

June 9, 2021

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on June 9, 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**.

9:15 AM **Elected Official COLA Resolution / County Employee COLA Discussion:** Present were Kenny Rayome Jr. and Will Langhorne. Present via phone was Ray Stout.

Elected Official COLA Resolution has been postponed for further review.

Patrick submitted and discussed research for employee wages in Lincoln County including other county comparisons. Patrick recommends a 1.8% COLA for county employees to reflect last year's inflation. It is guesstimated the tax base revenue may increase up to 14%.

Commissioner Letcher expressed the difficulty of making decisions prior to knowing what actual revenues are.

Commissioner Letcher talked about cost-of-living increases in food, fuel etc... and also commented that McDonald's is hiring at \$13.00/hr. Commissioner Letcher commented about the staffing at the North Annex and expressed the importance of keeping employees long-term.

Kenny commented the city just negotiated for a 3% COLA, but speaking as a citizen and taxpayer he agrees with incremental increases.

Motion by Commissioner Letcher to approve a COLA increase for county employees at 1.8% for FY 21/22. Second by Commissioner Bennett. Commissioner Bennett stated this is very challenging to do while not knowing actual revenues, but we do greatly appreciate our employees and the work they do.

9:30 AM **Gateway Services – Zoom:** Present representing Gateway were Tammy Hatch and Ann Williams via phone. Present were Kenny Rayome Jr. and Will Langhorne.

Ann commented that Gateway took over the Chemical Dependency Clinic in Libby in 2019. Gateway is receiving the county alcohol tax dollars and would like to continue providing services to Lincoln County. Ann gave an overview of the programs and services at the Libby office. Last year 837 clients came through the Libby Gateway Office. Alcohol is the highest addiction statistic, with methamphetamine the second highest statistic of those clients.

Commissioner Bennett thanked Gateway for their continued support and services provided in the community.

Commissioner Bennett talked about the startling increase in suicide in Lincoln County, indicative that last year was a very difficult time for many.

Ann talked about cannabis use contributing to sleeplessness, aggression, depression and the withdrawal symptoms associated with cannabis.

The commissioners suggested quarterly updates.

10:00 AM **Health Department:** Present were Kathi Hooper, Trista Gilmore, Bryan Alkire, Kenny Rayome Jr. Mark Andreasen, Jennifer Nelson and Will Langhorne.

- Covid Update: Trista said testing is extremely low, one new death and one new case. People are going back to the doctor now. There are no cases reported in Lincoln County after being fully vaccinated. Trista talked about statistics of people fully vaccinated and those who have received only first shot.
- Capital Improvement Plan & Project List: Kathi submitted the Capital Improvement Plan for Landfill, Environmental & Public Health including a Solid Waste Vehicle/Equipment List and Retirement Schedule. There was a brief discussion regarding ARPA funds and how they may apply to county projects.
- Annual Report: Kathi gave an overview and submitted a Lincoln County Health Department 2020 Annual Report for commissioner review.
- Health Fair is scheduled for Saturday, June 12, 2021 at J Neils Park.
- Solid Waste & Recycling
 - Draft Class IV Asbestos Cell O&M complete
 - Troy Landfill - request changing days of operation, change hours to be Tues-Sat and close Sunday & Monday. Kathi said she did talk with the Troy Mayor and there were no issues, and would like to start advertising new hours/days of operation.
 - Kathi talked about the Troy Attendant to help with the Libby landfill, working the asbestos cell, rates would be different for each position.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues:** Present were Mark Andreasen, Jennifer Nelson, Kenny Rayome Jr., and Will Langhorne.

- Robin submitted the minutes for June 2, 2021 regular meeting for approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Letcher to approve minutes as submitted. Second by Commissioner Bennett, motion carried unanimously.
- Jennifer Nelson said she received the award package of \$430,000+ for the Rabbit Tracks Project and is requesting commissioner signature. **Motion** by Commissioner Letcher to accept contract for Rabbit Tracks as requested. Second by Commissioner Bennett, motion carried.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time:** Mark Andreasen, Jennifer Nelson, Virginia Kocieda, Kenny Rayome Jr., and Will Langhorne.

Mark Andreasen submitted a plan including a map and gave an overview of **Logger Trail**. The objectives are to construct new and improved existing sidewalk infrastructure, provide a safe walking surface separate of vehicle traffic that meets

ADA requirement, connecting the community (schools, business, churches) and provides healthy exercise for all ages. Mark spoke about funding partners of grants, local government (city, county, state), donations and adjacent landowners.

Commissioner Bennett talked about easements, maintenance of sidewalks, and partnering with the city and residents regarding snow removal. Commissioner Bennett suggested as the program develops to come back and place on the commissioner's agenda for further discussion.

Kenny suggested Mark to attend the Lincoln County Planning Board as another resource, commenting it sounds like the project ties into the county growth policy.

11:00 AM **Upper Yaak FSA By-Laws Change:** Present were Kenny Rayome Jr., and Will Langhorne.

Commissioner Bennett read the new change as submitted by Upper Yaak FSA Board in its entirety and commented the FSA Board is requesting commissioner approval.

Language of the change is as follows:

3.7.5.1 The Fire Chief is an officer and shall be elected by the Board and shall serve under the direction and at the convenience of the Board. Fire Chief or board designated Fire Chief, interim or otherwise shall be assigned Radio communications call sign or number 1400. Radio Communications call sign 1400 is reserved for UYFSA Fire Chief. No other fire member shall use the call number 1400. Fire Chief may assign other call number(s) to the members.

Motion by Commissioner Letcher to approve the Upper Yaak FSA By-Laws change request as submitted. Second by Commissioner Bennett, motion carried.

11:15 AM **Ward/Rewerts Subdivision Access Discussion:** Present were Jennifer Nelson, Kenny Rayome Jr., and Will Langhorne.

Commissioner Bennett explained the request is to place the 55 feet of dedicated land of the Ward/Rewerts subdivision on Bull Lake, into Lot 2 and Lot 3 properties. Property owners will have the property surveyed and split evenly between the two properties and submit the survey to the county when completed. All property owners in the subdivision have agreed to the changes and have signed the request accordingly.

Commissioner Bennett said he reviewed the request with the MACo Land Attorney Tara DePuy. There are 4 property owners involved and everyone will benefit. Lot owners of 2 and 3 will be responsible for costs, and all lot owners are in agreement to the request. **Motion** by Commissioner Letcher to approve the Ward/Rewerts Subdivision Amendment as requested. Second by Commissioner Bennett, motion carried.

11:30 AM **Community Development/Port/Kootenai River Development Council (KRDC):** Present were Tina Oliphant, Kristin Smith, Sheriff Darren Short, Megan Rayome, Frank Votapka, Mandy Bell, and Will Langhorne.

Tina said this is a meeting to express concern of her role on the KRDC Board since she has announced her upcoming resignation. Tina introduced KRDC Board members present.

Tina said the KRDC Board is here to follow up and ensure there is continuity in the role of this position, and gave a brief history of the KRDC Board and its goals, roles and mission. Tina gave several examples of successful community projects that she has worked on during her tenure in this position.

Kristin said the skill Tina has brought is leveraging the funding and bringing in those monies so projects can be executed successfully. Kristin commented she just wants to make sure commissioners are aware of the importance of this position.

Commissioner Bennett commented that Tina has filled this role, primarily for south Lincoln County. The way our system is currently set up with grants and other funding opportunities, coordinating all of that, it is set up through KRDC. The decision now is how we are going to move forward, keeping the role the same or expanding the position to be more countywide.

Tina asked if it is time to make this position countywide so all communities are getting the same level of attention to all the areas. Let's look at what worked well and how to improve it. Tina commented that its not just about hiring a grant writer, it's much more complex and there is a lot of work communicating with the community and agencies prior to going after funds for projects to move forward.

Kristin commented that financing of the position is important to continue and suggested putting together an itinerary or program to search for qualified candidates.

Commissioner Bennett asked the KRDC Board to put something on paper on how KRDC sees the process, needs assessment and a plan for the commissioners to look at for further discussion moving forward.

12:00 PM **Break**

1:30 PM **Meadow Peak Public Hearing & Mason Subdivision Final Plat:** Present were County Planner Jake Mertes, Jennifer Nelson, Kenny Rayome Jr., Byron Sanderson, Andy Evensen, Levi Thompson, and Brett McCully.

Mason Subdivision Final Plat: Jake said developers have met all required conditions and planning staff is recommending final plat approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Letcher to approve final plat for Mason Subdivision based on planning staff's recommendation. Second by Commissioner Bennett, motion carried.

Meadow Peak Public Hearing: Jake presented a short power point presentation describing the project to all in attendance including maps of the area.

Total acreage: 799.91 acres

Number of Lots & Land Use: 36 Single Family

Planning Review: May 18, 2021

Commissioner Public Hearing: June 9, 2021 at 1:30 PM

Public Notice: May 21, 2021 The Western News

The property abuts US Highway 2, southeast of Happy's Inn. The proposal includes a looping road system as two cul-de-sacs. Access to the subdivision will be via the ACM Road which is a private road that can be accessed at Happy's Inn north of the project as well as south of the project. In addition, an easement exists adjacent on the north project boundary from Highway 2 to the ACM Road.

Jake submitted and gave an overview of Findings of Fact Impacts and Planning Departments 19 conditions of approval in the subdivision report. The Planning Department and Planning Board recommends preliminary approval to Meadow Peak Subdivision, subject to conditions and based on the findings in the staff report and amended by the Planning Board.

Commissioner Bennett asked about ACM road. Byron said TCI owns the road; it is a private road. Byron submitted a draft road maintenance agreement.

Jennifer asked if there has been any hydrologic study done due to the spring fed lakes and expressed concern of water use and how that could affect the hydrology of the chain of lakes. Jennifer asked if that can be researched to determine if there is some information out there.

Commissioner Bennett said he is aware that studies have shown that domestic use has little affect of the hydrology in lakes adjacent to development.

Jennifer asked about egress on the lots, dead ends and cul-de-sacs. Jake showed maps of the area and Byron explained the egress and cul-de-sacs in more detail.

Motion by Commissioner Letcher to approve preliminary plat to Meadow Peak Subdivision subject to 19 conditions and based on planning staff recommendation. Second by Commissioner Bennett, motion carried.

2:00 PM County Bid Opening: Election Ballot Printing, County Legal/Display Advertising, Gas and Diesel, County Printing, Road Oil: Present were HR Director Dallas Bowe, Election Administrator Paula Buff, Derrick Perkins, Suzanne Resch, Jesse Knapp and Kenny Rayome Jr.

Election Ballot Printing: Three bids received:

Runbeck, Phoenix, AZ

Eagle Printing, Billings, MT

The Western News, Libby, MT

Dallas suggested Lincoln County Election Administrator Paula Buff to review all bids and to place on commissioner's agenda for further discussion. **Motion** by Commissioner Letcher to have Lincoln County Election Administrator review all bids before final decision. Second by Commissioner Bennett, motion carried.

Gas and Diesel: Two bids received.

Golden State Oil

Moore Oil

Motion by Commissioner Letcher to accept Golden State Oil bid for Libby and Troy. Second by Commissioner Bennett, motion carried. Gas and Diesel for Eureka will go back out to bid.

Road Oil: One bid received.

McAsphalt

Motion by Commissioner Letcher to accept McAsphalt Road Oil bid for Libby, Troy, and Eureka. Second by Commissioner Bennett, motion carried.

County Legal Display: Two bids received.

The Western News

Kootenai Valley Record

Motion by Commissioner Bennett to accept bid from Kootenai Valley Record. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried.

County Printing: One bid received.

The Printing Press

Motion by Commissioner Letcher to accept the Printing Press bid for county printing. Second by Commissioner Bennett, motion carried.

2:30 PM **Libby Asbestos Superfund Oversight Committee (LASOC) Appointment:** Present were Asbestos Resource Program (ARP) Director Virginia Kocieda and Kenny Rayome Jr.

Commissioner Bennett explained the LASOC Committee deals with asbestos issues in our community and one member is a county commissioner. Mark Peck was the commissioner member, so now we need to appoint a new commissioner member to serve on the LASOC Committee.

Motion by Commissioner Letcher to appoint Commissioner Bennett as the interim commissioner member to serve on LASOC. Second by Commissioner Bennett, motion carried.

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jerry Bennett, Chairman

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