

September 3, 2014

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on September 3, 2014, in the Lincoln County Courthouse. Present are Commissioner Tony Berget, Commissioner Mike Cole, Commissioner Greg Larson, Executive Assistant Bill Bischoff and Clerk and Recorder Tammy Lauer.

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

9:00 AM: **Chris Savage, KNF/USFS:** Chris began by talking about the different logging projects in the area and the litigation on some of the projects. They discussed the ways the litigation slows the logging projects. The group discussed the Secured Rural Schools funds that are unknown for this year. Commissioner Berget asked Chris if there is a possibility of a new study on the effects of roads on the Grizzly Bears. Commissioner Berget feels that the last study has been proven wrong because the bears obviously will cross roads, as nearly every picture of the bears shows them on a road. Chris agreed that a new study might be beneficial but is unsure of what it would take to get that going. They discussed the habitat and the other agencies that would be involved in the study. Greg Smith, acting deputy chief under Jim Pena, is drafting a letter soon that will explain the next step in the Forest Plan process. He will address the objections that he heard. Chris addressed the mines review period for the Montanore Mine. He stated that the document needs to be very well reviewed because they know that it will be subject to litigation. He hopes to be finished with it by the end of the year. Chris said that they are two months ahead of schedule on the opinion. The Rock Creek Mine is going to have another ESIS review in a couple of weeks. Chris told the commissioners that the regional forester will be at the MACO convention at the end of this month and would like to meet with them. Commissioner Larson asked Chris to check into the Vinal Lake Road that has recently been closed. Chris will check into it and get back to Commissioner Larson.

10:00 AM: **Ron Higgins, Superintendent of Schools:** Ron is here today with Nancy Higgins, County Treasurer, who will be the Superintendent of Schools as of January 1, 2015. Today they are presenting the Schools District Levies for 2014-2015. Ron brought a packet of information on the schools levies. Eureka, Libby, Yaak, McCormick-Sylvanite, and Fortine and Trego are all up or down about the cost of living. The big differences are in the Troy Elementary and Troy High Schools due to the Troy Mine being shut down. Troy mills would increase 53.9 for Elementary and 24.74 for High School. Ron pointed out the differences from last year to this year on all budgets. He talked about the transportation cost increases. The group discussed the tax changes over the next couple of years with the mine closed and the reassessments. Commissioner Larson moved to accept the school mill levies and it carried.

10:50 AM: **Budget Discussions:** Marc McCully, Libby Road Foreman and David Kyriss, Troy Road Foreman are questioning the budget cuts they took this year. Based on their concerns some minor changes were made in the Road Fund budgets. The commissioners discussed concerns former commissioner Rita Windom had about the budget.

1:30 PM: **Administrative Issues:**

Tax Abatement: Tax #5907, #9932 and #9795 is on property in Troy and the Department of Revenue had made an error on the taxes. The commissioners were told that the person who paid the taxes should be refunded \$2,030. Commissioner Larson moved to refund the taxes paid to the person who paid them in the amount of \$2,030 and it carried.

1:50 PM: The commissioners read the **minutes of the August 27, 2014, meeting**. Commissioner Larson moved to approve the minutes as written and it carried.

1:55 PM: The **Extension Office Service Agreement with Montana State University** for the fiscal year 2014-2015 is ready for commissioner signature. Commissioner Larson moved to sign the agreement and it carried.

2:05 PM: The State of Montana, **Department of Motor Vehicles, sent a lease agreement** for the office space in Eureka that they rent. Commissioner Larson moved to sign the lease agreement and it carried.

2:30 PM: **Kootenai Stakeholders:** Robyn King, Yaak Valley Forest Council, Jesse Grossman, Matt Bower's replacement in Yaak Valley Forest Council, Paul McKenzie, FH Stoltze Land and Lumber Co., Amy Robinson, Montana Wilderness Association and Ed Levert, Lincoln County Forester are present today. Robyn began by talking about what they are meeting about tonight at the Stakeholder's meeting. The forest study will be a main topic of discussion. They are encouraged about the results of the study. Robyn said that she is looking forward to working with the new supervisor of the Kootenai National Forest, Chris Savage. She feels he is going to be good to work with. The group discussed the new Forest Plan and the Secured Rural Schools funds future.

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

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Berget, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Tammy D Lauer, Clerk of the Board