

November 24, 2014

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on November 24, 2014 in the Lincoln County Courthouse. Present are Commissioner Tony Berget, Commissioner Mike Cole, Commissioner Greg Larson, Executive Assistant Bill Bischoff and Deputy Clerk and Recorder Wendy Drake.

9:30 AM: Commissioner Berget **opened the meeting** with the Pledge of Allegiance.

9:30 AM: The commissioners approved the official **canvass of the November 19, 2014 recount of the County Local Government Review Commission**. The numbers changed by one or two in some cases but the outcome was the same.

10:00 AM: **Vote on Justice of Peace transition plan:** This is a continuation of the meeting on November 14, 2014 on what will happen to Justice Court office in Eureka. Commissioner Cole addressed the plan that had been discussed on the 14th. He feels that the service will be lacking in the current suggested format. He suggested having someone there to help the public with the process. Judge Sheffield questioned what kind of cases Commissioner Cole was referring to. Commissioner Cole would like to see more discussion on the process of how to help the people. Judge Sheffield stated that the sheriff department requested the location be at the Justice Center based on their understanding of helping the public. Captain Bo Pitman addressed the issue and said there will be a meeting held Tuesday with the dispatch board to address the process. Pitman discussed the impact the change could have on dispatch. Judge Sheffield would like to minimize the impact of the change to the dispatch. Judge Sheffield addressed that the clerks are not allowed to help fill out the court forms; they are only allowed to give the form. Commissioner Larson questioned if an information clerk would be needed. Captain Pitman said he would like a phone to a clerk available so they can help assist the public, so dispatch does not have to learn the clerk's job. Judge Sheffield addressed how the video conferencing will help with court appearances and then they will not have to travel to Libby for court appearances. Jan Burns asked why the video would be in the Justice Court office and not in the Clerk's Office. Jan Burns is concerned and is not sure that the dispatch office is not the correct place for the video conferencing. Cookie Haidle questioned how the process will work with a family that has been traumatized. She is concerned that the people will not get the help they need. Commissioner Larson asked Pitman if he satisfied with the current plan. Bo he said he is not ultimately satisfied but he thinks it's a viable situation for the initial transition. He suggested in the future months after the transition they reevaluate the current plan, and the placement of the video conferencing. Commissioner Berget agreed and said that time is running out and a decision needs to be made. Sheffield said he does not care about the location of the video conferencing and is ok with change in the future. Commissioner Cole suggests keeping the Justice Court clerk's office open and keeping the staffing and moving the video conference to the clerk's office. Judge Sheffield questioned the reason to have a person in the office when all office duties are coming to Libby. Jan Burns asked when the conferencing will take place. Judge Sheffield said it would be done by an appointment. She asked if there would be a specific day of week the video conferencing would take place. Judge Sheffield suggested Thursdays but they have not finalized the specific days for the video conferencing. Commissioner Larson asked if the current plan had the approval by Judge Sheffield and Officer Bo Pitman. They both agreed they both approve of the proposed plan. Commissioner Cole questioned what would happen if the Dispatch board does not approve of current plan. Commissioner Berget stated the reason for the consolidating is to save money for the county and keeping the Clerk's Office would be defying the purpose. Bonita Cook, current office personnel at the Justice of the Peace office in Eureka, questioned how the clerks will keep up with the separate accounts since the systems can be combined. Sheffield said the state will issue passwords for both systems. Bonita questioned why she has not been notified that the office was being closed. She acknowledged that it had been in the paper and that Stormy Langston knew but thought she should have been sent a letter sooner than the letter she received last week. She requested that the office remain open for six months during the transition process. Commissioner Cole stated the close of the office was decided on July 2, 2014. Commissioner Cole stated he agreed with Bonita Cooks request to keep the office open. Commissioner Berget stated the budget would have to change because they have already approved the budget. Commissioner Berget asked for any more proposals. Commissioner Larson made motion to accept the current proposal to close the office as of December 31, 2014 and it carried with Commissioners Berget and Larson for and Commissioner Cole against.

11:00 AM: **Discussion of Contagious Disease:** Jennifer McCully, the new Contagious Disease Representative for the county, gave an update on Pertussis in the county. She stated there are currently nine cases in the Eureka area. Miki Carvey, County Health Nurse, questioned if they have gotten permission from the state to provide payment. Jennifer said they have not yet. Kati Hooper, County Sanitarian, discussed the new duties of Jennifer McCully. Kathi Hooper gave the commissioners a list of proposed duties for Jennifer. Commissioner Berget set another meeting for December 10, 2014, for an update on the Pertussis outbreak in Eureka.

11:45 AM: The commissioners read **the minutes of the November 12, 2014 meeting**. Commissioner Cole moved to approve the minutes as amended and it carried.

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Anthony Berget, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Wendy Drake, Clerk of the Board