

April 18, 2017

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a special session on April 18, 2017, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Cole, Commissioner Bennett, County Administrator Darren Coldwell and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson. Commissioner Peck is in Washington on county business.

10:00 AM Finance Meeting:

- **IT Department:** IT Director Ernie Anderson informed the commission that the county will need to update from Microsoft Office 2010 to Office 2016. The cost is \$17.00 per user/employee monthly or \$15,000 annually for Office 365 Government E3 including maintenance. Ernie said this cost has been previously paid out of the IT budget. Darren questioned if this should be a shared expense in each department proportionately by how many employees would be a user. Darren suggested that he would visit with Ernie to analyze the number of necessary users countywide. Ernie suggested pulling the Sheriff's Department into the purchase because currently they pay separately, and combining would save the county money. Ernie said he is in conversation with Frontier to replace or modify the county phone system. He is researching options and cost for a better user friendly phone tree for the public.
- **Cell Phone/Verizon:** Payroll and H.R. Coordinator Dallas Bowe said the county bill annually for cell phone, and Ipad costs is well over \$60,000. Ernie said that there are currently 25 I pads out to employees. Commissioner Bennett requested a list of cell phones per department with costs. Darren said that Lincoln County does not have a cell phone policy and recommends that the county put a policy in place.
- **Capitol Christmas Tree:** Darren said he has talked to all the high schools about implementing a photo contest. Six kids and two chaperones will go to the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony in Washington D.C. The idea is for kids to take pictures of Lincoln County and put a video of Lincoln County together that was created by local students.
- **Employee Incentives:** Darren said he will continue to visit with MACo legal advisor about employee incentives, Buy Out Policy and health insurance.
- **County Properties:** Darren shared a PowerPoint presentation showing Lincoln County properties that potentially could be sold. Darren explained M.C.A. 7-8-2211 giving authority to the Commissioners to sell property. Commissioner Bennett suggested that possibly the new county forester position could look into the properties more closely. Darren said he would put together a folder for the commissioners of all the properties and suggested touring some of the sites.

1:00 PM County Health Insurance Discussion: Present were Brent Schwab representing Leavitt Great West Insurance Services, Dallas Bowe, Rick Ball, Joe Nagle, Brandon Huff, Ernie Anderson, Vicki French, Kathi Hooper, Newell Goucher, Jen Brown, Sedaris Carlberg, Joe Mocko, and Bonnie Larson. Also present was Steve Newman, Eureka via VisionNet. Brent informed the commissioners and employees that he has explored health insurance markets and he is here to present the findings of his research. Brent said he is a consultant for Joint Powers Trust (JPT) that enrolls Lincoln County as a member.

Brent explained options for short term and long term disability, dental and vision analysis; voluntary programs offered to county employees. Brent informed the commission that the premium for JPT Employee Health Insurance Coverage with no changes will increase 6.7% for FY 17/18. A second plan that provides a Health Savings Account with pre-tax dollars and is independent of the employer would be a 5.6% increase in insurance premiums.

Informational packets were presented to the commissioners and the employees to read and learn more about options and costs. Also included was information for a Lincoln County Group Retiree Insurance Plan.

The meeting was informational; no decisions were made at this time.

2:00 PM Meeting adjourned

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mike Cole, Chairman

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