

**June 30, 2021**

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on June 30, 2021 in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, 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**.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues:** Present were Tony Penfold, Brent Teske, Derrick Perkins and Marc McCully. Present via phone were Rebecca Nelson and Ray Stout.

- Robin submitted the minutes for June 23, 2021 regular meeting for approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Letcher to approve minutes as submitted. Second by Commissioner Bennett, motion carried.
- Patrick received an email requesting a late fee of \$20 be waived. Cheryl Wyman purchased a boat and trailer in Kalispell and was told by the dealer she had 45 days to license/register the boat. The DMV told her it was 40 days and she was one day late. The request is based on the principle of following the procedure/process as she understood it to be, not the dollar amount. Tabled until further review.
- Commissioner Bennett read a letter from Sedaris Carlberg as a formal notification of resignation from the position of Superintendent of Schools as of June 30, 2021. Commissioner Bennett noted the Superintendent of Schools position has been filled.
- Patrick recommended to continue the DIS Technologies contract for IT services in conjunction with the new IT employee. The dual service saves money for the county while maintaining IT services. Patrick said he is requesting approval to continue with the DIS Technologies contract and to move forward with the new hire process for the IT Department. Commissioner Bennett and Commissioner Letcher approved the recommendation to continue DIS Technologies service contract and to hire internally for the IT Department.
- Commissioner Bennett talked about the proposed request from Judge Sheffield to increase the Adult Probation Officer wage and recommends an equal wage for the Adult Probation Officer to be in conjunction with a sheriff deputy wage. Commissioner Bennett will follow-up with HR.
- Brent Teske shared information on the potential fire season, noting that fuel moisture is low and the fire danger is high. Brent informed there have been 3 fires on Kootenai in the last week; all contained. Weather forecasts show no relief in the next 10 to 14 days. Brent discussed pre-fire mitigation meetings and strategies. The KNF has already moved into stage one fire restrictions and DNRC is following suit. Brent submitted a draft resolution establishing Lincoln County Stage 1 Fire Restrictions. Brent commented the resolution does not address any fireworks restrictions. Commissioner Bennett clarified the MCA's do not give the commissioners authority to restrict fireworks. Robin said she will prepare the resolution for county attorney and commissioner approval. Brent submitted an updated Lincoln County stakeholders list with contact information for the commissioners to review and is requesting commissioner comments or input for any additions to the list. The stakeholders list will be a useful tool for fire season organization.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time:** Present were Tony Penfold, Derrick Perkins, Marc McCully, Jeff Koskela and Veronica Bovee-Anderson. Present via phone were Rebecca Nelson and Ray Stout.

Tony updated the commissioners on the mine site and explained the work that will be continuing through the rest of the season. Tony commented there have been several incidents regarding vandalism to gates on private land and is seeing vehicle trails on WR Grace property. Tony commented that any assistance from the county would be appreciated. Commissioner Bennett said it's a difficult situation, sometimes people think all land is public land and suggested bigger gates. Commissioner Letcher suggested game cameras.

11:00 AM **County Bid Opening / Eureka Gas and Diesel:** Present were HR Director Dallas Bowe, Jeff Forster, Tony Penfold, Derrick Perkins, Marc McCully, Jeff Koskela, and Veronica Bovee-Anderson. Present via phone were Rebecca Nelson and Ray Stout.

Dallas submitted bids received from Moore Oil and City Service Valcon. The commissioners reviewed and compared bids submitted. **Motion** by Commissioner Letcher to award the Eureka Gas and Diesel bid to Moore Oil. Second by Commissioner Bennett, motion carried.

11:15 AM **Planning Department - Munro Lakeshore Permit / Sartain/Ransier Court Ordered Split:** Present were County Planner Jake Mertes, Tony Penfold, Evan Comella, Jeff Koskela, Mitch Walters, Thelma Walters, Derrick Perkins, Veronica Bovee-Anderson, Jeff Forster, Kenny Rayome Jr., Marc McCully, Wheatley Ryan, Katrina Newton, Paula Buff, Brent Teske and Dee Teske. Present via phone were Rebecca Nelson and Ray Stout.

Jake submitted information from the state regarding floodplain management for commissioner review. The state is requesting a letter of support from the commissioners.

**Munro Lakeshore Permit:** The property owner is proposing to level a pressure ridge caused by ice jams over many years. The property is located on Middle Thompson Lake Road. The project consists of using a skid steer and excavator to level out a pressure ridge located within the 20' lakeshore protection zone. All work is to be completed above the ordinary highwater mark. The planning department recommends commissioners to approve the lakeshore permit subject to 5 conditions in the staff report. Jake gave an overview of the Finding of Fact and 5 Conditions in the planning staff report. **Motion** by Commissioner Letcher to approve the Munro Lakeshore Permit request subject to 5 conditions and based on planning staff recommendation. Second by Commissioner Bennett, motion carried.

**Sartain/Ransier Court Ordered Split:** The Lincoln County Planning staff received a request from District Court for comment on the Court Ordered Split for petitioners Sartain and Ransier. Jake said the Exemption Review Committee found no evidence of an attempt to evade the MSPA. Commissioner Bennett expressed that he appreciates the work the planning staff does through the subdivision review process. **Motion** by Commissioner Letcher to recommend the planning staff's report to the District Court Judge. Second by Commissioner Bennett, motion carried.

11:30 AM **Republican Central Committee – Commissioner Nominations:** Present were Katrina Newton representing The Republican Central Committee, Lincoln County Election Administrator Paula Buff, Tony Penfold, Evan Comella, Jeff Koskela, Mitch Walters, Thelma Walthers, Derrick Perkins, Brent Teske, Dee Teske, Veronica Bovee-Anderson, Jeff Forster, Kenny Rayome Jr., Marc McCully, and Wheatley Ryan. Rebecca Nelson and Ray Stout present via phone.

Katrina Newton introduced herself as a member of the Republican Central Committee and commented Jennifer Curtiss is ill and she is here to read a prepared statement written by Jennifer Curtiss, President of the Republican Central Committee.

***Written letter submitted as follows:***

Due to the resignation of Libby District 1 Commissioner Mark Peck effective June 4, 2021, and per [MCA 7-4-2106](#) the Lincoln County Republican Central Committee was tasked with compiling a list of 3 individuals who have lived in Commissioner Peck's District (1) for at least two years preceding the vacancy and submit to the remaining Commissioners.

The remaining commissioners shall appoint one of the three individuals named by the Republican Central Committee to fill the vacant Commissioner seat until the next general election in 2022. The commissioner seat up for election in 2022 shall be for a term of 4 years to fulfil the original term of Commissioner Peck which expires [December, 2026](#).

Our Central Committee has not taken this task lightly. We placed ads in the Kootenai Valley Record and The Montanian asking for interested persons to send us their letters of interest and resumes. We had 5 candidates total show interest in filling Mr. Peck's position. We received their resumes and then we sent them all a list of 14 pointed questions about important issues in Lincoln County. Once we received their answers, we interviewed each of them individually.

It has not been an easy task to narrow the slate from 5 to 3, but per MCA that is exactly what we have done. Any of the 3 we have chosen we feel will be a capable addition to our Commission. So without further adieu, I would like to present these 3 names for your consideration in no particular order of preference:

Mr. Brent Teske, Mr. Jeff Forster and Mr. Ken Rayome, Jr.

The Committee wishes to thank all 5 of the prospective candidates for their willingness to serve Lincoln County as our District 1 Commissioner.

If Commissioners Bennett and Letcher wish to have the resumes and answers to the questions we submitted, I am sure Mr. Teske, Mr. Forster and Mr. Rayome will be happy to forward that information to you.

Thank you for the opportunity to fulfill our obligation per MCA.

Brent Teske - [libbylocal@yahoo.com](mailto:libbylocal@yahoo.com)

Jeff Forster – [j4ster.406@gmail.com](mailto:j4ster.406@gmail.com)

Ken Rayome, Jr. – [kmdrlegal@gmail.com](mailto:kmdrlegal@gmail.com)

Commissioner Bennett explained that the commissioners will meet with the 3 candidates for interviews and will be in contact with each candidate.

Evan Comella submitted a letter on behalf of the Troy Libby John Birch Society to be taken into consideration during the selection process.

Commissioner Bennett thanked the central committee for their due diligence and work selecting the candidates.

Katrina said the central committee feels very strongly about the candidates submitted and that any one of them would make a good county commissioner.

Commissioner Bennett read the MCA's regarding the legal process moving forward.

11:45 AM **County Bid Recommendation – Ballot Printing Contract:** Present were Election Administrator Paula Buff, Derrick Perkins, and Tony Penfold.

Paula submitted a summary of the vendors that submitted bids for commissioner review. Bids were received from Runbeck, Eagle Printing and The Western News. Paula said she conducted thorough research on all vendors and recommends the commissioners to approve the bid submitted by The Western News. The cost of printing the ballots is less than the other vendors per ballot when considering supplemental costs not included in the per ballot cost. In addition, the proximity of the Western News / Hagadone Media Group in Coeur d'Alene, ID to Lincoln County is logistically the best vendor for ballot printing. **Motion** by Commissioner Letcher to accept the Ballot Printing Bid recommendation and award the ballot printing contract to The Western News. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried.

12:00 PM **Adjourned**

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Jerry Bennett, Chairman

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Robin A. Benson, Clerk of the Board