

March 3, 2010

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on March 3, 2010 in the Lincoln County Courthouse. Present were Commissioner John Konzen, Commissioner Marianne Roose, Commissioner Tony Berget, Executive Assistant Bill Bischoff and Clerk and Recorder Tammy Lauer.

9:00 AM: Commissioner Konzen **opened the meeting** with the Pledge of Allegiance.

9:00 AM: **Quinn Carver of Kootenai National Forest:** Quinn presented the Commissioners with a list of the RAC approved committee. Quinn spoke about the Stimulus money projects that have started. He estimates that there will be more money than what was anticipated so some fuel reduction projects are possible. He spoke about the Forest Plan. There should be a notice of intent in next week's newspaper and the draft should be out in December. Quinn talked about some litigation on Rock Creek Mine. Montanore Mine is in discussions with EPA. The EPA is mostly concerned with water and wetlands. There was a discussion about the Stakeholders meetings. There was also a discussion about the Secured Rural Schools funding.

10:00 AM: **Paul Rumelhart:** There was a public meeting with the Montana Department of Transportation last week about restriping Highway 2 that addressed 3 options: 1) leave it as is, 2) 3 lanes with a turning lane and 3) 5 lanes with a turning lane. The consensus at the meeting was for a five lane that would from Larch Street to Spencer Road. The comment period ends on the 15th and Paul is asking for support from the County. Commissioner Berget moved to send a letter of support for a 5 lane highway from Larch Street to Spencer Road and it carried.

10:30 AM: **Kim Christopherson, Attorney for Cabinet View Fire Service Area:** Twenty-four members from the Law Enforcement, media, Ambulance service and Fire services are present. Kim began by introducing herself and gave a history of the Cabinet View Fire Service area. Their board has decided that the CVFSA will provide a first responder service and they have a license from the State. In June a letter of intent was sent to notify the emergency services in the area regarding their services. She is aware that the letter was not well received. She listed 4 issues: 1) Dispatch will not dispatch CVFSA in their area 2) The tax payers are paying for a service that they are not receiving 3) Libby Volunteer Ambulance service is directing dispatch without any authority 4) CVFSA grant opportunities are greatly reduced by not being called out. She summarized by asking for three things today from the Commissioners: 1) a commitment for a directive for dispatch to call CVFSA for any emergency in their area 2) issue a directive to dispatch that the only ones with authority to change dispatching in their area is CVFSA and 3) a directive for new money grants to the County to allow CVFSA to participate.

Commissioner Konzen wanted to clarify that dispatch is not dispatching CVFSA for fires. Dan Lavelle admitted that this happened only once 2 months ago where there was a structure fire on the border of the districts and both were dispatched. Commissioner Konzen stated that it was an error not an issue. Kim stated that LVA has no authority to dispatch in CVFSA area. Daryl Anderson, Sheriff, clarified that LVA does not direct dispatch at all. Craig Shultz, President of Libby Volunteer Ambulance and member of the Lincoln County Ambulance Board, said that CVFSA has no medical area established by the County. There are only 3 medical service areas, Troy, Eureka and Libby. Craig also pointed out that LVA does not use a fire service for extrication; LVA has an extrication vehicle, equipment, and personnel. Commissioner Berget stated that new medical services need to be approved by the Commissioners. Kim explained that the approval of the CVFSA in 2002 approved any service because it did not stipulate fire only. Duane Bowers, Montana Highway Patrol, talked about the jurisdiction over accident sites. He has never used an incident commander in an accident and believes it is not needed. Tom Wood, Libby Volunteer Fire Chief, said that there is an emergency operations document in the County that covers what emergency services are to cover. Kit Branch, LVA Board Member, noted that the MCA says that the people of the area are supposed to vote for any services and the medical service was not put to a vote. Tom said that 2 years ago CVFSA asked to fight wild land fires and they did not get permission from the proper authorities for that either. Commissioner Konzen gave a speech about volunteerism and the 3 main services being the backbone of it. Commissioner Konzen said the attorneys in the mix are just polarizing the situation more. Commissioner Roose said that there will be no directives made today. Tom asked if operations for emergencies will remain as directed by the County Attorney last October. It was agreed that it would. There was a suggestion about a meeting with the services. Vic White, EMA, said that now that attorneys are involved he doesn't feel that meetings are worthwhile because it has gone too far. Steve Lauer, Libby Volunteer Fire Assistant Chief asked for clarification on the "notification" of the FSA when an accident is dispatched. Bernie Cassidy, Lincoln County Attorney, said that the dispatcher has the ball on that. The order of the calls is based on her common sense. Commissioner Berget closed the meeting at 11:35 AM.

11:10 PM: Commissioner Konzen and Commissioner Roose left the meeting with CVFSA to have a phone conference with **Shane Stack of the MDOT** concerning the Pipe Creek Bridge.

11:40 AM: **Tim Orthmayer, Airport Grants:** The FAA asked that the beacon light at Libby Airport be repaired and so they amended the grant to cover that cost. They received 3 quotes for the repair: \$10,000 from Stumboll Electric of Libby, Butler Electric of Libby \$22,500 and Pavlic Electric of Missoula \$6,700. Pavlic Electric will receive the bid. Libby Airport has adjustments to the original grant that total over \$8,000 which has been approved by the FAA. The Eureka Airport project is in the planning stages for an overlay of the runway. Commissioner Konzen signed for the grants.

1:29 PM: The Commissioners read the **minutes of the February 17, 2010 meeting**. Commissioner Berget moved to approve the minutes as written and it carried.

1:30 PM: **Subdivision Review:** Kristin Smith

1:31 PM: **Amended Lot 1, Meadow Springs Unit 2**, 2 lots, NE1/4 NE1/4 and SE1/4 NE1/4 Sec 31, T35N, R26W, Preliminary Plat decision: Kristin reminded the Commissioners of the subdivision that had a public hearing on 2-17-10. Commissioner Berget moved to approve the subdivision as preliminary plat according to planning staff recommendations and it carried.

1:45 PM: **Discussion items:** There was a discussion about the road widths in subdivisions. Flood Awareness Week is March 15th to the 19th. Lisa is planning something for that week. Commissioner Roose received a strong compliment at the MACO meeting about Lisa and passed that on to Kristin. Kristin said that the addressing project for the City of Troy is being researched. Installation of the road signs that the County purchased is about 50% completed. Great West has been working with the Planning Department on the TSEP project for two bridges; one on Pinkham and the other on Bethel Drive on Bull Lake.

The City of Libby is interested in planning services and wants to make an agreement with the County. Kristin drafted an agreement for the Commissioners to look at. Kristin received five applications from people interested in being Fire Risk Evaluators for the County. Four have been selected and she is meeting with them on Friday to discuss the details of the program.

2:40 PM: **Libby Park District Board** has a resignation from Jim Bush and has requested the appointment of Brad Dotson to replace him. Commissioner Berget moved to approve the appointment and it carried.

2:45 PM: The recent visit by the auditors have revealed a need for **Resolution Number 836** which states that the **Voted Levy Funds** may be used and distributed at the discretion of the entities involved. Commissioner Berget moved to adopt the resolution and it carried.

2:55 PM: Kathi Hooper wrote a press release concerning the **air quality due to the Plywood Plant fire**. The Commissioners approved the letter. Tests on the content of the smoke and ash should be available later today.

2:57 PM: Karol Spas requested that a temporary employee remain until July. The Commissioners want to meet with her.

3:00 PM: The Commissioners received a request from Montana Department of Transportation to sign a letter of support for the project on **Highway 2 at Swamp Creek**. The Commissioners agreed to sign the letter of support.

3:01 PM: **Bill Lloyd engineer for Great West Engineering** phone conference concerning TSEP Grant for the bridges: Carl Yakawich is present. They asked if Bethel Lane Bridge needs to be 24' in width. Commissioner Konzen said yes it does. Bill Lloyd said that a letter from the homeowners association stating that it is a County bridge and they do not have any capital to fix it would be helpful to appease TSEP. It is a criterion for the grant to find other funding if possible. The County is at 50% match. Letters of support of the replacement of the Bridge would also be helpful and they have a form letter they can provide. The grant application would be more effective if they have a list of other bridge work done by the County. Bill will contact the road foremen for that information. The group talked about dates for public meetings.

3:24 PM: The **meeting was adjourned**.

LINCOLN COUNTYBOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Konzen, Chairman of the Board

ATTEST: _____
Tammy D. Lauer, Clerk of the Board