

January 28, 2015

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on January 21, 2015, in the Lincoln County Courthouse. Present were Commissioner Mike Cole, Commissioner Mark Peck, Executive Assistant Bill Bischoff and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson. Commissioner Greg Larson was out of state.

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

10:00 AM **Nancy Higgins, Treasurer Report:** Commissioner Greg Larson attended the Treasurer's Report portion of the meeting via Skype.

Nancy submitted reports on the cash reconciliation for December, 2014 for all funds. Reports showing Lincoln County Investments through the Raymond James Account, Smiley Trust, First Interstate Bank, and a history of road fund investments were discussed. Schools received \$1,370,418.79 as their 1/3 share of the Federal Forest Funds awarded to Lincoln County in 2014. It was distributed as follows: Elementary Equalization 506,256.91; High School Equalization 342,385.22; County Transportation 70,524.23; Elementary Retirement 214,563.22; and High School Retirement 236,689.21. Nancy pointed out the retirement accounts reflect a direct saving to the Lincoln County taxpayer of 14.74 mills. Nancy also submitted a tax collection summary for year 2014 and a synopsis of uncollected taxes/delinquents summary. The Commission requested a list of all county outstanding loans.

Nancy gave a brief update on the Troy Senior Citizen Center. She expressed that she was happy the loan is paid off and discussed some issues with the elevator.

Nancy discussed the county superintendent position, stating she has attended four school board meetings countywide. Sorting out how the changes are going to work is still ongoing. So far there have been no major issues. McCormick, Yaak, and Trego schools do not have curriculum coordinators and Nancy is working with them so they can become compliant with state law. The Commissioners expressed their appreciation of being kept apprised of the superintendent changes and how they are affecting the schools and the county.

10:30 AM **Kootenai Pets for Life:** Present were Eileen Carney and Judy R. Hyslop.

Eileen gave a history of Kootenai Pets for Life to the Commission. The shelter was built in 2009 and a veterinarian visits the shelter weekly to offer spay or neuter services to the public. Eileen expressed the positive relationship working with Friends of the Shelter. Friends of the Shelter utilizes the spay/neuter program as well.

There were a total of 259 intakes in 2014 and 276 adoptions. Judy gave a brief overview of the spay & neuter program facilitated by KPFL. Other programs include feral/stray and micro chipping. KPFL began offering micro chipping for dogs and cats in February 2012. Eileen discussed the recycling program and how it helps fund KPFL.

Judy handed out a packet of information on adoptions, animal returns, spay/neuter records and micro chipping for the commissioners to review. The Feral/Stray Program is grant funded.

11:00 AM **Ron Denowh, Airport Board:** Present were Ron Denowh, Zach McNew and Bill Caldwell.

Ron introduced Bill Caldwell to the Commission as the new chairman of the Airport Board. Ron requested approval of Zach McNew as the new Airport Board Member to fill his vacancy. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to approve Zach McNew to serve on the Airport Board. Second by Commissioner Cole and so ordered upon consensus of the Board. Bill asked if there was a description of the chairman position or what were the commission's expectations? Commissioner Peck clarified the role and responsibilities of the Airport Board are statutorily set and suggested a review of their by-laws. Commissioner Cole expressed the importance of continued communication and keeping the commission apprised of the Airport Board's activities and any issues. Commissioner Peck felt one of the priorities for the chairman is efficient management of the airport budget and said he believes the airport is a critical cog for economic development in the county. Commissioner Peck said he would be supportive in any way he could provide. Ron discussed some of his long term goals for the Libby and Eureka airports.

There was a discussion about the many variables that go into fuel management. The airport board members and the Commission discussed Resolution 885 outlining the loan agreement between the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners and the Lincoln County Airport Board. Ron said the airport could pay the loan faster if the 5.5% interest was not attached. He felt the board is unable to make the best purchasing decisions and explained how timing plays a big role in fuel management. Ron clarified some of the hardships in fuel purchasing. Bill explained the .75¢ fuel margin to the commission. Costs increase when forced to purchase partial loads. Bill said the goal is to pay off the loan, not to make money from fuel sales and asked if the Commission would renegotiate the interest. Bill gave a brief history of fuel management. Commissioner Cole expressed how the county is obligated to make equal concession to other loans and that the county is currently planning to look into interest rates on a broader scale.

The Commission will take the fuel management discussion under advisement and said they needed to wait for Commissioner Larson to be in attendance. The commission thanked Ron for his time and years of service to the airport board.

1:30 PM **Libby Now Presentation:** Present were Kristin Smith, Nick Raines, Molly Montana, Johnette Watkins, DC Orr, Dwayne Orr, Chris Nelson, and Bob Henline.

Libby Now is an informal group of individuals seeking to facilitate the creation of a positive image for Libby through a variety of means. The group are professionals from a range of public and private entities in our community and have been meeting for over two years. Nick presented a PowerPoint presentation outlining the goals and purpose of Libby Now. The focus has been to promote the qualities of Libby that make it such an amazing place to visit, live and conduct business. One goal is uniting the community with a shared positive message about this unique area but also providing

factual information about Libby's story of vermiculite and asbestos. To accomplish this goal, Libby Now created a package of materials that can be used by community organizations, businesses/employers, and individual community members. This package includes a logo "Kootenai River Country, Go Wild", a list highlighting some of the primary assets, amenities and opportunities that make Libby such a great place and a clear message that addresses questions and concerns related to asbestos. Commissioner Peck said the package will help people to make an informed, accurate and intelligent decision on their own, Kristin shared the various logos using Kootenai River Country, Go Wild as the base but explained how the logo can be used so entities can add their own picture or use the ones provided by Libby Now to represent their business or organization. Johnette Watkins submitted a Business & Economic Resource Guide to the Commission. The guide lists local and regional agencies that provide economic opportunities and business assistance in Lincoln County. Nick said they are here to ask for help and are requesting feedback and support. The Commission thanked the Libby Now group for sharing their presentation and said they would review the package provided to them. Dc Orr said he has sat in on meetings similar to this from different community groups. He appreciates that Libby Now is not asking for money and is working out of their own pockets and their own hearts. Glad this is not a self-serving group with member benefit. This is something different and positive.

2:30 PM **Administrative Issues:**

- The commissioners read the minutes for January 21, 2015. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to approve January 21, 2015 minutes. Second by Commissioner Cole and so ordered upon consensus of the board.
- The Commission signed the **Subdivision Improvements Agreement; Guaranty** between Stewart Homes and Lincoln County.
- Signed **Resolution 926** to adjust FY 2013/2014 in the Road Fund and Public Safety Fund in order to close the year.
- Commissioners signed the **Lincoln County Safety Incentive Program** and **Safety Program By-Laws** for 2015.
- **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to approve the hiring of a seasonal employee for the Libby Parks Department. Second by Commissioner Cole and so ordered upon consensus of the Board.
- The Commission approved Maintenance Supervisor Tom Magone to give some of the excess county equipment to local fire departments for their use.
- The Commission approved writing a Letter of Support in favor of HB NO. 223 revising death certificate fees for their use as a funding source for the Board of Funeral Service and the Clerk and Recorder's Office.
- The Commission discussed planning & creating a calendar **timeline for the FY 2015-2016 budget** process. Commissioner Peck said he wanted to plan for the 2016 budget and formulate a long range plan. Commissioner Cole said prioritizing goals would be a good way to begin. Budget discussions begin February 3rd with Road Department Supervisors.

3:30 PM The **meeting was adjourned.**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mike Cole, Chairman

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