

**July 31, 2018**

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a special session on July 31, 2018 in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Cole, Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Peck, County Administrator Darren Coldwell and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson.

**9:00 AM Frontier Discussion:** Present were Bob Trombley and Steve Long representing Frontier, Chad Campbell and Robyn Madison representing Senator Tester's Office. Also present via phone was Carl Erhart with Frontier.

Robyn said the purpose of today's meeting is to discuss current and future plans to help business and private property owners with internet speed and broadband updates.

Carl provided a PPT overview of the Montana Connect America Fund (CAF) II Program. It is a federal funded program and Frontier is eligible for 330 million annually for 6 years across its service territory and 1.1 million in annual funding for Montana. Funding will be awarded and announced after September.

The group discussed local bandwidth, technologies, private customer service and commercial service, urban and high cost areas and download speeds.

Commissioner Peck said there is a concern in the Chain of Lakes area. Bob said he is aware of the area and it is being looked at and that generator batteries are being replaced. Steve said he will follow-up.

Robyn asked about new subdivision development. Steve said that Frontier does work with developers and the service depends on the amount of lots and distance. Some developers are willing to work with cost and contribute to those high cost areas.

Steve discussed Frontiers 2018 Build Plan Projects in the Libby and Troy area and will communicate 2019 plans once projects are approved and funding is in place.

Commissioner Peck suggested public education to teach technologies, costs, urban areas, and how multiple users in one home all plugged in at the same time pulls speed and significantly reduces internet speed capabilities. Steve commented another education piece is for developers on how to wire a house properly to get the most of its electronic services.

The commissioners said the meeting was very informative and educational and thanked Frontier staff for their time.

**10:30 AM Finance:** Present were Dallas Bowe, Wendy Drake, John Blodgett and Josh Letcher, Eureka via VisionNet.

- The commissioners reviewed end of FY 17/18 Budget vs. Actual Reports. Wendy will prepare the annual resolution for all budget overages. The resolution is to acknowledge revenues and expenditures that were not known at the time of final budget approval. Wendy discussed end of FY 17/18 cash balances. There are some negative cash balances, but Darren said overall cash balances are very good. Grants that are negatives are still expecting revenues to come in.
- Darren said he would like to set up a meeting to discuss FY 18/19 sheriff's budget; potentially end of this week.
- Darren said the North Annex MV Department only has one employee; shifts, manning, electronic processing options were discussed.
- Darren said a draft of the sheriff's department audit has been received and will bring information back to the commission for further discussion.

**1:00 PM** The commissioners toured SHERPA Trailers.

**Meeting adjourned** at 12:00 PM

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Cole, Chairman

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Nelson, Deputy Clerk and Recorder