

April 2, 2014

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on April 2, 2014, in the Lincoln County Courthouse. Present are Commissioner Tony Berget, Commissioner Ron Downey, Commissioner Mike Cole, Executive Assistant Bill Bischoff and Clerk and Recorder Tammy Lauer.

10:00 AM: The commissioners read the **minutes of the March 26, 2014 meeting**. Commissioner Downey moved to approve the minutes as amended and it carried.

10:05 AM: **Tax Abatement:** Lance and Wendy Kelley have a parcel in Troy that has been taxed but is a road. The Department of Revenue is recommending that they be refunded \$146.85 for 2012 and 2013. Commissioner Downey moved to approve the tax abatement and it carried.

10:15 AM: The **Libby Park District Board** is requesting that they reappoint Bob DeBorde and Keith Ivers for another term. Lee Brundin has resigned. Brad Dotson, a former board member has moved back to Libby and is requesting that he be appointed to the board. Commissioner Downey moved to appoint Brad Dotson to replace Lee Brundin and reappoint Bob DeBorde and Keith Ivers and it carried.

10:15 AM: Commissioner Berget led the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

10:30 AM: Wayne Maffit and Gerald Wallace are here from the **Bull Lake Rural Fire District**. There are 2 petitions that are requesting annexation to the Bull Lake Fire District. Commissioner Downey moved to approve the annexation of the two properties and it carried. James Ward and Janeen Lewis are the property owners.

10:35 AM: **Marc McCully, Libby Road Foreman:** Marc has an employee retiring at the end of May. He is asking the commissioners for permission to replace that employee. If he has to run one employee short, he will not be able to plow roads in the winter. Commissioner Downey agreed that a road crew cannot plow without the correct number of employees. Commissioner Downey moved to approve the hiring for Libby Road Crew and it carried.

10:45 AM: The commissioners received a letter from the **Tobacco Valley Business Park Industrial District** thanking them for their support of the Wood Development Center and inviting them to visit the site soon.

10:50 AM: Ron Denowh came to tell the commissioners about an **Airport Board** meeting that took place last night in Eureka. He said there are a couple of people interested in being on the board.

11:00 AM: County Attorney Bernie Cassidy, the commissioners and a MACO attorney had a **conference call** about a new lawsuit against the county.

1:00 PM: **USFW:** Wayne Kasworm, US Fish and Wildlife, Jim Williams, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks Program Manager in Kalispell, Kim Annis, MFWP, and Chris Servheen, MFWP in Missoula have come today to speak to the commissioners about grizzly bears. Chris began the discussion by talking about the Grizzly Bear population in the Yellowstone. He spoke about how far the grizzlies have ventured beyond the park. They are also going out to the prairies. Wayne Kasworm had a PowerPoint with graphs to answer to some questions from the commissioners. He showed a graph on the mortality rate of Cabinet-Yaak plus British Columbia Grizzlies. The graph showed a spike in mortality, they are definitely living longer. The graph showed 1982 to 2013. He talked about what is killing the grizzly bears. Poaching, hunting in Canada, trains and defensive fighting are some of the things that threaten the bears. Wayne talked about the radio collars for the bears and the benefits of those. There was a discussion about the food source for bears and the huckleberry production in relation to the bear mortality. Wayne told the commissioners that they are in a position to get the word out to the public that people should contact MFWP if they have a bear problem. Then the bear can be dealt with in hopes of saving the bears which would help the bear population. The group talked about road closures and the effect it has on the bear population. It seems that more roads are closed due to bears. The commissioners told them that the presentation was very informative and thanked them for coming. Commissioner Cole said the main concern is the federal lands being usable for county revenues for mining and logging.

2:45 PM: **Justin from the Flathead Beacon** came to talk to the commissioners about the unemployment rates in Lincoln County.

3:10 PM: The **meeting was adjourned**.

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Anthony Berget, Chairman

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