

JUNE 23, 2015

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met on June 23, 2015, in the Lincoln County Courthouse. Present were Commissioner Mike Cole, Commissioner Greg Larson, Commissioner Mark Peck, Executive Assistant Bill Bischoff and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson.

10:00 AM **American Forest Resource Council:** Present via telephone conference are Tim Dougherty, Tom Partin, Scott Horngren, and Robyn King.

Mr. Horngren explained the role of the American Forest Resource Council in regards to the litigation process for the East Reservoir Project on the Kootenai National Forest. Our emphasis is on the collaborative work that has gone into planning this project and to question the endangered species act claim. The court hearing will probably be in February or March. The Commission all agreed that it is critical to solidify the collaborative process and moving this argument forward on several fronts. Commissioner Peck asked about the county being named as an intervener in support of the project. Scott suggested the commission write a resolution to be approved. Commissioner Peck said the county is interested in becoming heavily involved especially since Lincoln County has an 80% state and federal land mass and continued by asking if the county could officially join the American Forest Resource Council. Mr. Partin said the council would welcome Lincoln County as a member; the cost is \$600 per year for membership.

Motion by Commissioner Larson to develop a resolution and enter in as an intervener in the lawsuit in support of the East Reservoir Project. Second by Commissioner Peck and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.

Motion by Commissioner Peck to join the American Forest Resource Council and the Montana Logging Association as official members. Second by Commissioner Larson, and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.

10:30 AM **Budget Discussion:**

Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson reviewed the preliminary levy spreadsheet with the Commission. Robin pointed out that the budget was overextended by approximately 17.83 mills and amounts to approximately 626,777 based on FY 14/15 mill value of 35,153. Robin also pointed out that the 20 mill over taxation payback amounts to \$703,060 also based on FY14/15 mill value. Robin conveyed this is where the commissions focus needs to be right now. She also said the cash available will change because departments are still spending in the current FY. Mr. Bischoff suggested using the anticipated PILT payment of \$500,000 and the Insurance Fund reserve of 612,000 to help fund the budget reducing the mills significantly. After recalculating the levy spreadsheet, Robin showed this brought the total mills to a surplus of 13.80. This does not include the 20 mill payback, but it does help significantly as we work collectively towards that goal.

1:30 PM **Succession Meeting:**

The commission began discussion on how to plan for Executive Assistant Bill Bischoff's retirement. Mr. Bischoff suggested looking at other counties and how they function structurally. Commissioner Peck said the commission needs to determine what it would want this person to do and named H.R., administrative role, working with department heads, and budget and finance as examples of the many roles that Mr. Bischoff conducts in his current position. Mr. Bischoff said his biggest concern for the county right now is H.R. It is important that Department Supervisors know who to go to for any concerns or issues. Commissioner Peck said the key areas are H.R. and Mr. Bischoff's knowledge and support for the commission. The commission discussed other structural options and how other counties fill these responsibilities. After a brief conversation, **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to appoint Commissioner Peck as acting County Administrator effective immediately through December 31, 2015 at which time, will be reviewed. Second by Commissioner Cole, and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.

The commission agreed that it would be beneficial to put together a Succession Working Group.

3:00 PM The **meeting was adjourned.**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mike Cole, Chairman

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