

October 26, 2016

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on October 26, 2016, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Cole, Commissioner Larson, and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson.

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

9:00 AM **IT Staffing/Ric Kesling**: Present were Alan Gerstenecker and Caleb Soptelean.

Ric explained to the commission that we are nearing the time to get the job description out in order to hire a new employee before his retirement. The decision needs to be made is whether the advertisement would be for the IT Director position or the Senior Technology Specialist position. Ric is requesting approval from the commission to promote Ernie Anderson as the IT Director upon his retirement and hire for the Senior Technology Specialist position currently held by Mr. Anderson. Ric stressed that Mr. Anderson has worked in the IT Department since 2009 and is qualified to be promoted as the Lincoln County IT Director. Ric said he would like to be involved in the recruitment process. Commissioner Cole said the issue needs to be put on the commissioner's agenda next week for decision.

10:00 AM **Nancy Higgins/Treasurer Monthly Report**: Present were Alan Gerstenecker, Caleb Soptelean and Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

Nancy submitted her monthly reconciliation report, cash report and county investment reports for commission review. Nancy suggested that if PILT money will be used to pay for the Intercap Loan for the fairgrounds, it may be prudent to moving the amount of the loan from PILT to an account to ensure that it cannot be spent since there is no guarantee of PILT money being received annually.

Nancy submitted a ZIP Code report reflecting where the county tax bills are being sent. It is an interesting way of looking at where our tax bills go noting that 4,520 tax bills are sent out of state or international. A total of 17,894 tax bills have been mailed out.

Nancy presented Lincoln County tax bills to the commission. Twenty three of the tax bills are for DNRC State Fire Protection on Lincoln County properties. Nancy feels these bills should be an automatic pay each year without commission approval. Three of the bills are county owned property in the Glen Lake Irrigation District. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to pay all the DNRC and Glen Lake Irrigation District county tax bills out of Fund 2900 PILT. Second by Commissioner Cole, motion carried. The motion is for a total of 26 tax bills equaling approximately \$700. Nancy discussed one property being a remainder piece and that the adjacent owner has passed away. Commissioner Larson asked Nancy to do more research on options/alternatives allowed in these situations. Nancy brought it to the attention of the Commissioners that the Lincoln County Community College tax bill is still delinquent. Nancy wanted to make note that she has brought this to the former and current commissioner's attention on numerous occasions. Commissioner Larson said research has been conducted and the commission needs to have a meeting with the college and negotiate an agreement outlining responsibilities. Nancy wanted to be clear that if a person or company were to take out an assignment on the college building or property, it would not be denied.

Nancy discussed a tax bill of county owned property behind the Yaak Mercantile. The strip of land is long, but narrow along the river. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to pay tax bill #210 pertaining to the property located behind the Yaak Mercantile. Second by Commissioner Cole, motion carried. Commissioner Cole and Commissioner Larson agreed there may be possibilities to transfer ownership or sell county owned property to adjacent land owners but it will need further investigation and discussion. Nancy discussed property at the Port Authority that has a delinquent beneficial use tax bill. Nancy questioned if the Port Authority should be responsible for tax bills if companies are brought in and then leave; who is responsible for those types of beneficial use tax bills. Commissioner Larson suggested Nancy to visit with Tina Oliphant to help determine the legal process and responsibilities and to report back to the commission with more information.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues**: Present were Alan Gerstenecker, Caleb Soptelean and Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

- Accounting Deputy, Wendy Drake questioned who has authority to sign the titles when county vehicles are sold. Commissioner Cole said a commissioner should sign vehicle titles.
- The Commissioners read the minutes for October 11, 12 and 14, 2016. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to approve all minutes as submitted. Second by Commissioner Cole, motion carried.
- Robin said a request came in from the Sheriff's Department to add line items to the DUI Task Force budget for tracking purposes; the budget amount does not change. The commissioners approved the request.
- Robin said that she prepared a draft resolution to create a citizen budget committee to analyze and prioritize Lincoln County services per commission request on September 22, 2016. Robin said she will discuss this at next week's meeting when Commissioner Peck will also be present.
- Robin submitted a letter that she just received to the commission from the Tobacco Valley Industrial District that is dated July 21, 2016. The letter outlines current activities and planning by the TVID Board. The letter is to the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners and she was not sure if the commission had received it.

11:00 AM **Public Comment Time**: Present were Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

Nikki Meyer, Eureka asked if there were any changes or any meetings scheduled for further discussions regarding the fairgrounds project. Commissioner Cole said that Mike Fraser gave a report pertaining to options and alternative for the sewer system at the fairgrounds and although there will be more conversations, there are no meetings scheduled at this time.

11:30 **Troy Rural Fire District Board Appointment**: Present were Wayne Maffit and Sylvia Maffit.

Robin said she received a request from Troy Rural Fire District to advertise two vacancies due to resignations. Robin submitted a public notice to local newspapers. Robert Welch is the only application received. **Motion** by Commissioner Larson to appoint Robert Welch to serve on the Troy Rural Fire District Board to fill the vacancy left by Ron Downey. Second by Commissioner Cole, motion carried.

1:30 PM **Closed Conference call with MACo Attorney/Commissioner Larson attended.**

2:00 PM **Callahan Creek Update:** Cancelled

1:30 PM **Meeting Adjourned:**

## **LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Mike Cole, Chairman

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Robin Benson, Clerk of the Board