

October 3, 2018

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on October 3, 2018, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Cole, Commissioner Peck, Commissioner Bennett, County Administrator Darren Coldwell, and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson.

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

9:00 AM **USFS Monthly Update:** Present were Acting Forest Supervisor Chad Benson and Alan Gerstenecker. Also present was Josh Letcher, Eureka via VisionNet.

Chad said the FS advertised four salvage sales in Libby, Troy and Eureka last month. Canada South sale in Eureka was about 12mmbf. Looking forward, the FS will be looking for more salvage sales.

There will be a regional meeting in two weeks. KNF is hoping for 50+ mmbf next year; potentially pushing for 70mmbf, but it is still undetermined at this time.

Commissioner Cole said the commission looks for and supports continued logging and salvage work, but asked about road, trail and maintenance contracts that helps keep local contractors working. Chad said at this time funds for those type of projects does not allow for large scale maintenance projects but expressed optimism that funding will improve for maintenance programs.

Chad gave a brief update on the forest service summer youth programs. Commissioner Cole mentioned that kids are not subjected or interested in forestry anymore. Commissioner Peck agreed and talked about forestry education for kids back when he was in school and mentioned that kids are no longer exposed to it. Commissioner Cole said if we are going to change the culture about forest management, we need to start with the kids to bring that back in.

Commissioner Peck mentioned the new county forester Jennifer Nelson, commenting we have a great opportunity to have an integrated plan and strategy on how to manage the urban interface in Lincoln County; sitting down and aggressively plan and strategically look at how to do community protection. Darren gave an example that developers are expected to have a fire mitigation plan but if the subdivision has forest service land around it that hasn't done any management in 60 years, it seems unfair and pointless.

Chad and the commissioners talked about relationships and how the county and forest service are intertwined and dependent on each other for forest management success in Lincoln County.

10:00 AM **IT Department Update:** Present were IT Director Ernie Anderson and Alan Gerstenecker. Also present were Josh Letcher and Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

- Ernie said the new VOIP phone system has been installed in the courthouse workstations on the main and upper levels and EMA office are completed and working well. We added new offices for the forester and probation officer and we did not budget for those licenses; will need to add new licenses for those phones. The new phone tree for the public will be created after the sheriff's department is brought in to the VOIP system.
- IT is in the process of replacing and upgrading all computers at the county libraries; Eureka library is in good shape. New printers are being installed. A camera system is being installed at the Libby library so upstairs staff can see downstairs.
- IT is currently replacing and upgrading computers in the sheriff's department and implementing the new phone system.
- A new camera system is going to be installed in the courthouse; several courthouse doors, courtroom and outside cameras around the building are being installed soon. The cameras are to mitigate security concerns. The main monitor will be located in dispatch. Cameras are also being installed at the North Annex covering all four corners of the building outside and at the business office.
- Heather Benjamin is working on building a computer kiosk at the North Annex to help the motor vehicle department.
- Heather Benjamin (IT) and Maranda Davis (Clerk and Recorder's Office) are going through online GIS training every Tuesday and Thursday for a couple of hours. The training benefits the county addressing and the clerk and recorder's office as the clerk's office moves to digital mapping for their tract books.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues:** Present were Alan Gerstenecker. Also present were Josh Letcher and Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

- Robin presented the minutes for September 26, 2018 regular meeting for Commissioner approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve September 26, 2018 minutes as presented. Second by Commissioner Peck, motion carried unanimously.
- Commissioner Peck clarified that he will be contributing \$571.80 towards cost to paint the Libby Area Chamber of Commerce building, not \$445.00 as mentioned during the September 26, 2018 meeting. Funds will come out of the Libby Economic Development Fund.
- Robin said she received an email from MACo that as of October 1, 2018, the Out-of-State Meal Reimbursement rate for morning meal increased from \$11.00 to \$13.00 and the midday meal increased from \$12.00 to \$14.00; evening meal did not change. Robin said she will be writing a new resolution end of December for the 2019 holiday schedule and meal/mileage reimbursement rates. Mileage rates have not come in yet. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to adopt the new recommended out-of-state meal reimbursement rates as submitted. Second by Commissioner Bennett, motion carried unanimously.
- Commissioner Peck shared concerns from the 2013 pilot study where EPA looked at 30 properties that were already cleaned. The study resulted in trace findings on 26 of the 30 properties and 3 properties required extensive clean-up. Commissioner Peck said he will visit with Mike Cirian and questioned if the remedy is really protected and when we find those properties, whose responsibility will it fall to when the property owners have an EPA letter stating a clean bill of health. Commissioner Peck said there is no expectation to go back and retest all properties, but the county will be looking at O&M from a different perspective. From a statistical standpoint, these

30 properties are a small snapshot of a bigger picture; this is significant for further discussion about recontamination, continued exposure and cost. Commissioner Bennett explained prior to 2007, the science was not established.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time:** Present were Alan Gerstenecker. Also present were Josh Letcher and Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

There were no public comments.

11:00 AM **Libby Schools Update/Craig Barringer:** Present were Alan Gerstenecker. Also present were Josh Letcher and Nikki Meyer, Eureka via VisionNet.

Craig shared Libby Schools statistics as follows:

Increase of 22 students since 2013/14 school year.

85 teachers; 4 are part-time teachers.

Four schools:

1. Libby Elementary has highest enrollment of 640 kids.
2. Libby Middle/High school
3. Central School (included in the H.S. statistics)
4. Plummer School/Early Head Start Program: 80 children in programs; 18 of the children considered homeless; 7 in foster care.

58% of students currently qualify for free/reduced meals. Average 430 lunches/day; Average 193 breakfasts/day

School system is in the fourth year of the cooking kitchen located at Asa Wood saving money.

15 route buses which run 943 miles/day

FY 19 Budget is \$8,102,702

Craig talked about the Building Reserve Levy Projects and said the projects can be viewed by the public at

www.libbyschools.org

School Focus/Improvement: Math instruction, improve attendance rates and reduce tardies, improve graduation rates (we are above standards), increase participation in our Internship Program, address the growing mental health needs of our students, and writing skills of all students in all subjects.

Craig shared about the talent in our schools and acknowledged students, schools and programs that are showing successes; an 8th grader with a published book called "Beyond" that can be purchased on Amazon, a young man recently was selected to compete in the largest amateur golf tournament in the United States. A local student was selected as the *Montana Gear Up Liaison of the Year*. LHS volleyball team had the highest overall GPA as a team in the State and were 4th in state last year. 100% of welding students passed their welding test at the college level. Elementary School has received the Montana Behavioral Initiative (MBI) highest award second year in a row for work pertaining to behavior in the school.

Test scores:

English/Language Arts above state average; increase of 10.82% in four years.

Mathematics above state average; increase of 17.63% in four years

Pre-School Program:

92% of kids from head start test ready for kindergarten allowing teachers to start with a much more solid base.

Craig commented the Lincoln County School System has a very dedicated staff doing a great job for our kids.

1:15 AM **Tobacco Prevention Contract/Jennifer McCully:** Present were Alan Gerstenecker. Also present was Josh Letcher, Eureka via VisionNet. Commissioner Peck excused.

Jennifer said the Tobacco Prevention Grant with Flathead County is an annual pass-through grant for tobacco prevention activities and education in Lincoln County. Grant is for \$36,000 for FY 18/19. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to approve the annual MT Tobacco Use Prevention Grant as submitted. Second by Commissioner Cole, motion carried unanimously.

Jennifer said Trista Gilmore passed her nursing board testing and is now a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). Jennifer commented Trista is an asset to the Public Health Department.

1:30 PM **Planning Department:** Present were County Planner Jake Mertes, Kristin Smith, Byron Sanderson, Brad Lord, and Brett McCully. Also present was Josh Letcher, Eureka via VisionNet. Commissioner Peck excused.

Cowell Creek Estates proposed minor subdivision of Lot 1A COS 4545B is located approximately 12 miles south of Libby on Farm to Market Road. The developer intends to create 2 lots from the 48.49-acre parcel. Jake said the recommendation is to grant preliminary approval to Cowell Creek Estates Subdivision subject to conditions and based on the findings in the staff report. Byron asked if #2 utilities recommendation can be removed because utilities are already installed. **Motion** by Commissioner Bennett to grant preliminary approval for Cowell Creek Estates striking #2 utilities recommendation subject to all other conditions and recommendations. Second by Commissioner Cole, motion carried unanimously.

Byron informed the commission that a family transfer has been submitted. Due to health conditions, there is the potential the owner may not survive the process timeline. Kristin suggested the owner sign off on a Power of Attorney to continue the process if necessary.

1:50 PM **Meeting Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mike Cole, Chairman

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