

April 13, 2021

FY 21/22 Preliminary Budget Discussions

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a special session on April 13, 2021 in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Peck, County Administrator Patrick McFadden and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson. Commissioner Letcher was present via VisionNet.

10:00 AM Adult Probation: Present were Jay Sheffield and Vanessa Williamson. Vanessa submitted the expenditure report for commissioner review, reflecting any changes for FY 21/22. Vanessa briefed the commissioners on the roles, responsibilities and services provided by the probation department. Vanessa talked about how she is connecting people to other community services and coordinating efforts to mitigate mental health and substance abuse issues. Jay talked about how the program has been extremely successful and commented on the growth of the department. Jay commended Vanessa for attaining her master's degree in clinical social work by end of summer and is requesting a pay increase for Vanessa's position. Jay said they are asking for a secured transport vehicle that has a cage for transporting safely. The vehicle will free up officer time without needing law enforcement. Patrick asked Jay to write a justification letter for any change requests, this would include wage increases and vehicle request for further consideration.

10:30 AM Clerk and Recorder: Present was Robin Benson. Robin submitted the expenditure report for commissioner review, reflecting any changes for FY 21/22. Discussion focused on the ongoing growth in addressing, recording, elections and mapping. Robin discussed the strain by taking on another department (addressing) but commented it is a good fit for the Clerk & Recorder's Office since it ties into the MTVotes Address Library. Robin informed the commission that GIS services are directly involved in updating tract books, addressing and the MTVotes Address Library. Robin said she is requesting permission to hire a full-time, high-level employee to absorb tasks that are currently contracted services, eliminating those contracts to absorb the wage cost of a new employee. Robin said the position would be a Land Specialist with strong emphasis on GIS knowledge. Robin said good news is that approximately \$170,000 in revenue is anticipated by end of fiscal year that is generated from recording, going directly into the general fund; increase from the \$110,000 anticipated. Robin briefed the commissioners that discrepancies are being found in the county address database and said she is having conversations with planning on how to fix or mitigate those situations.

Commissioner Peck said he agreed it is a needed position and how critical is is to have competent employees with specific skillsets.

Commissioner Letcher said he is aware of several address conflicts in the Eureka area and has assisted addressing staff to resolve them.

Commissioner Peck requested Robin to research similar positions in other counties reflecting wage rates for comparison purposes.

11:15 AM **Meeting Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jerry Bennett, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Robin A. Benson, Clerk and Recorder