

**April 26, 2022**  
**FY 22/23 Preliminary Budget Discussions-1:30 PM**

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a special session on April 26, 2022 in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Letcher, County Administrator Jim Hammons and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson.

**ARPA Funding:** Present was Finance Officer Wendy Drake.

Wendy provided a spreadsheet showing requested projects, project amount and allocations for commissioner review. Wendy explained ARPA funds reporting and budget requirement process. The commissioners reviewed and discussed requests/projects that have received allocations and projects still pending consideration.

**IT Department:** Present was IT Director Solomon Alcain.

Sol gave an overview of the IT budget and discussed anticipated expenditures for FY 22/23. Sol discussed necessary improvements and upgrades and current outdated IT and network systems, including security requirements. Upgrades are planned for a 2-year phase timeline. Commissioner Bennett suggested using ARPA funds to implement improvements over the next 2 years.

**Clerk and Recorder:** Present was Clerk & Recorder Robin Benson.

Robin gave an overview of the Clerk & Recorder's preliminary budget, anticipated expenditures and revenues for FY 22/23. Robin shared that recording revenues have significantly increased, estimating \$174,000 revenue going to the general fund. Robin said she is asking to promote an employee to the Assistant Election Administrator position at a grade 9. That position is already budgeted and will be absorbed, there is no budget increase request. Robin said she is trying to budget for a decrease of \$3,000 from current year. Commissioner Bennett commented that moving an employee to a position already within the Clerk & Recorders Office does not need Commissioner approval and the funds are already in place.

There was a brief conversation regarding GIS replacement for Lincoln County. Robin commented that in research with other counties, GIS and Addressing is combined, not separated, and would like that restructure to be considered in the GIS discussion moving forward.

**Road Departments:** Present were Road Supervisors Marc McCully, Ray Price, DJ Welch and Jerry Regh.

Road supervisors of each district gave an overview of their preliminary budgets and anticipated expenditures and revenues for FY 22/23. Discussion focused on increased costs for fuel, asphalt, vehicle maintenance, fabricated materials and planned projects for FY 22/23. Marc commented that projects will be limited without budget increases. DJ questioned how his CIP is reflected from year to year because he set \$90,000 aside last year and he has a contract with the state for plowing the Yaak Highway and he

wants to ensure that \$60,000 annual revenue goes into his CIP to set aside for future truck purchase. Wendy explained how the CIP funds are determined from year to year, that money not spent determines the CIP balance. DJ said he has an employee retiring in the fall and he would like to bring in a replacement in July for training. Commissioner Teske commented that for safety and training purposes, he supports July replacement.

**3:00 PM Meeting Adjourned**

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Jerry Bennett, Chairman

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Robin A. Benson, Clerk and Recorder