

June 16, 2021

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on June 16, 2021 in the Lincoln County Annex, Eureka, Montana. Present were Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Letcher, County Administrator Patrick McFadden and Clerk & Recorder Robin Benson.

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

9:30 AM **TFS Fire Service Area:** Present was Andrew Long. Present was Mike McMahon via phone.

Mike talked about the growth in the area with structures and homes and submitted a fee increase proposal for commissioner review. The FSA Board met and motioned to send a proposal to the County Commissioners for a 100% fee increase on structures and business. This would move homes and trailer homes from \$50 to \$100 annually and businesses from \$76 to \$152 if they do not sell gasoline. The one business that sells gasoline would increase from \$112 to \$224 annually. Area served is Fortine, Trego and Stryker, 80,000 acres. Mike talked about the factors leading to the fee increase proposal, including insurance rate increase, personal protective equipment, building maintenance costs, vehicle maintenance/replacement costs and expenses to build the tender. Mike talked about the FSA Budget and the cost increase of basically everything due to inflation and growth of area. The last fee increase was in 2010 when homeowner's rates went from \$25 to \$50.

Commissioner Bennett talked about the public process, advertisement and reaching out to the citizens in the area and holding a public hearing. Commissioner Bennett recommended FSA Board to review their budget at a minimum of every 5-years.

10:00 AM **Asbestos Resource Program (ARP) Update:** Present were Nikki Meyer and Andrew Long. Present was ARP Director Virginia Kocieda, via VisionNet. Present was Ray Stout via phone.

ARP Director Virginia Kocieda submitted the following report:

[Asbestos Resource Program \(ARP\) Report for Commissioner's](#)

June 16th, 2021

10:00-10:30am

In May 2021, ARP received 36 hotline calls. 31 were from Libby, 5 from Troy. Broken down into the types of responses, ARP responded to:

- 20 status letter requests,
- 11 general information and property information requests (within the Superfund Boundary),
- and 5 miscellaneous calls.

ARP also received 104 utility locate tickets from properties within the Superfund site: 77 from Libby, 27 from Troy.

Altogether, ARP performed 37 site visits.

ABATEMENTS:

153 Bighorn Way, Troy – planned soil abatement (Refusal)

117 Mineral Avenue, Libby – planned vermiculite removal

1031 Louisiana Avenue, Libby – completed removal of tree stump in Libby amphibole asbestos contaminated soil.

SAMPLING: none

SUBDIVISION: 1 application

1 outside of NPL (Weasel Creek Estates Subdivision)

FUNDING

The ARP program is funded through a Memorandum of Agreement with Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). This is funding coming from a cooperative agreement between DEQ and US Environmental Protection Agency. Our agreement is for \$600,000 over two years starting with costs from July 1st, 2020 until May 31st, 2022. Total costs incurred by ARP & reimbursed by DEQ since July 2020 is \$256,457.12 leaving a remaining balance of \$343,542.88.

Also received a deposit for \$1,035.11 from DEQ for expenses incurred in the last quarter by the County to assist the Libby Asbestos Superfund Oversight Committee.

OUTREACH

ARP attended two community events:

- "It's Time To Be A Hero" Kiwanis Family Fun Day in the Park Bike Rodeo, co-sponsored by the Center for Asbestos Related Diseases (CARD) Clinic's Annual Rally and

-24th Annual Health Fair by Cabinet Peaks Medical Center.

DEQ 2021 INSPECTION

Weston Consultants, on behalf of DEQ, will be performing their Operations and Maintenance Annual Inspection June 29th and 30th. Six operating units (OU) will be inspected:

OU1: River Front Park

OU2: Former Parker Residence/W.R. Grace property

OU4: Properties within the Superfund Boundary in Libby, MT

OU5: Port Authority

OU7: Properties within the Superfund Boundary in Troy, MT

OU8: Right-of-ways within Superfund Boundary

ASBESTOS POSTERS

ARP worked with GraphicWorks (Libby, MT) to help design posters sharing information about services and information offered by ARP. The posters will be hung in all general hardware stores. ARP is continuing to work with GraphicWorks to design updated general information brochures.

LIBBY ASBESTOS SUPERFUND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (LASOC)

The next LASOC meeting will be held virtually next Tuesday, June 22nd from 2:00 – 3:15. The Commissioners room will be open for the public to attend in person. You can find call-in information on the Commissioner's Agenda Calendar, posted notices at the Courthouse, and on the ARP Facebook page.

DEQ is requesting confirmation from Lincoln County to renew the Memorandum of Agreement and moving forward with an amendment to continue administrative duties performed for LASOC.

10:30 AM Administrative Issues: Present were Nikki Meyer and Andrew Long. Present was Ray Stout via phone.

- Robin submitted the minutes for June 1 budget meeting and June 9, 2021 regular meeting for approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Letcher to approve minutes as submitted. Second by Commissioner Bennett, motion carried unanimously.

10:45 AM Public Comment Time: Present were Nikki Meyer, Telly Stanger, Melissa Brandon and Andrew Long. EMA Director Brent Teske present via VisionNet. There were no public comments.

11:00 AM Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities (BRIC): Present was Andrew Long representing Montana DES and Nikki Meyer. Telly Stanger and Melissa Brandon representing Lincoln Electric Coop. Molly Davidson representing Morrison-Maierle. Sara Hartley representing Montana DES present via phone. EMA Director Brent Teske present via VisionNet.

Molly talked about grant programs and programs she has been involved in seeking FEMA funding. Molly said she is here to ask if there may be opportunity in Lincoln County for hazard mitigation reducing risk. The project involves mitigating concerns of Lincoln Electric utility lines that provide service to a BNSF tunnel. The project would involve moving 34 miles of overhead lines to underground.

Commissioner Bennett asked about more detail regarding the grant program and expressed frustration regarding a previous FEMA grant process being cumbersome and too difficult to work with at the local government.

Andrew talked about the application and grant process. The grant is a 75% federal, 25% local cost share cash or in-kind. Melissa said the 25% cost share would be provided by Lincoln Electric.

Commissioner Bennett said there is no county concern moving forward as long as the administrative cost are not subject to the county. Commissioner Bennett talked about language regarding county protection for the county attorney to review. Andy requested a letter of interest in the project from the county (with no commitment), approving Morrison-Maierle to begin the application process.

11:30 AM Troy/Lake Creek TV District Board Appointment: Present were Nikki Meyer.

Robin said there were no applicants received when the last public notice went out to serve on the Troy/Lake Creek TV District. An application has been received from Karen Helmrick to fill a vacancy. The Troy/Lake Creek TV District recommends the county commissioners to approve the application request. **Motion** by Commissioner Letcher to approve Karen Helmrick to serve on the Troy/Lake Creek TV District through December 2023. Second by Commissioner Bennett, motion carried.

11:45 AM Tobacco Valley Rodeo Association (TVA): Present were Mike Cole and Nikki Meyer.

Mike gave an overview of improvements to the rodeo grounds, expressing that the old cook shack is at the point of disrepair and the thought is to tear it down in the near future. Mike said the bid for the skybox painting project is out and is hopeful that will be completed by this year's rodeo season. The rodeo event took place in 2020 but not the bull riding event, which decreased revenues. TVA plans on holding both events this year and hoping the Canadian border opens up. Mike commented he is excited to bring back two major events this summer.

Mike discussed the new ticket systems and the need for more wifi to run the scanners.

Commissioner Bennett said the county is waiting for the easement agreement from Interbel to run those lines.

Mike said that TVA would bear that cost.

Commissioner Bennett said the fairgrounds are used for many county events, and we just need to keep the conversation going moving forward.

Mike commended the weed department for the spraying and weed mitigation at the fairgrounds.

12:00 PM Break

1:30 PM Resolution to Establish County Supt. of Schools / Office Administration Discussion: Present was Will Langhorne.

Commissioner Bennett read Resolution 2021-17 to Establish the Office of the Lincoln County Superintendent of Schools. in its entirety. **Motion** by Commissioner Letcher to approve Resolution 2021-17 as submitted. Second by Commissioner Bennett, motion carried.

Commissioner Bennett read the appointment letter from the Board of County Commissioners to offer the position to Taralee McFadden. Robin commented that Taralee's application was the only one received. There was a brief conversation regarding the location of the Superintendent's Office. It was determined that there is spacing at the county building across from the post office.

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jerry Bennett, Chairman

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