

August 19, 2015

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on August 19, 2015, in the Eureka Annex of the Lincoln County Courthouse. Present were Commissioner Mike Cole, Commissioner Greg Larson, Commissioner Mark Peck and Clerk & Recorder Robin Benson.

Commissioner Cole **opened the meeting** with the Pledge of Allegiance.

9:30 AM **4-H Ambassadors:** Present are Svea Jorgensen, Daniel Stark, Tomothy Stark, and Krista Nemeroff. President Daniel Stark of the 4-H Ambassadors invited the Commission to the Lincoln County Fair August 27 - 30 and to the Livestock Auction on Saturday and the Ice Cream Social on Sunday.

9:45 AM **Administrative Issues:**

- **Approval of Minutes:** The Commission read the minutes for August 12, 2015. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to approve minutes as written. Second by Commissioner Larson, and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.
- **Resolution #946 Lincoln County Emergency Declaration** was signed by the Commission that an EMERGENCY is hereby declared pursuant to Montana Code Annotated, Section 10-3-40 and all provisions of the County Emergency Operations Plan are in effect. Lincoln County is experiencing significant wildland fire activity, threatening public safety, private property and local fire response resources are operating at full capacity, and the Governor has declared a state of emergency for several counties, including Lincoln County. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to approve Resolution 946. Second by Commissioner Peck, and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.
- The Commission signed a letter to the **Voted Districts** stating that after careful consideration the Commission has decided to maintain voter approved limits at the voted limit. Districts are encouraged to contact the County Election Department should they choose to place a levy increase on a ballot in the election process. The Commission welcomes and encourages any District Board to contact the Commission for any questions or concerns and extends its appreciation for the service that is provided to the citizens of Lincoln County. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to approve and sign the letter to Voted District Boards to maintain voted approved levies at the voted limit. Second by Commissioner Peck, and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the Board.

10:00 AM **Resolution 943 to adopt standardized state court fee for Justice Court.** Present are Judge Jay Sheffield, and Deputy County Attorney Jeff Zwang via Vision Net, Ginny J. Emerson, and Krista Nemeroff.

The Commission received a request from Justice of the Peace, Jay Sheffield for a county resolution authorizing the standardization of miscellaneous Justice Court fee that are set by the local government. The Justice Court fee schedule has not been reviewed or adjusted for many years. The request is to adopt the standardized state court fee schedule as identified in Section 25-1-21 MCA. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to approve Resolution #943. Second by Commissioner Larson, and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.

10:30 AM **USFS Update:** Meeting cancelled.

11:00 AM **Community Action Partnership of Northwest Montana CAPNM Presentation:** Present are Tracy Diaz, Marney McCleary, Robin Haidle, Ginny J. Emerson, and Krista Nemeroff.

Executive Director Tracy talked about the Community Service Block Grant and how they would allocate those funds. Some of the programs and services provided by CAPNM include emergency housing, support veterans programs, literacy and education programs, employment training programs, fuel assistance and home weatherization, and care to senior citizens who live at home but need some assistance. A PPT document outlining the CAPNM Program was provided to the Commission for review. Marney briefed the Commission on low income affordable housing and alternative housing programs. Commissioner Larson commented that he is unaware of a local grant writer in South Lincoln County who is actively writing grants for alternative housing programs.

Marney said the group is requesting a support letter for the CSBG Work Plan for years 2016-2017. Commissioners will review the CSBG Work Plan and take the request for support under advisement.

Robin Haidle expressed his concerns about subsidized housing for senior citizens and the importance of the continued program and services.

11:30 AM **Public Comment Time:**

Ginny Emerson requested a copy of the CSBG Work Plan. Commissioner Cole expressed his belief in the county's need for affordable housing. Ginny said that she works for profit and expressed her concerns about so much dependence on grants.

1:30 PM **Planning Department:** Present are Lisa Oedwaldt and Deb Blystone via Vision Net. Also present is Kenneth E. Davis, Deborah Mocko, Nikki Meyer, and Marc Liechti with APEC Engineering.

Wilderness Club 29A located in Section 30, T36NR27W, Eureka. The proposed subdivision of Lot 26 of Wilderness Club is an amendment to the previously platted subdivision Wilderness Club Phase 3. Developer, Sharon Ehlert is proposing to split the lot in half in order to provide two single family residences. Recommendation from the Lincoln County Planning Department is to grant preliminary approval to Wilderness Club 26A subdivision, subject to conditions and based on the findings in the staff report. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to approve proposal for Wilderness Club 26A subject to planning staff conditions and recommendations. Second by Commissioner Larson, and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.

Romans Run Subdivision is requesting a preliminary plat extension of 1 year. This is the first extension request. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to approve request of extension for 1 year subject to planning staff recommendations and conditions. Second by Commissioner Larson and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.

Preliminary Plat Extension, Screaming Eagle Subdivision (revived from an expired plat)
The developer is formally requesting that the final plat review be reinstated for Screamin' Eagle Subdivision. The land owner is now interested in progressing with the project. The plat was shelved due to interpretation of illegal access. All parties are in agreement with the "conditions of approval". All lots now have access. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to approve Screaming Eagle Subdivision subject to planning staff recommendations and conditions. Second by Commissioner Peck, and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.

2:30 PM **FY 2015/2016 Preliminary Budget Hearing:** Present were Barb Morgan, Ginny J. Emerson, Marc Liechti, Nikki Meyer, Kelly Daird, Mikel Siemens, Abigail St. Lawrence, and Fred Schickedanz. Robin handed out the Preliminary Levy Sheet to the public in attendance and explained the various columns within the spreadsheet. Robin explained what the major county expenses are as well as declining revenues. Charts and graphs were also presented giving a pictorial view of how county funds are allocated and showing the decreased revenues over several years.

The main declining revenues are as follows:

- Valuation decrease based on 103 mills: 365,753
- Forest Receipts/SRS has reduced in the amount of 1,396,793 since 2009
- PILT usually allocates approximately 570,000 to Lincoln County annually. There is no PILT payments anticipated for FY 15/16.
- Investment earnings in 2008 were 1,156,415 and has decreased significantly to 83,714

The county health insurance has increased 11.5%, an increased cost of approximately 150,000. Total cost of county insurance is 1,477,818. Robin commented that it is worthy to note that there has not been a COLA increase for county employees since FY 12/13.

Major county appropriations are as follows:

- Public Safety: \$3,642,411
- General Fund: 3,395,892
- All other departments: 1,822,902
- Road: 4,408,802 (non-levied)

Commissioner Peck commented that he has worked with a lot of budgets in his career, but is now managing a 10 million dollar budget. From looking at the 2.9 million decreases in revenues, that is approximately over 30% of the county budget. The county cannot continue to use reserves. It is for these reasons the commission has decided the county cannot afford the over taxation 20 mill payback which would amount to 632,040 in current FY 15/16. Commissioner Peck said the payback is something the commission will look at every year.

There were no further comments on the FY 15/16 Preliminary Budget.

3:00 PM **Indian Springs Ranch/Water Rights:** Present were Pat Shea, Shannon Nelson, George Shea, Dayton Nelson, LeAnn Schermerhorn, Marc Liechti, Fred Schickedanz, Abigail St. Lawrence, Mikel Siemens, and Ginny Emerson. Fred with Indians Springs Ranch Development introduced the group to the commission and thanked the commission for allowing a presentation of the water rights application to DNRC. Mikel presented historical water rights for a total of 9 historical water rights. There are other co-owners and Mikel explained the intent of separating water rights from co-owners. This is finalized through the Montana Water Court. Mikel gave a history of the historical water rights to the public and the commission. Abby, attorney in Helena who specializes in water rights explained the process through DNRC and the criteria set to prove lack of adverse affect on any water rights in the area.

Barb Morgan asked about problems or disagreements. Mikel said there have been no disagreements with neighbors and that effective communication and education is key to understanding issues for all parties involved and answering questions and concerns. Commissioner Cole said he applauds the Indian Springs Ranch and their willingness to be open and communicative to the public.

3:30 PM **Eureka Cemetery District:** Present are Barb Morgan and Karen Doble.

Robin discussed the expenditure report and non-tax revenue report to Barb and Karen, explaining that all non-tax revenue should be acknowledged on the budget proposals. Robin said she would be running quarterly reports of all budgets and will notify anyone if they are exceeding their budgets. Example, is if we are ¼ through the fiscal year and a budget has expended over 25%, she would contact that district or department supervisor. Robin expressed the importance of efficient communication throughout the year to help districts with good budget management.

Barb Morgan asked about loans from the county as has been done in the past. Robin said the Cemetery District would need to visit with the commission for the request with costs associated for commission approval.

4:00 PM The **meeting was adjourned.**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mike Cole, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Robin A. Benson, Clerk of the Board

FY 15/16 Budget Meetings Continued. Present were Commissioner Cole, Commissioner Larson, Commissioner Peck and Clerk and Recorder, Robin Benson.

8/10/2015

10 AM-Department Supervisor Meeting: Present were Kathi Hooper, Dan Williams, Deb Blystone, Lisa Oedewaldt, Vic White, Ric Kesling, Tom Magone, Rick Ball, Kirk Kraft, and Karmen McKinney, Lois Sciligo, Svea Jorgenson, and Micki Carvey from Eureka via Vision Net.

Commissioner Peck announced the county is in a transition period. Bill Bischoff has officially retired. Mark is the interim county administrator while the commission takes time to assess the county needs. Vic White is getting settled in as the new Human Resources Director.

The commission discussed the decreased valuation; a loss of approximately \$700,000 over the next two years. The DOR is now conducting assessments every two years. The commission hopes it rebounds in the next assessment cycle. Legally the county can float mills and there are big decisions the commission will be making.

The commission relayed the importance of good communication and working together for a smooth and efficient transition. Commissioner Cole commented on how Vision Net is a cost savings and efficient. Those are the kinds of “thinking outside the box” we all should be looking at. Commissioner Larson said they will be looking into the needs of Lincoln County and talking with other counties as well on how they structure their government.

The County Policy Manual is being reviewed by Vic White. It needs to be updated and Vic will be working with MACo as well as the commissioners, employees, and Department Supervisors. It will take some time.

11 AM-Elected Officials Meeting: Present were Jay Sheffield, Susan Farmer, Nancy Higgins, and Vic White.

The Commission relayed the same information to the elected officials as the previous meeting at 10 AM.

Commissioner Cole said it would be beneficial to have more education and public awareness about understanding assessments and valuations and how it plays a role in the county budgeting process. Nancy Higgins said the Treasurer’s Department is being asked about the 20 mill payback. Commissioner Peck discussed the county’s declining revenues and said it will be difficult to do this year.

The group discussed briefly the difficulty of telling employees there will not be a COLA for FY 15/16.

8/11/2015

9:30 AM-EMA/Sheriff Transitions: Present were Lisa Oedewaldt, Kirk Kraft, Vic White, and Brent Faulkner, and Sheriff Roby Bowe.

The group discussed the partnership/transition of combining the EMA Department with the Sheriff’s Department. Kirk Kraft is now the EMA Director and Lisa Oedewaldt is the EMA Deputy Director. Leadership roles and responsibilities were discussed for efficiency and clarity.

Lisa mentioned that she has a concern about Kirk living 45 minutes out and how this could affect response time. Roby said that dispatch would call Kirk out and then Lisa. The details will be worked out.

The use of the EMA truck was discussed. Kirk, Lisa, Brent and Roby will continue discussions to work out details for a good, smooth transition.

10 AM-Sheriff Budget: Present were Brent Faulkner, Roby Bowe and Kirk Kraft.

Robin Benson provided a detailed expenditure report. Brent and Roby answered specific questions and explained the expenditure report to the commission. Brent submitted an employee wage report to the commission and explained the expenses.

10:45 AM-Environmental Health Department: Present was Kathi Hooper

Robin Benson provided a detailed expenditure report for Solid Waste and Environmental Health Departments. Kathi went over the reports with the commission and discussed the services her departments provide to the county including animal control services. Kathi discussed the new state regulations to food establishments.

The Public Health and Preparedness Grant is a coordinated efforts with Eureka and the county health nurse. Kathi said she is researching the structure of other county health departments and would like to visit with the commission about a proposal on what a county wide public Health Department would look like. Commissioner Peck said the CHC and Mental Health should be included in those discussions and research.

11:45 AM-EMA Budget: Present were Lisa Oedewaldt and Kirk Kraft

Lisa and Kirk discussed the MT Tops Grant and the HSGP grant to the commission. Both grants are 100% federally funded. Lisa also explained the Fire Co-Op grant as a 90/10 % split and the EMPG grant is 50/50 split with the county portion being a soft match.

Motion by Commissioner Larson to appoint Kirk Kraft as the new Lincoln County Emergency Director and Lisa Oedewaldt as the Deputy Director. Second by Commission Peck, and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.

1 PM-Port Authority Update: Present was Tina Oliphant

Tina briefed the Commission on upcoming potential Big Sky Trust Fund Grants to the commission for review. Deadlines for the grants are August 19, 2015. Tina asked the Commission for letters of support for the grant applications.

1:30 PM-Library Budget: Present was Rick Ball

Rick explained that the county libraries are short staffed and the need to hire a part-time employee. Rick explained the programs and functions of the libraries and the service provided to the county residents. Rick briefed the commission on his partnerships with the Lincoln County Campus and the Job Workforce Center. The Commission gave approval for the library budget to have the same budget as was budgeted in FY 14/15.

2 PM-Juvenile Detention: Present was Pam Norman

Robin Benson provided a detailed expenditure report and wage report for Juvenile Detention. The wages fluctuate significantly from year to year which is dependent upon juvenile transports annually. This makes it difficult to determine an accurate wage report ahead of time. Commissioner Peck advised to average the wages for FY 11/12 through FY 14/15 so there can be a standard wage report based on that average.

8/17/2015

9 AM Budget Meeting Continued

Present were Commissioner Cole, Commissioner Larson, Commissioner Peck and Clerk and Recorder, Robin Benson.

Decisions:

- Pay the cost of the FAA grant match out of PILT
- Set a date with County Auditor Bob Denning to update the Allocated Cost Schedule
- The Local Option Tax Revenue anticipated to approximately 600,000 will be put into Road Appropriations and Non-Tax Revenue.
- Commissioner Peck will visit with Lincoln County Rural Fire Department regarding questions he has pertaining to their budget.
- Commissioner Cole will visit with Eureka Dispatch about the decision to remain at the voter approved limit.
- Commissioner Larson will visit with Troy Parks about the decision to remain at the voter approved limit.
- At the next District Board Training in the spring, we need to have a time focused on district budgets and the budgeting process. The commission believes mills should meet the budget proposals submitted without excess.
- After reviewing the revenue declines, the commission felt there was no way the county can afford the 20 mill payback for FY 15/16.

11 AM Meeting Adjourned

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mike Cole, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Robin A. Benson, Clerk of the Board