

September 8, 2021

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on September 8, 2021 in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Letcher, Commissioner Teske, 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**.

10:00 AM Health Department Update: Present were Kathi Hooper, Jennifer McCully, Bryan Alkire and Dallas Bowe. Kathi said the ARPA Grant disbursement will be formally announced on September 15, 2021. The Lincoln County Landfill Expansion will be a recipient of those funds.

Kathi discussed the difficulties of being understaffed. A job description for county planner and sanitarian has been submitted. DEQ will review the applications and would be available to help with training. The position will be advertised on a grade range of 16-20 depending on experience. Kathi is requesting approval to post the position. Kathi explained the extensive and specific requirements just for the sanitarian portion. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve moving forward to fill the Planner/Sanitarian Position with the Grade Range of 16-20 depending on experience. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

Jennifer said the Congregate Living Coordinator Position closes Monday and it will be helpful to have that position filled. Jennifer informed the commissioners that she has received funding through ARPA for an administrative assistant to help with Covid related administrative work. The funding is for a 2-year position. Requesting approval to move forward with advertising and hiring. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to move forward with the advertising and hiring an administrative assistant up to 2 years as presented. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried. Jennifer clarified the administrative position is 100% funded by grant dollars.

Jennifer briefed the commission on covid statistics in Lincoln County. 27% of cases has come in just since July. Hospitalization has increased 10% which is double from any time during the pandemic. The health department is able to get rapid tests as they come in, but also finding more people are conducting home tests. There was a brief discussion on HB 702 and how it applies to quarantine options, not mandate. The public health department continues to provide instructions and guidelines to the public.

10:30 AM Administrative Issues: Present were Derrick Perkins and Ray Stout.

- Robin submitted minutes for August 24 Rescinding Fire Restrictions, August 31 Preliminary Budget, and September 1, 2021 regular meeting for approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Letcher to approve minutes as submitted. Second by Commissioner Teske, motion carried unanimously.
- The commissioners signed a letter of support on behalf of the Heritage Museum's grant application for a tourism project. The project is for the restoration of the boiler and frame of the historical 1906 Shay #4 Steam locomotive.
- The commissioners signed a letter of support on behalf of the Libby Area Chamber of Commerce tourism grant application to develop positive video content celebrating the area's cultural and scenic amenities; an exciting and necessary effort for the community rebranding mission.
- The commissioners signed a letter to MDT requesting a speed study on a portion of highway 37 be placed on their schedule. The request was prompted from a petition signed by approximately 225 people and a meeting of citizens with the commissioners. Speed study area is from the Kootenai Bridge in Libby to the bridge where the Fisher River comes in.
- The commissioners signed a letter to Seth Carbonari, Eureka Ranger Station expressing concern for the Long Lake Private Land Access proposal which would provide access to private land through Forest Service land if approved. **Motion** by Commissioner Letcher to approve and sign letter as submitted. Second by Commissioner Teske, motion carried unanimously.
- Robin said Fortine/Trego Cemetery Board received 3 applications for two vacancies. The positions will not be filled at the request of Commissioner Letcher until the cemetery board was officially created by resolution. The cemetery board has recommended that Tim Thier be appointed, and John Slesar be reappointed. **Motion** by Commissioner Letcher to appoint Tim Thier and reappoint John Slesar as recommended to serve on the Fortine/Trego Cemetery Board. Second by Commissioner Teske, motion carried unanimously.

10:40 AM Closed Meeting from 10:40am – 10:45 requested by HR Director, Dallas Bowe.

10:45 AM Public Comment Time: Present were Derrick Perkins and Ray Stout.
There were no public comments.

11:00 AM Planning Department: Present were Planning Consultant Kristin Smith, Brett McCully, Rich Bohne, Byron Sanderson, Nathan Lucke, John Damon, Derrick Perkins and Ray Stout.

- **Downing Subdivision Preliminary Approval:** The proposed minor subdivision is located along Black Lake Road between Rexford and Eureka. The developers intend to create 2 lots from the 90-acre parcel. Kristin gave an overview of the Planning Subdivision Report. Planning recommendation is to grant preliminary approval to Downing Subdivision subject to 7 conditions and based on the findings in the staff report. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve preliminary plat to Downing Subdivision subject to 7 condition and based on planning staff recommendation. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.
- **Schnackenberg Family Transfer:** Schnackenberg is requesting to transfer a 2-acre portion to their son and retain the remaining 38-acre portion. Kristin said there are no concerns to evade subdivision review. Planning staff

recommendation is to approve request to use exemption. **Motion** by Commissioner Letcher to approve exemption based on planning staff's review and recommendation. Second by Commissioner Teske, motion carried unanimously.

- Wilderness Club Phases 6-10: Request is to amend the Phasing Plan and request an extension to file the final plat for Phase 6. Kristin said Wilderness Club was approved many years ago and it is standard to request to update a phasing plan. The one-year extension is for infrastructure and timing. The whole project is subject to water rights. Planning staff recommendation is in 3 motions as follows:
 1. Approve Wilderness Club Phasing Plan Amendment to conform with that requested on August 2, 2021, in the attached letter; and
 2. Approve the request to file Phase 7 before Phase 6; and
 3. Approve the request to reduce the lots in Phases 6 and 7.

Motion(s) by Commissioner Letcher to approve request specifically as stated in the Planning Staff Report (see 3 motions above) per planning staff recommendation. Second by Commissioner Teske, motion carried unanimously.

- Hageness Agricultural Exemption Request: Creating 2 parcels, 40-acres each located in the Yaak. One 40-acre lot will retain agricultural exemption. Kristin commented planning staff review has no issues. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve the Hageness Agricultural Exemption Request as presented and based on planning staff recommendation. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.
- Carlock Subdivision Final Plat: Kristin said preliminary approval was granted December of last year and all conditions have been met for final plat approval. Carlock is a 2-lot subdivision located in the Rawlings Tract area, Libby. Planning staff recommends commissioners to approve final plat to Carlock Subdivision. **Motion** by Commissioner Letcher to grant final plat to Carlock Subdivision based on planning staff recommendation. Second by Commissioner Teske, motion carried unanimously.

11:45 AM **Superintendent Budget/Tara McFadden:** Cancelled

12:00 PM **Break**

1:30 PM **Final Budget Hearing and Adoption:** Present were Wendy Drake, Dallas Bowe, Will Langhorne and Ray Stout.

Wendy submitted the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Tax Levy Requirement Schedule and Non-Levied Fund Requirements to the commissioners, commenting the budget is balanced for FY 21/22. Wendy explained two options. Option 1 is we have 1 mill left in the amount of \$43,662.36 that can be saved and spent next fiscal year or the following year. Option 2 is the left-over mill can be put into a capital improvement plan for this fiscal year.

Commissioner Bennett suggested Option 1 to save the mill for next fiscal year or the following year.

Wendy submitted Resolution 2021-32 Levies for Lincoln County for Fiscal year 2021-2022.

Motion by Commissioner Teske to approve Resolution 2021-32, the final budget/levies for FY 21/22, Option 1, retaining 1 mill for next fiscal year or following year. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

There was a brief discussion regarding the timeline for filling the County Administrator Position. The position is closed as of Friday, September 10, 2021.

2:00 PM **Airport / pay request on active projects:** Present representing Morrison-Maierle were Tim Orthmeyer and Nick Enblom, Bill Caldwell, Will Langhorne and Ray Stout.

Tim said projects have gone very well in both Libby and Eureka.

Nick said the Libby Project is almost complete and should be completed in another 3 weeks depending on temperature for paint marking. The Eureka Project is completely done with final work also dependent on weather for paint marking.

Nick submitted FAA paperwork for pay request, including invoice summary.

2:15 PM **Meeting Adjourned.**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jerry Bennett, Chairman

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