

September 16, 2015

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on September 16, 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.

9:30 AM **Personnel Meeting:** Present is H.R. Director Vic White.

The Commission discussed changes within the Payroll Department.

Susan Farmer is requesting to begin the hiring process to replace an employee who is retiring in November. The Commission unanimously authorized Susan Farmer to move forward with the hiring process.

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

10:30 AM **District Ranger Bryan Donner, Rexford/Fortine Ranger District Update:**

Bryan spoke briefly about the employment status at the Rexford/Fortine Ranger District. Campground hosts have finished up for the season, student employees have returned to school and out-of-state fire crews are no longer working.

Employment peaked at 120+ employees in late June.

There are three small fire salvage projects from the Tween, Sunday and Pinto Point fires. Murphy Lake Ranger Station was a good location and cost effective Incident Command Post during the fire season. The concept of a residential YCC Program at Murphy Lake is still in the preliminary planning stage but is progressing.

Most purchasers are back on their sales; most timber sale operations were put on hold for purchasers to contribute to the wildfire suppression efforts. This contribution was necessary and significant with the unavailability of large amounts of hand crews. Heavy equipment was often the most effective means of fire suppression. Log decks created during the fire suppression efforts at Sunday and Marston are being prepared for sale and award in mid-October. Barnaby and Marston fires will remain uncontained. About 35 fires were successfully suppressed; five or six of these fires are of unknown origin. Up to 350 firefighters and support personnel were employed by the NE Kootenai Complex. All district firefighters have returned from off-forest assignments.

Bryan expressed his appreciation to the commission for their support and continued efforts regarding grizzly bear awareness, promoting green box sites and the National Forest Food Storage Order.

Commissioner Peck expressed his appreciation to the fire crews stating he felt the initial attack fire response on the KNF was absolutely exemplary. Commissioner Cole commended all of the fire fighting efforts and requested an opportunity to coordinate site visits in the near future.

11:00 AM **Tracy McIntyre, Tobacco Valley Industrial District:**

Archer Manufacturing Project is progressing and Tracy expressed her appreciation for the county support. Conversations between the Tobacco Valley Industrial District and Helena are taking place about best use of grant funds. Commissioner Peck said in his opinion, loans should be enhancements, but a business should be able to show that it can stand on its own two feet. Projected employees for the Archer Manufacturing project will start at 25 to 30 employees when they open their doors with potential for another 20 to 30 in phases. Tracy reminded the commission that the project is still in the conversation phase and is ongoing. Commissioner Larson said that even the conversations and planning that is taking place is encouraging. Tracy invited the Commission for a site visit at the Tobacco Valley Industrial District.

Tracy submitted a handout summarizing the Barb Wold Workshop on September 29. Barb Wold is an international expert on marketing, tourism and trade. Partners are all three county wide Chambers, Economic Development Offices and county officials. Tracy expressed that she is hopeful the meeting would lead to more focused countywide partnerships and efforts towards economic development. Tracy and the Commission shared their enthusiasm, thoughts, and ideas about the county's future and building countywide relationships for the betterment of Lincoln County.

Tracy gave a brief update on the Eureka Bike Path Project stating although it is currently behind in its initial timeline, the project should be completed close to bike season next spring.

Tracy explained the history of the Tobacco Valley Industrial District and its relationship to the county. Per the county auditor, the district is legally its own entity. The county does own all the land and buildings.

11:30 Am **Public Comment Time:** There were no public comments.

1:30 PM **Planning Department:** Present are Lisa Oedewaldt and Deb Blystone. Also present is Paul D. Wachholz, Kelly Rooney, Tim Rooney, Marc Lecheti, Dawn Marquardt, Sarah Arrigone, Kevin Stinger, and Betty Stinger.

Preliminary Approval, Whitetail Hills Subdivision located in Section 14, T33NR26W, Trego. Developer is Kevin & Betty Stinger. The Lincoln County Planning Department has reviewed the proposed land subdivision and based on the information provided, the Lincoln County Planning Department recommends approval of Whitetail Hills Subdivision with conditions. Lisa explained the conditions to the Commission. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to grant preliminary approval to Whitetail Hills Subdivision subject to conditions and based on the findings in the staff report. Second by Commissioner Larson, and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.

Preliminary Approval, Grassy Knoll Subdivision located in the SE4 Section 4, T36NR27W (Parcel B of CS 2688), Eureka. Developer is Paul Wachholz. The Lincoln County Planning Department has reviewed the proposed land subdivision and based on the information provided, the Lincoln County Planning Department recommends approval of Grassy Knoll Subdivision with conditions. Lisa explained the conditions to the Commission. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to grant preliminary approval to Grassy Knoll Subdivision subject to conditions and based on the findings in the staff report. Second by Commissioner Larson, and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.

Final Approval, BS Ranch Subdivision located in the N2NW4 Section 7, T30NR33W, Troy. Developer is Brian Smith. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to grant final approval to BS Ranch Subdivision subject to conditions and based on the findings in the staff report. Second by Commissioner Peck, and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.

Final Approval, Starlight Meadows Subdivision located in the W2NW4 Section 27 and E2NE4 and NW4NE4 Section 28, T35NR26W, Trego. Developer is Tungsten Holdings. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to grant final approval to Starlight Meadows Subdivision subject to conditions and based on the findings in the staff report. Second by Commissioner Larson, and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.

Deb Blystone explained an issue about addressing a piece of property with the Commission. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to have the address remain at 936 Skyview Drive, Rexford. Second by Commissioner Peck, and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board. An official letter will be sent to Martha Alexander from the Commission notifying her of the correct address number.

2:00 PM Tobacco Valley Industrial District:

The Commission toured the Tobacco Valley Industrial District site.

2:30 PM Study Commission Update: Present were Bobbie Stoken, Josh Letcher, Steve Curtiss and Krista Nemeroff. Commissioner Peck explained to the Study Commission about employee and structural changes that have occurred due to employees that have retired. The main changes have taken place within the H.R. Department, Payroll Department and the County Emergency Management department.

Steve said the job of the study commission is to study Lincoln County's form of government and make recommendations. It is not the study commissions desire to radically change the form of government in Lincoln County. The study commission members in attendance feel that the form of government is relative to the specifics in Lincoln County. The biggest question the study commission receives from the public is why the commission makes decisions that the public feels is against the will of the people. Commissioner Peck said that is a difficult question to answer short of not reelecting local government officials. Commissioner Peck said the lack of public interest and participation in county government plays a role in the public's knowledge and understanding of county issues.

Commissioner Peck commented that one topic that he feels is becoming an issue is prioritizing county services. If we need to make big cuts down the road, we need to do our research on what is the will of the people and what services are mandated and at what level do those services need to be offered to the public.

There was a brief discussion about the resignation of Tracy McIntyre from the Study Commission and how her position can be filled.

3:15 PM Administrative Issues:

- **Approval of Minutes:** The Commission read the minutes for September 3, 2015. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to approve minutes as written. Second by Commissioner Larson, and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.
- **Approval of Minutes:** The Commission read the minutes for September 9, 2015. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to approve minutes as written. Second by Commissioner Peck, and so ordered upon unanimous consent of the board.
- **FY 15/16 Budget Certification and Budget Message:**
The Commission signed the budget certification and budget message that will be sent to the Department of Administration by Clerk & Recorder Robin Benson. The budget message and certification are required pages in the budget packet to the Department of Administration.
- **County owned trailer at the Libby Airport:**
Robin suggested the Commission research insurance and liability on the county owned trailer at the Libby Airport. Commissioner Peck said he would contact MACo.

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

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mike Cole, Chairman

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