

**April 19, 2023**

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on April 19, 2023 in the Lincoln County Annex, Eureka, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Hammons, and Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown. Commissioner Letcher was excused.

Meeting allows for teleconferencing and VisionNet availability. Present were Tom Lane, Rebecca Nelson, Jesse Haag, Ray Stout, Nick her (Zoom bomb), Shawn Smith, Darren Short, Brent Faulkner, Chanel Greer, Evan Comella, Paula Buff, Ann German, Cyndy Miller, Criselda De LaCruz, and Michelle Byrd

Commissioner Teske opened the meeting with the **Pledge**.

**10:00 AM TVID-MT Mines and Geology Water Wells:** Present were Jennifer Brown, Art Waters and Sandra McIntyre.

Art is seeking support for the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology's groundwater investigation program in the Tobacco Valley. Art advised the Bureau has requested two holes be drilled and then monitored for two years after which the wells would be given to the Tobacco Valley Industrial Park. Commissioner Teske agreed this could be good for the TVID and will review this request with Commissioner Letcher who will respond to Sandra.

**10:30 AM Administrative Issues/Old Business / Proclamation for Crime Victims' Week / Resolution 2023-16 Adopt Fire Code:** Present were Jennifer Brown, Kathleen Sheffield, Levi Roadman, Cyndi Miller and Scott Shindledecker

- Corrina submitted the minutes for April 12, 2023, for approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve minutes of April 12, 2023. Second by Commissioner Teske. No comments. Motion carried.
- Proclamation for Crime Victims' Week prepared by Kathleen Sheffield, Lincoln County Victim/Witness Advocate. Commissioner Teske read the National Crime Victim's Rights Week, April 23<sup>rd</sup> - April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023, proclamation. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to proclaim the week of April 23<sup>rd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023 as crime victims' rights week. Second commissioner Teske. Levi expressed appreciation of Kathleen's work as. Motion carried.
- Resolution 2023-16 A Resolution of the Lincoln County Rural Fire District #1 Providing for the Adoption of the 2021 International Fire Code and Certain Amendments: Commissioner Hammons read Resolution 2023-16 in its entirety. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve Resolution 2023-16. Second by Commissioner Teske. Commissioner Teske clarified this only applies to Lincoln County Fire District #1 boundary and wants a correction to \$500. Sheriff Short asked for confirmation that the Fire Marshal is responsible for enforcement. Commissioner Teske clarified enforcement is with the Fire Marshal. Motion carried.
- Memorandum of Agreement between City of Libby and Lincoln County Sheriff's Office and Lincoln County to provide efficient police protection and service to the city. Commissioner Teske read the memorandum. Commissioner Teske advised he confirmed the city has approved this. Sheriff Short advised this is another step as the city of Libby rebuilds. **Motion** to approve MOA between City of Libby and Lincoln County Sheriff's Office and Lincoln County by Commissioner Hammons. Second by Commissioner Teske. No comments. Motion carried.

**All resolutions can be viewed from the county website: [www.lincolncountymt.us](http://www.lincolncountymt.us)**

**10:45 AM Public Comment Time:** Present were Jennifer Brown, Mac Kirk and Pat McCarthy

Mac with Payne West Insurance advised he is currently reviewing workers compensation and safety within Lincoln County. Mac touched on the MACO program through Glacier insurance and what Payne West offers. Pat commented he has items being reviewed within the County. Commissioner Teske requested a synopsis of what Payne West can provide for Commissioner review. Mac advised the County renewal is in July and encouraged the Commissioners to evaluate their agent relationship.

**11:00 AM Board Appointments:** Present were Jennifer Brown, Donna Smith, Ron Catlett and Scott Shindledecker.

Commissioner Hammons presented district board vacancies as follows:

Eureka Fire Service Area: 1 vacancy. 1 application received/Dave Lyons

**Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to reappoint Dave Lyons to the Eureka Fire Service Area. Second Commissioner Teske. No public comment. Motion carried.

Lincoln County Rural Fire District: 2 vacancies. 2 applications received/Thomas Erickson and John "Curt" Jones

**Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to reappoint Tom Erickson and John "Curt" Jones to the Lincoln County Rural Fire District. Second Commissioner Teske. No public comment. Motion carried.

McCormick Fire District Board: 3 vacancies. 2 applications received/Steve Allen and Mike Harris. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to reappoint Steve Allen and appoint Mike Harris to the McCormick Fire District Board. Second by Commissioner Teske. no public comment. Motion carried.

Trego/Fortine/Stryker Fire Service Area: 1 vacancy. 1 application received/Michael Collins

**Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to appoint Michael Collins to the Trego/Fortine/Stryker Fire Service Area. Second by Commissioner Teske. No public comment. Motion carried.

Troy Park District Board: 3 vacancies: 3 applications received/Robin Ridgway, Kyla Grose and Mark Roesler-Begalke

**Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to appoint Robin Ridgway to fulfill a vacated position, reappoint Kyla Grose and Mark Roesler-Begalke to the Troy Park District Board. Second by Commissioner Teske. No public comment. Motion carried.

Troy Rural Fire District Board: 2 vacancies. 2 applications received/MarKay Brown and Max Schrader

**Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to reappoint MarKay Brown and Max Schrader to the Troy Rural Fire District Board. Second by Commissioner Teske. No public comment. Motion carried.

Upper Yaak Fire Service Area District Board: 2 vacancies. 2 applications received/Sharon Sullivan and John Huber

**Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to reappoint John Huber and appoint Sharon Sullivan to the Upper Yaak Fire Service Area District Board. Second by Commissioner Teske. No public comment. Motion Carried.

Eureka Dispatch Board: 2 vacancies. 4 applications received/Stormy Langston, Sonya Richardson, Joel Cobb and David Scott. Board recommends Joel Cobb and Dave Scott as Joel is already affiliated with the board lending longevity of board members and Dave is a long-time member of the community with a good understanding of what is going on with the board and the people involved. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to appoint Joel Cobb to a 3-year term through 6/30/2026 and David Scott to fulfill an unexpired term through 6/30/2024 to the Eureka Dispatch Board as recommended by the dispatch board. Second by Commissioner Teske. No public comment. Motion carried.

11:00 AM **Ethan Lula-FWP**: Present were Jennifer Brown, Ron Catlett, Ethan Lula and Scott Shindledecker.

Ethan summarized ongoing items FWP has going on in Lincoln County. Ethan provided a Libby CWD summary report 2022 as well as a Region One Mule Deer Report September 2022. Ethan advised of a large-scale camera study of wildlife in an effort to monitor populations they have not been able to survey due to dense vegetation. Ethan stated the Black bear DNA hair monitoring is ongoing. Ethan advised of seven known Big Horn Sheep/vehicle fatalities on Hwy 37 from the 30ish member heard at Peck Gulch. Ethan is seeking mitigation efforts to slow traffic from Commissioners. Commissioner Teske will share state highway contact information for the areas with Ethan. Commissioner Hammons advised the Commissioners can provide a letter of support.

11:45 PM Break

1:30 PM **Election Reform**: Present were Dianne Hansen, Jennifer Curtiss, Gregg Johnson, Linda Arneson, Rita Stevens, Jackie Leblanc, Kathy Fisher, Rose Casazza, Larry Casazza, Theresa Smith and Scott Shindledecker.

Commissioner Teske announced before discussions began, MACO advised the Commissioners to inform the meeting attendees if questions are asked, there is not to be any discussion regarding employees or relating to pending litigation. Only general questions about elections may be answered. Jackie expressed her goal of getting back to hand counting all votes. Jackie asked what this group can do to return to hand counting votes. Commissioner Teske advised the county is currently seeking to hire an Election Administrator and options have to be reviewed. Jackie read from Montana Secretary of State's webpage that two options for counting exist, hand count or tabulator. Jackie stated ten counties in Montana hand count only. Commissioner Teske asked if a statute is referenced. Jackie did not have that. Commissioner Teske suggested researching statutes. Cathy stated Montana is a conservative state and as a voice of the people she would like to see renewed trust in elections. Cathy would like hand counting of ballots first and machines second. Cathy believes people should vote in person, on election day. Cathy is concerned with voters receiving misinformation in the media. Theresa expressed her frustration with the loss of her local polling location. Commissioner Teske advised election security is a major concern and more hands and locations create more chances of error. Theresa is concerned with mail in ballots and clean voter rolls. Commissioner Teske stated he has stated his name and signed with ID at his polling location for years. Jackie questioned what can be done to improve elections. Commissioner Teske commented he will review MCA and thanked everyone for expressing their concerns. Jennifer commented the Central Committee unanimously voted to hand count all ballots and has volunteers to accomplish this. Commissioner Teske asked for documentation of this. Gregg commented that he is an election judge and would like to see the ballots counted at the precinct prior to transporting to Libby for verification count by machine. Dianne provided handouts and read her concerns. Shawn thanked everyone for their comments. Gregg provided Commissioner Teske a list of items he'd like a response to. Dianne advised the Republican's Women's Club straw poll stance has election integrity as a top priority. Commissioner Teske encouraged the group to communicate any MCA related to these topics discussed today.

2:05 pm **Adjourned**

## LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Brent Teske, Chairman

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