

**March 17, 2021**

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on March 17, 2021 in the Lincoln County Annex, Eureka, Montana. Present were Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Peck, Commissioner Letcher and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson and Deputy Clerk Corrina Brown. Present Libby via VisionNet County Administrator Patrick McFadden.

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

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

- Robin submitted the minutes for March 10, 2021 for approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to approve minutes as submitted. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.
- Patrick reported on the Public Administrator position, currently handled by Tricia Brook's office. After consultation with the county attorney, Patrick advised the appointment would need to be elected during the next election cycle. Commissioner Bennett commented that an account may be needed for expenses. Patrick reported the position of School Superintendent may be separated and appointed by the commissioners, similar to the Public Administrator position.
- Patrick brought up the district board meeting in May is scheduled on a Wednesday. Commissioner Bennett advised the regular commissioner meeting on May 12 to be cancelled, so they can attend the training.

**10:45 AM Public Comment:** Present were Diane Watson and Nikki Meyer. Present via phone was Ray Stout.

- Diane expressed concerns regarding public participation and timeframe for response at the Board of Health meetings. Diane advised her timeframe for response is not sufficient to express her civic voice completely. Diane expressed concerns about misleading information conveyed to the public and suggested a change in the BOH mission statement, suggesting the mission statement may be too encompassing and does not want the statement to be open to interpretation. Diane said she does not understand why Kathi Hooper was a speaker at the last BOH meeting but is not a board member. Diane asked about county sovereignty vs state. Commissioner Bennett clarified the open meeting laws were not designed for an unlimited timeframe. The controls include limiting time due to volume of speakers. Commissioner Bennett asserted we must find avenues to allow people to participate succinctly, such as written statements. Commissioner Letcher requested Diane email her concerns to the BOH members ahead of meetings to allow for review in a measured manner. Diane in return asked for an agenda well in advance. Commissioner Peck advised Kathi Hooper is the Executive Director of the Board of Health and has a direct tie to the Board but does not have voting rights. Commissioner Peck clarified county authority comes from the state legislature. Commissioner Peck advised citizens can review the forms of government and gave examples of times this has enacted changes. Commissioner Peck advised Diane to keep up her involvement.

**11:00 AM Planning Department:** Present was Nikki Meyer. Present Libby via VisionNet were County Planner Jake Mertes, James Katsilometes, Byron Sanderson and Wayne Yarger. Present via phone was Ray Stout.

**Twin Creek View Subdivision:** Jake said the proposed minor subdivision of Parcel of COS 3700 is located approximately on Twin Creek Drive off highway 56 south of Troy, MT. The developers intend to create two lots from the 79.75-acre parcel. Planning staff recommends commissioners to grant preliminary approval to Twin Creek View Subdivision, subject to 10 conditions and based on the findings in the staff report.

Commissioner Bennett asked about DEQ requirements regarding distance from creeks and about utilities being brought into the equation. Jake clarified the developer has first input and then the conditions are brought to the commissioners.

**Motion** by Commissioner Peck to approve final plat for Twin Creek View Subdivision based on planning staff recommendation and subject to conditions. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

**Blue Ribbon Final Plat:**

Jake said all requirements have been met and planning staff is recommending final plat approval for Blue Ribbon Subdivision. **Motion** by Commissioner Peck to approve final plat for Blue Ribbon Subdivision based on planning staff recommendation and subject to conditions. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Peck briefly discussed the effect of area growth and how emergency services are affected, specifically in the Happy's Inn area and generally countywide.

Jake advised the Sheriff's office is aware of new subdivisions and growth and has affirmed the sheriff's department has the capability to cover these areas. Jake said impact fees with subdivisions require review and assessment given the complexity of needs in providing adequate emergency services as the area population grows.

**11:15 AM Invasive Grass Grant:** Present was Nikki Meyer. Present Libby via VisionNet were Mike Bradeen, Mark Peterson and Deena Sholtzberger. Present via phone was Ray Stout.

The group discussed a New Invader Cost Share Program Proposal for mitigation and management of an invasive species called Ventenata. The purpose of the cost share program is to support management of Ventenata and other new invader species and reduce the financial burden on small private landowners who are required to control these species on their property. Assisting landowners through a cost share program will provide incentives for small landowners to identify and treat these new invader species.

No decisions were made at this time. Commissioner Bennett requested time to review the information provided.

11:30 PM **Road Abandonment Petition:** Present was Nikki Meyer. Present Libby via VisionNet Marc McCully. Present via phone was Ray Stout.

Mark Williams asked Robin to present the petition to abandon Old Snowshoe Road. Robin advised signatures were verified as valid landowners. Williams bought the old Kessler place per Commissioner Peck and the original Old Snowshoe road cut through the property. The FS is working with commissioners to get a trail established. Commissioner Peck and Marc agree that the forest service needs an easement establishing access in place prior to the road abandonment approval. Marc and Commissioner Peck were appointed viewers and will visit the site. Robin will put this petition in pending status. Once the easement is in place, Robin will schedule a public hearing. Commissioner Peck said he would follow up with Mark Williams.

12:00 PM **Meeting Adjourned**

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jerry Bennett, Chairman

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Corrina Brown, Deputy Clerk of the Board