

January 27, 2021

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on January 27, 2021 in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Peck, and Commissioner Letcher, County Administrator Patrick McFadden and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson.

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

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues:** Present was Derrick Perkins. Present via phone were Nikki Meyer and Ray Stout.

- The Commissioners signed the following grant support letters: J Neils Trail Rehabilitation Project and the Recreation Trails Program grant submission by the Lincoln County Port Authority. Rehabilitation of the Old Haul Road Trail and a Montana Trail Stewardship grant submitted by the Lincoln County Port Authority. The Rabbit Tracts Forest Partnership proposal being submitted by the Lincoln County FireSafe Council for grant funding. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to approve support letters as submitted. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.
- Robin submitted the minutes for January 20, 2021 for approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to approve minutes as submitted. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

10:45 AM **Public Comment:** Present was Derrick Perkins. Present via phone were Nikki Meyer and Ray Stout. There were no public comments.

11:00 AM **Sundblad Court Ordered Split / Short Lakeshore Permit:** Present were County Planner Jake Mertes, Brett McCully and Derrick Perkins. Present via phone were Nikki Meyer and Ray Stout.

- The Lincoln County Planning Staff received a request from Tery Zoutte for comment on the Court Ordered Split for the Sundblad Estate. Jake discussed the planning staff review and findings and submitted supporting documentation. Jake said the Exemption Review Committee found no evidence of an attempt to evade the MSPA and are ok with the court ordered split and have nothing to add. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to approve the court ordered split subject to planning staff review and recommendation. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.
- Jake explained the property owner, Jesse Short is proposing to remove vegetation above the high watermark and dredge below the highwater mark to create an area free of silt and obstructions for a boat dock and slip. Jake gave an overview of the Planning Staff review, conditions, and findings. The Lincoln County Planning Department recommends approval of the Short Lakeshore Construction permit on Middle Thompson Lake with 6 conditions. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to approve the Short Lakeshore Permit as presented based on planning staff review, conditions and recommendation. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

11:15 AM **Bull Lake USFS Right-of-Way Discussion / Troy Road Department:** Present were Road Supervisor Marc McCully, Jeremy Hageness, Brett McCully and Derrick Perkins. Present via phone were Nikki Meyer and Ray Stout.

Marc gave a brief history regarding property owned by Jeremy Hageness that is surrounded by forest service. Marc discussed access options or easement on the Bull Lake West Shore Road. Marc submitted a document explaining the fundamental principles of Section 1323 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (ANILCA) and statutes regarding guaranteed right of access to private inholders of land within national forest for commissioner review. Marc said he is here today to inform the commissioners of this situation.

The commissioners agreed they support efforts to allow access to public property/private lands through public property. Jeremy thanked the commissioners for any help and for setting time aside for discussion.

1:30 PM **Worker's Comp Update / Brad Salonen:** Present were Brad Salonen representing PayneWest and HR Director Dallas Bowe. Commissioner Peck was excused.

Brad briefed the commissioners on Lincoln County's mid-year claims data. There were 2 claims turned into MACo from January through June 30, 2020 and \$4,645 paid out. The county moved to the Montana State Fund in July 2020. There were 2 claims turned into the Montana State Fund from July through December 2020 and \$134 has been paid and there is \$7,450 in reserves. Brad said he does not see any red flags within Lincoln County and there are no concerning safety trends and commended Lincoln County for its great safety record.

Brad talked about some software discrepancies between the Montana State Fund and Black Mountain Software used by the county HR Department and those discrepancies are being worked on. Brad commented the software issue is not just Lincoln County, but all counties using Black Mountain that moved to the Montana State Fund. Dallas further clarified the software and auditing issues that need to be resolved.

Brad said the Lincoln County Safety Committee is doing well. Those county employees that attend would like to see more representation from some of the departments, but we all know they have other work to do. Brad commented that he attends most all safety meetings and is very proud of those employees on the safety committee who do attend, especially Brent Teske and Robin Benson for their efforts. Brad said he attributes the low claims numbers to the effort put out by the monthly safety committee meetings, monthly countywide safety topics, county safety incentive program and overall awareness of safety.

2:00 PM **Meeting Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jerry Bennett, Chairman

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