

October 13, 2021

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on October 13, 2021 in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Letcher, Commissioner Teske, County Administrator Jim Hammons, and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson.

Meeting allows for teleconferencing and VisionNet availability.

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

9:45 AM **City/County Board of Health (BOH) Appointment:** Present were Jan Ivers, Kathi Hooper, Jennifer McCully, Sheriff Darren Short, Veronica Bovee-Anderson, Mike France, Jim Seifert, Derrick Perkins, Amy Fantozzi, Tom Lane, Nikki Meyer, Diane Watson, Pierce Barney, Todd Butts, Ray Stout and Dr. Greg Rice.

Jan said the position was advertised with a South Lincoln County preference to accommodate for equal representation throughout the county. The Board of Health interviewed three applicants and each applicant was asked the same 5 questions. The BOH took a vote and there was a tie between Dr. Greg Rice and Dr. Dianna Carvey. The BOH decided to allow the commissioners to make the final decision.

Commissioner Teske said he attended the BOH meeting last night and realizes there was a South Lincoln County preference, but that was not noted in the vote and is not reflected in the BOH by-laws. Commissioner Teske noted that he has received a lot of comment and support for Dr. Carvey. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to appoint Dr. Carvey to serve on the City/County Board of Health. Commissioner Teske clarified that if the intent is equal representation countywide, then it should be reflected in the by-laws. Commissioner Teske commented that all candidates interviewed well and would be excellent to serve on the BOH.

Commissioner Bennett agrees the BOH should look at the by-laws to define representation and to define who is the governing body. Both are important factors and suggested the BOH to place that discussion on their agenda.

Commissioner Bennett commented that he counted 23 emails regarding support for Dr. Carvey and received none for any of the other applicants, although all applicants had very good qualifications.

Commissioner Letcher said he does not want this to be a popularity contest but expressed his appreciation for Dr. Carvey's openness and willingness to offer several covid treatment options to patients; she has saved a lot of lives in Eureka and has no political agenda. Commissioner Letcher agreed the by-laws need to be reviewed and narrowed down for future reference.

Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

10:00 AM **Health Department Update:** Present were Kathi Hooper, Jennifer McCully, Bryan Alkire, Jim Seifert, Martin Dunbar, Brett McCully, Mike France, Veronica Bovee-Anderson, Derrick Perkins, Greg Rice, Ray Stout, and Arlene Elletson.

Kathi Hooper submitted and gave an overview of the following funding request for commissioner review.

Lincoln County Health Department ARPA Funding Requests

1. Mobile Resource Van: One of our Zero to Five strategies is to assure that families with children are able to connect with resources in ways that are accessible, respectful, and easy to navigate. Some of the barriers to these resources include geographic distance and lack of transportation. One method of addressing these concerns is to purchase a van that would travel to all parts of our county. This van would be equipped with resources, engagement activities, educational materials and playgroup equipment. Staff would engage families and offer mobile programming. This "mobile resource center" would reach "isolated and especially vulnerable families" and would help to foster connections, especially during this time of post-pandemic reconnection and reintegration. Est. \$95,000 fully equipped.
2. Online Resource Guide: We, the community and its coalitions (the Mental Health Coalition, Communities that Care, and Zero to Five) always discuss creating a resource guide, updating existing resource guides, etc. Resource guides are created and put on the shelf. My dream has always been an app that community, law enforcement, etc. can access when working with their clients. We currently have a grant with Health Mothers Health Babies to conduct community asset mapping to create yet another list of resources. We would like to finally put a bow on this project and create the app/website that people can access anytime, anywhere with the constant ability to update. We would like to request funding to contract the website build, est \$5,000 –
3. Electronic Health Record: We still use paper for all of our records. We are missing out on revenue, could collect better data on social determinates of health and general community health assessment tools. An EHR would eliminate paper tracking, work with state reporting sites, create a much more secure environment and increase billing revenue. Currently, Trista and Jenn manually bill, which is not cost effective considering the time it takes and the different steps each insurance company requires. Human error is high and there is a lot of missed revenue. This will also benefit inmates with the ability to appropriately track inmate health. est \$20,000
4. Performance Management System: Performance management is a systematic approach to improving public health through standards, planning, measuring, and continuous improvement. Measures allow us to assess the effectiveness of our work, decide what to do differently, and communicate to customers, decision makers, and employees. This system will enhance our grant reporting, strategic planning implementation and our performance. Est. \$3,000.
5. Vehicles: The Health Department currently has 3 vehicles shared by Environmental Health and Public Health. These vehicles are in constant use for inspections, nursing and Zero to Five programs. The 2007 Buick and the 2012 Ford Escape both need to be replaced. A larger SUV or pick up is needed to transport equipment.

6. Online Inspection System: Lincoln County Health Department is currently using a paper inspection format for the licensed establishment program. The goal in requesting funding for an electronic system is to streamline the inspection process for both staff and the operators of establishments. The Paragon system has been approved by the state and is currently used by numerous counties. This system could also be used for septic permits and inspections at daycares, congregate living facilities, etc. \$10,000 purchase, approx. \$400/month
7. Healthy Homes Program: The purpose of this initiative is to address the concerns related to environmental health hazards that may be present within the households of Lincoln County. Some focus areas include indoor air quality (radon, asbestos, and mold), private water and wastewater systems, and lead. These items can and have been associated with long-term health issues and can be mitigated with the right resources and funding. \$10,000
8. Air Curtain Burner: Wood waste volumes received at the Libby Landfill have increased significantly. Because this landfill is located in the Libby Air Quality Control District, the wood waste cannot be burned. Currently the wood waste is chipped and some of the chips are composted for use on the landfill site; however, there is no use for the volume of chips which are now using landfill space. An air curtain burner would dispose of the majority of the wood waste without impacting air quality or requiring a landfill burn permit. Approximate cost is \$135,000 including training and delivery.
9. Mental Health First Aid: Train 1 person in the health department, 1 person in South Lincoln County and 1 person in North Lincoln County in Youth/Adult blended Mental Health First Aid. Work with schools to get 1 staff member trained as an instructor, then assist schools and other youth-serving organizations to register as Teen Mental Health First Aid implementing site. est \$10,000 - \$15,000 or more if we choose to pay for each school to have someone trained. Instructor training is about \$3,000 per person.
10. Community Bullying Campaign: Bullying is a growing issue. The Health Department (with input from other partners) has been tasked with looking for an evidence-based practice/curriculum to tackle the issue of bullying county-wide. est \$15,000

Kathi talked about using ARPA funds to help with cost of the new asbestos cell at the landfill that was not fully funded by grant dollars and is requesting ARPA funds as a source of matching grant funds.

Kathi discussed refuse assessments and special waste disposal fees will reviewed and potentially increased.

Kathi said the annual survey of the landfill was just completed and as soon as the results are compiled, she will know more about what the landfill volume was and will be able to determine future volume predictions.

Commissioner Bennett talked about the importance of projects falling into ARPA fund guidelines and how that money will have to be paid back if projects are funded that do not qualify.

Mike France suggested a burner to help with heating the facility.

10:30 AM Administrative Issues / Ripley Intervenor Discussion / Tax Appeal Board Appointment: Present were Mark Peck, Will Langhorne, Arlene Elletson, Martin Dunbar and Nikki Meyer.

- Robin submitted the minutes for September 8 closed meeting and October 6, 2021 regular meeting for approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Letcher to approve minutes as submitted. Second by Commissioner Teske, motion carried.
- Tax Appeal Board Appointment: Robin informed the commissioners that an application was received from Tillie Butts, Fortine to serve on the Tax Appeal Board. Currently there are three board members and Robin commented a 4th person would be good to have as an alternate. **Motion** by Commissioner Letcher to appoint Tillie Butts to serve on the Lincoln County Tax Appeal Board. Second by Commissioner Teske, motion carried unanimously. Mark Peck commented that he would be willing to serve on the Tax Appeal Board. Robin requested Mark to email her an application or letter of interest to serve on the Tax Appeal Board.
- Ripley Intervenor Discussion: Mark Peck talked about the Ripley Project litigation. The area is in the Wildland Urban Interface and the corridor between the project and designated bear habitat has approximately 7,000 people living there. Mark strongly expressed that we need to push back on this one, otherwise all of Lincoln County will be considered bear habitat. Mark talked about other agencies and organizations joining in support. Mark noted there is no cost to the county, the legal services are provided. The county will need to provide a declaration and establish a point of contact, a fairly simple process for the county. Commissioner Bennett stated that we as a county need to speak out and intervene where we can. Commissioner Teske commented that the area being so close and adjacent to the community, that the litigation is a big issue of lack of consideration to the community, commenting the WUI area is a fire and safety issue. Commissioner Teske expressed that he is a firm supporter and supports filing a declaration. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to write a declaration as an intervenor and provide a contact person in support of the Ripley Project. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously. There is no legal cost to the county.

10:45 AM Public Comment Time: Present were Arlene Elletson, Mark Peck, Mike France, Martin Dunbar, Brett McCully Tom Lane, Nikki Mayer, and Will Langhorne.

Arlene is requesting chip sealing on Parmenter Creek Hill and was hoping it would have been done this year. Commissioner Bennett talked about the plan and how the weather plays a role. Chip sealing is planned for next year.

Martin talked about the first corner on Parmenter Creek Hill and expressed concern about the debris at the culvert and a tree located at the phone box. The debris potentially could clog the ditch and running water. Commissioner Teske said he will look at the area with Road Supervisor Marc McCully.

Phil Soucy talked about the salvage left from the Skidale Project and expressed concern that there is shooting off of Parmenter close to homes. Phil said it may happen more this year since the deer are more tamed.

Commissioner Bennett suggested making that area archery only. Commissioner Bennett said he will visit with Nate Gassman to see if that is a possibility to get posted.

11:00 AM Planning / Nordic Way Major Subdivision Public Hearing / North Shore Minor Subdivision Review:

Present were Planning Consultant Kristin Smith, Brett McCully, Ben Scott, Mike France, and Will Langhorne.

Public Hearing for Nordic Way Major Subdivision: Kristin gave an overview of the project proposal located 1.5 miles south of the City of Libby off of Snowshoe and Granite Road, adjacent to Cabinet View Golf Course and both DNRC and USFS lands. Developers intend to create 10 lots from the 70-acre parcel with possible future division of Lots 9 and 10. Developers also intend to dedicate an acre of parkland, parking and trail easement for public access to area recreation. Kristin explained two conditions regarding the trail location and signage that was accepted by the planning board and developer. Kristin said planning staff recommends preliminary approval to Nordic Way Subdivision subject to 14 conditions.

Commissioner Teske asked about any discussion for the rural fire department to annex into the area, expressing it should be more of a developer process and not individual properties, but the entire subdivision.

Kristin read from a letter by the fire department saying the fire department board would meet after the subdivision is approved.

Commissioner Bennett commented the fire department may be waiting for lot owners but expressed that it should be a part of the subdivision process and a condition. Commissioner Bennett suggested a talk with the fire department on the agenda to have this discussion moving forward.

There was a discussion regarding fire suppression, cost of tanks and whose responsibility to cover that cost, and to have subdivision annexation into fire districts during the subdivision planning process as a condition of approval.

Kristin suggested a change to Condition #7, adding the words "install or" to read: the developer shall install or bond for the installation of the water tanks meeting the water supply requirements identified in VI-P-5(a) of the Lincoln County Subdivision Regulations, for their future installation prior to final plat approval.

Motion by Commissioner Teske to approve preliminary plat for Nordic Way Subdivision subject to 14 conditions, including a change to Condition # 7 as suggested by Kristin Smith, Planning Consultant (as stated above), and based on planning staff recommendation. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

Mike France expressed support of the water tanks benefiting the area for multiple purposes.

North Shore Subdivision: Kristin reviewed the project proposal of the North Shore Subdivision on Bull Lake located in North Shore Subdivision, Lot 1 on Bull Lake. Lot 1 was never reviewed for residential use as part of the subdivision and was never reviewed for on-site sewer/water, which is the primary purpose of this review process. Planning Staff recommendation is to grant preliminary approval to North Shore Subdivision subject to 9 conditions. **Motion** by Commissioner Letcher to approve preliminary plat to North Shore Subdivision, subject to 9 conditions and based on planning staff recommendation. Second by Commissioner Teske, motion approved unanimously.

11:30 AM Danielle Maiden, ARPA Funding Request: Present were Mike France and Will Langhorne.

Danielle talked about her work with residents of trailer parks to become its own cooperative. Libby Creek Community (formerly Hartman Trailer Park) has been resident owned the past 3 years. Danielle said the wells and the water system need to be evaluated and it is a priority to get wells replaced and to improve the water system. Danielle said she is looking at different funds available for the construction piece of the proposed project and is requesting ARPA funds from Lincoln County to cover one third cost. Danielle talked about other grant/funding opportunities she is looking into. Septic systems will have to be replaced and the preliminary engineering cost estimates were \$535,000 for the water system and \$600,000 for the sewer system. Danielle said there is potential to expand the number of units.

The commissioners informed Danielle about potential opportunities for ARPA planning grants to cover engineering costs of infrastructure type projects.

Commissioner Bennett said the commissioners will be reviewing about 20 county projects and that 1 million has already been dedicated to the landfill expansion project for Lincoln County. In a couple weeks the commissioners will be reviewing all the county department requests and other ARPA fund requests before making any final decisions.

12:00 PM **Meeting Adjourned.**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jerry Bennett, Chairman

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