Cedar Glen Estates Subdivisions into the Troy Rural Fire District, affirming the petition meets the requirements of MCA and if approved, a public hearing will be scheduled. **Motion** to approve the Cedar Glen Estates annexation into the Troy Rural Fire District by Commissioner Hammons. Second by Commissioner Teske. No comments. Motion carried.
- Corrina Brown, Clerk and Recorder, presented petition PF#15184, for the annexation of Little Bear Flats Subdivision into the Troy Rural Fire District. The Fire District Board has been advised the developer has sold all but a couple of lots, therefore this petition requires signatures from individual lot owners to fulfill MCA 7-33-2125.
- County policy regarding longevity of return employees: Commissioner Teske advised he is awaiting information and would like to continue this topic under old business until he has answers.
- Resolution 2024-16 a resolution to invest Lincoln County cash reserves: Commissioner Letcher read Resolution 2024-16. **Motion** to approve Resolution 2024-16 by Commissioner Hammons. Second by Commissioner Teske. Commissioner Teske advised of having meetings with the investment firm to discuss this fiduciary move that is intended to get some working capital out of the funds. No public comments. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Teske announced the Libby Asbestos, EPA, EMA and DEQ open house will be held Monday, June 10, from 4:30 to 6:30 at City Hall in the Ponderosa Room primarily to discuss firewise activities at OU3. He mentioned that the public can sign up for Code Red to receive information about emergencies.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time - Non-Agenda Items**: Present were Billy Day, Brian Berreman, and Carolyn Peterson.

Bill Day, 239 Granny's Garden, advised the property behind his is owned by the county and for over two years he has been threatened while trying to protect his property. He expressed concern of the disturbance to his livestock, stating it is worse around the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Discussion of signage, neighbor agreements, trespass and enforcement issues ensued.

11:00 AM **Libby Road Budget Meeting**: Present were Brian Berreman and Jerry Regh.

Jerry Regh, Libby Road Foreman, presented a preliminary budget totaling about \$702,000, confirming wage and benefit information. He noted the vehicle insurance, estimated at \$41,000, was not included and advised rent includes principal and interest on equipment leases.

11:14 AM **Break**

01:30 PM **Moonshine Mountain Meadows II Family Transfer**: Present was Kristin Smith.

Kristin Smith presented Moonshine Mountain Meadows II family transfer and noted the new law allowing for family transfers inside a subdivision using the MACo approved process in evaluating for attempts to evade. She added any conditions with the original subdivision carry forward. She noted these covenants allow for no further division with the exception of lot 1 and recommends approval subject to six conditions. Commissioner Teske verified this is a onetime

division only. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve the DeNio family transfer of Moonshine Mountain Meadows II subdivision exemption with the following six conditions: 1. DEQ approval will be required for both lot 1A and 1B 2. Obtain a new address for the new parcel, lot 1B. 3. Accurately depict all easements on the new COS. 4. Taxes must be paid prior to filing the final plat. 5. The driveway to the future residence on lot 1B shall have a turnaround for large engines within 100 feet of the home. 6. A 2-year hold on transfers of ownership following the original gifting of the newly created parcel will be imposed pursuant to the new law. Such language will be added to deeds. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion carried.

01:37 PM **Adjourned**

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Josh Letcher, Chairman

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Corrina Brown, Clerk of the Board