

July 27, 2016

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on July 27, 2016, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Cole, Commissioner Larson, Commissioner Peck, and Deputy Clerk Chris Nelson.

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

9:30 AM Public **Friends of the Library: Memorial Garden:** Present were Nikki Meyer, Alan Gerstenecker, Susan Horelick and Malia Bennett.

Susan Horlick, VP of Friends of the Library and chair of the proposed Friends of the Library Memorial Garden, said she met with Tom Magone about the planned Memorial Garden. The Friends of the Library will be paying for and maintaining the proposed memorial garden. Susan brought designs for the memorial that she went over with the commissioners. They are seeking permission from the Commissioners to move ahead. The Commissioners went over to the front of the library for a quick tour of the proposed garden. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to approve the memorial garden. Second by Commissioner Larson and so ordered upon the unanimous consent of the Board.

10:00 AM **Nancy Higgins:** Present were Alan Gerstenecker and Treasurer Nancy Higgins.

Treasurer Nancy Higgins met with the Commissioners to go over the cash reconciliation and said they have more cash in the banks than is showing in the books. Currently, it is off by \$83.42 which Nancy said isn't bad but she would rather it be 0. Nancy then went over the cash report and said it was a fairly standard report. Nancy was asked by Alan Gerstenecker of the Kootenai Valley Record how many transactions typically occur in a month. Nancy said it can vary; there are six different bank statements, but there are many, many different transactions monthly. Commissioner Larson asked about account #7875, Town of Troy, what that was. Nancy said that the county collects the tax funds for each town. Commissioner Peck asked about the money in the account of the no longer in existence, Cabinet View Fire Department. He wanted to know what to do with the money. Nancy said there are probably statutes in Montana law on what can be done. Commissioner Peck said that he would speak with Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson about it. Nancy said there were several other accounts that had money in them but were no longer in existence that should also be cleaned up. Nancy then went over the County investments.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues:** Present were Dallas Wamsley and Alan Gerstenecker.

- Commissioners reviewed the minutes of July 19, 2016 and July 20, 2016. Commissioner Larson noted a change on the July 20, 2016 minutes. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to approve the minutes of July 19, 2016 as is and the minutes of July 20, 2016 with one change. Second by Commissioner Peck and so ordered upon the unanimous consent of the Board.
- Commissioner Cole said they received a letter from the Helena office about a grant to finish the Libby airport. Also received a grant closeout letter for the Libby Airport.
- Dallas had the Flex plan that needed to be signed by Commissioner Cole. Dallas then asked if they could go into closed session to discuss an employee.

Commissioner Cole moved to close the meeting to discuss an employee at 10:45 AM.

Commissioner Cole opened the meeting back up at 11:00 AM.

11:00 AM **Public Comment Time:** Present were Leigh Riggelman, Hank La Sala, John Righter, Heather McDougall, Alan Gerstenecker, and Jim Ward.

Hank La Sala said that at the last meeting he felt the Commissioners didn't find the issue of dissolving the Troy Dispatch important. Hank notified the Commissioners that he had put together a form letter that he circulated for signatures. Hank brought 27 signatures and gave them to the Commissioners. John Righter said that there should be a few more letters coming in and Commissioner Larson said that the County had also already received several. Hank said he spoke with several people who were from within the city limits of Troy who also supported the dissolution as well as people from outside the Troy city limits. John said when he went out to collect signatures, he just went from one house to another and didn't look for any special group to sign and said he never received any objections from anyone. Jim Ward said he has been through the same issue in another town he worked in, and eventually they put it all into one emergency command center that worked well. Heather McDougall said that she had a meeting at her house of 10-11 people about dissolving the Troy Dispatch and said they have many people that are willing to help. Heather said she believes they are just getting started and believes there are many other people that would support the dissolution. La Sala asked the commissioners what they are going to do. Commissioner Peck said that Public Comment time isn't for making decisions it was to listen to the public's concerns. Commissioner Peck added that they should schedule a meeting specifically for the issue. La Sala said he understood and thanked the Commissioners for their time.

11:30 AM **Troy Dispatch Vacancy:** Present were Jim Ward, Seaborn Larson, Gerald Wallace, Alan Gerstenecker, and Cathy Foote.

Commissioner Cole read the letters of support for Jim Ward and stated that Jim Ward and Cathy Foote were the applicants. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to accept Jim Ward to fill out the remaining term of Gerald Wallace on the Troy Area Dispatch Board. Second by Commissioner Larson and so ordered upon the unanimous consent of the Board.

1:15 PM **Troy Land Purchase:** Present were Tim Rooney, Jay Dinning, Seaborn Larson, Crawford Dinning, Dallas Wamsley and Lisa Oedewaldt.

Troy Land Purchase. Lisa said they were here to discuss whether the county wants to buy property to expand the Troy Road Department or not. Commissioner Larson said he supports buying the property as it is the last land available for purchase to expansion and it is in their budget to purchase if the budget is approved at its current level. Commissioner

Cole said he struggles with the decision because of discussions they have had about how tight budgets are and how they need to get budgets under control. Commissioner Cole said though they may have the money in the budget is it the time to be using that money or to reign in the budget. Commissioner Peck said when you look at the location of it; there is no other expansion capability other than what is currently for sale. Commissioner Peck said he doesn't know what the plans for expansion may be. Lisa said with a Capital Improvements Plan they would be able to set that plan up. Commissioner Larson said they are crowded there and wondered once a budget is approved, are the Commissioners going to micro manage those? Commissioner Larson said he doesn't feel that one end of the county should receive the majority or county funding while the other end gets ignored. Commissioner Peck said he is only looking at the issue on its merits and is looking at the expansion need. Commissioner Peck said he doesn't know if it's crowded in Troy or what the actual needs are. Commissioner Peck said he would support going forward with it because if the opportunity is missed, there will not be another one. Lisa said this is only a discussion to start the process, not necessarily that they are going to end up buying it. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to start the process of considering the purchase of land in Troy for the road department. Second by Commissioner Larson and so ordered upon the unanimous consent of the Board.

1:30 PM **Planning Department:** Present were Tim Rooney, Jay Dinning, Crawford Dinning, Seaborn Larson, Alan Gerstenecker and Lisa Oedewaldt.

- County Planner Lisa Oedewaldt said there was supposed to have been a public hearing today, but she received a phone call that it had not been advertised in the Kootenai Valley Record. Lisa contacted the newspaper and they said it had erroneously omitted from being advertised in the paper. Lisa said by statute they cannot hold the public hearing since it had not been in the paper.
- Lisa said that in 2015, the Commissioners gave an extension to the Buffet property on Sophie Lake because the owner was in the military. He said he is back and would start in the fall and just needs another extension. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to extend a six month extension on the Buffet Property to finish their dock and stair project. Second by Commissioner Peck and so ordered upon the unanimous consent of the Board.

2:00 PM **Gas and Diesel:** Present were Dallas Wamsley and Alan Gerstenecker.

Commissioner said they had one bid for fuel in Eureka from City Service out of Kalispell. Dallas said it was the same bid as last year. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to accept the City Service bid for fuel in Eureka. Second by Commissioner Peck and so ordered upon the unanimous consent of the Board.

Commissioner Cole closed the meeting for a personnel update at 2:02 PM.

Commissioner Cole reopened the meeting at 2:10 PM.

2:15 PM **Human Resource: Policy Manual Approval:** Present were Dallas Wamsley, Vic White, and Alan Gerstenecker. Vick White presented the Commissioners with a draft Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual. Vic said MACo has approved the current draft. Vick did say it had been recommended that the County drop the call-out option but Vick said he left it in to discuss it with the Commissioners. Dallas said that it is not an issue that comes up often. Commissioner Peck said he feels that the IT policy needs to be integrated into the policy manual. Commissioner Peck said he will talk to Ric in IT about doing a different policy for cell phone use. Vic said he wanted to point out on page 6 that if a spouse or significant other is a supervisor of an employee another Department head will supervise them instead to avoid any conflict of interest.

2:45 PM **Fairgrounds Infrastructure Projects:** Present were Alan Gerstenecker, Tracy McIntire, and Krista Nemerof. Commissioner Cole said he following up on last week's meeting on the Fairgrounds. Said a major question was the sewer system design and was it done correctly. Commissioner Cole brought the engineering report and went over the layout of the sewer line. Commissioner Peck asked if the County is paying for the whole project or if the USFS would pay to hook into the system. Tracy said she believes that the USFS would hook into the system. Commissioner Peck asked if the city would pay for any part of the project. Commissioner Cole said the city would contribute to a portion of the project if there was development on the other side of the fairgrounds. Tracy said an inter-local agreement would have to be drawn up. Commissioner Peck said when he was working in Flathead County and they built a new 911 center, they had to pay a fee to tie into the existing sewer and water lines. Tracy said the County could pay for it and if the City ever utilized the system the County could charge the City. Commissioner Peck said the road crews from each town could do the installation. Tracy said that they would need to make sure that they are all paid prevailing wages as they are using state funds. Commissioner Peck said he would like to see some research done on the wage portion. Commissioner Cole said that they may be able to use existing water lines in the water line portion of the project. Commissioner Cole said that the rodeo association said that they would be willing to pay half of the cost of the bleacher project. Commissioner Peck asked if any of the road crews had been contacted. Commissioner Cole said he had not spoken with Eureka Road Foreman Tim White yet. Commissioner Larson asked about the issue of parking that had come up the previous week. Commissioner Cole said they had looked at the parking issue previously but are concentrating on the sewer/water and bleacher project. Commissioner Cole said that there wouldn't be that much excavation to put the bleachers in and they are very cost effective and easy to clean. Tracy said she would like an answer whether she can move forward with the InterCap Loan. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to approve the application of the InterCap loan subject to guarantee of the funding from the Tobacco Valley Rodeo Association and clear direction on what road crew can do to minimize the cost of the project. Second by Commissioner Cole. Commissioner Larson voted against the motion. Motion passed by majority vote.

## LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Mike Cole, Chairman

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Nelson, Clerk of the Board