

**July 2, 2014**

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on July 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.

9:00 AM: **Cami Winslow, KNF:** The new Kootenai National Forest Supervisor, Chris Savage, is out of town on personal business so Cami is here today with Mike Huffine and Tim Rusdal. Mike began by talking about the Montanore Mine progress. NEPA, Wetlands and Wildlife opinions are what the Montanore Mine is waiting for. Mitigation is ongoing with those issues and Mike continues to work on them. Mike talked about the progress on the Rock Creek Mine as well. He hopes to have an EIS by October to release to the agencies involved. Rock Creek is behind Montanore on the NEPA progress. Tim replaces Paul Stantos who retired from the Forest Service recently. Tim brought the "Schedule A" roads contract and maps of those roads. Commissioner Downey had done some research on the maintenance of those by the county. The cost is about \$140,000 per year for the county and he is concerned about the lack of revenue to cover that. He gave Cami a copy of his research. Commissioner Berget talked about the previous year when the commissioners did not sign the Schedule A agreement and stated that they would probably do that again. This would allow them to not be committed to the roads if all funding stops. Commissioner Berget asked if they can look at it and make a decision at a later date. Tim noted that he would need it as soon as possible. Cami told that James Pena is leaving the DC area and his position there. This could have an effect on the Forest Plan. A team will be traveling to DC for the next two weeks to sit across the table and work through the details and objections of the Forest Plan. Commissioner Berget said that Chris had told them last month that there is a letter from Pena stating his views on the plan, but they haven't seen a copy of that letter. Cami will look into it and find out if she can get the copy of the letter for the commissioners. The group discussed the personnel in the Forest Service and the replacement of the retiring people.

9:55 AM: The commissioners read the **minutes of the June 25, 2014 meeting**. Commissioner Downey moved to approve the minutes as amended and it carried.

10:00 AM: **Justice of the Peace Transition decision:** Judge Stormy Langston and Judge Jay Sheffield are present. The group agreed that the main issue at hand is the staffing of an office in Eureka. Commissioner Downey said he doesn't believe that the county will save any money if they don't close the office in Eureka. The issue before the County Attorney is if the clerks in the main office in Eureka are able to do the work of the court clerks. Commissioner Downey said the object of the consolidation was to eliminate the office altogether. Commissioner Cole said he still feels that the answers are still too vague as to what the services will be in Eureka. Commissioner Downey said that he was under the impression that the services could be handled by the front office and by video and telephone. The services would be available without the separate office. Commissioner Downey said the service in Eureka would not change other than it would be done differently. Commissioner Downey Moved to close the Eureka office on December 31, 2014. Commissioner Berget seconded and opened discussion. Chris Nelson of the Kootenai Valley Record said that last week there would be numbers as to the savings. Commissioner Berget said that the savings would be approximately the \$100,000 that it costs to run that office at this time. Stormy talked about the two people losing their jobs. Commissioner Berget said that there may be jobs that they can move in to in the next six months. The motion passed with Commissioner Downey and Commissioner Berget in favor and Commissioner Cole against. Judge Sheffield clarified that the services will be provided by the main office in Eureka barring any opinions against it by the County Attorney. He also talked about video conferencing and where that would take place. It could be at the County Justice Center or the annex. They will meet again on July 30, at 10:30 when the County Attorney is available for comment.

11:00 AM: The **Montana DOT** representatives are running late so that meeting will be moved to 12:30 PM.

12:30 PM: **Montana Department of Transportation:** Shane Stack and Ben Nunnallee, Ed Toavs and Donny Pfiefer are here to speak to the commissioners. Ed showed a map of the projects the State is working on in Lincoln County. He described the many projects and the dates for those. He pointed out 4 sites where Slope Stability is the main purpose. The group discussed the Swamp Creek Project and some of the challenges they have faced causing over two million dollars in extra costs. The group discussed other projects and also the CTEP projects in Lincoln County.

1:30 PM: **Morgan Subdivision**, 2 residential lots, Lot 4E or Sorenson's Kokanee Terrace, Sec 14 & 15, T36N, R28W, Preliminary Plat Review: Kristin Smith, Planning Director, presented the subdivision. The Planning Staff is recommending preliminary approval subject to the conditions. This is a minor subdivision so did not require the planning board opinion. Commissioner Cole moved to approve the preliminary plat according to planning staff recommendation and it carried.

1:40 PM: **Family Transfer, Garcia:** Betty Garcia owns property in the Troy area and has transferred to her two sons and then back to her in order for her to transfer to only one son. The commissioners reviewed this last week and wanted more time to look at it. Commissioner Downey said he knows most of the people involved and he doesn't feel that they are trying to evade subdivision. The surveyor also gave that opinion. Commissioner Downey moved to approve the family transfer and it carried. Kristin said that there is a great deal of caveat in this decision.

2:30 PM: **Administrative Issues:**

The Commissioners are discussing and making a decision on the **Advertising and Legal Bid**. There was a question about the bid being split between two newspapers but the MCA says it cannot. The low bid was Kootenai Valley Record. Commissioner Cole moved to approve the low bid for Kootenai Valley Record and it carried.

The commissioners were presented with **Resolution 919** which is a budget revision resolution for the Libby Parks budget as a result of a grant for the Rod and Gun Club that passed through the county. Commissioner Downey moved to approve the resolution and it carried.

The commissioners signed the renewal of the county health insurance for the next year. Commissioner Cole moved to approve the **Joint Powers Trust** agreement for the health insurance contract for the next fiscal year and it carried.

2:58 PM: The **meeting was adjourned**.

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Anthony Berget, Chairman

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Tammy D Lauer, Clerk of the Board