

February 1, 2023

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on February 1, 2023 in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Letcher, Commissioner Hammons, and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson.

Meeting allows for teleconferencing and VisionNet availability.

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

9:45 AM **Safety Incentive Program/EMA**: Present were EMA Director Tom Lane, Veronica Bovee-Anderson, Solomon Alcain, and Rebecca Nelson.

Tom thanked the commissioners for their support of the safety incentive program and expressed that the program has been very successful for many years.

Commissioner Teske expressed support to continue the safety incentive program, that it is a great program, and commented that our accident/incident rate in Lincoln County is excellent which contributes to our reduced worker's comp. rate. Robin said the changes are visa card awards instead of county checks and adding language to include part-time employees. Tom noted that part-time employees do participate in the safety incentive program. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve the Lincoln County Safety Incentive Program through December 2023 with changes. Second by Commissioner Hammons, motion was unanimous.

Tom talked about updating the Emergency Operation Plan with the school district. Tom said he attended a regional conference for hazard mitigation projects for grant work, but it is lacking participation, looking into virtual participation. Tom commented that he is presenting to Rexford, and he is willing to do that for other territories but has received zero feedback on that.

Libby Asbestos Response Plan will be conducting a tabletop exercise in May or June, specific to OU3, former WR Grace mine site. Tabletop exercise will focus on air monitoring and fire hazard.

There was a brief discussion about communications and the towers located in Lincoln County.

Pinkham Tower-meeting with the state to increase height of tower and other improvements, options, and best approach for guidelines and tower maintenance.

King Tower-communication problems, contractor called out and swapped wire, helped but not necessarily the solution.

Yaak Repeater-building is not equipped to handle operations year round.

Black Butte-looking at 700-800 vhf increase in that area.

Third Signal has mailed out its draft communication findings. Tom said there are significant communication issues that require further discussion.

Tom said considering our emergency shelter review plan and election day emergency plan, he is looking for grants to help accommodate more of our facilities with generators.

Commissioner Teske expressed concerns regarding the generator at city hall.

Tom said he is looking into a generator site at the Eureka Annex as a backup Emergency Operations Center.

Commissioner Letcher questioned responsibilities regarding radios with multiple agencies; ambulance, fire, sheriff etc...how does that work?

Tom said Lincoln County has fragmented overlapping responsibilities and looking forward, those responsibilities need specific discussion that should be clarified and officially written down. Tom commented that communications need a lot of work, and we should be looking at longevity, potentially putting communications under one roof, for a better strategic goal of addressing communication needs countywide.

10:00 AM **USFS**: Cancelled

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues-Old Business**: Present were Veronica Bovee-Anderson, Kerry Finley, and Rebecca Nelson.

- Robin submitted the minutes for January 25, 2023 regular meeting for approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve minutes as submitted. Second by Commissioner Hammons, motion was unanimous.
- Commissioner Hammons submitted for commissioner signature Morrison Maierle grant paperwork for the fuel station project at the Eureka Airport. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve signing grant paperwork for the fuel station project at the Eureka Airport. Second by Commissioner Teske, motion carried unanimously.
- Commissioner Letcher submitted an estimate from Kootenai Surveyors (KSI) for \$3790.00 to do a boundary line adjustment (BLA) at the fairgrounds. Commissioner Letcher explained that when the property transfer from the school was done, we learned that half of the bleachers are on the neighbor's property. The BLA was done years ago, but was not finalized, and we need to finish that process. Commissioner Letcher said he has talked with the landowner and he is wanting this process to be completed. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve KSI estimate of \$3790.00 to complete the BLA process. Cost will be paid out of PILT. Second by Commissioner Hammons, motion was unanimous.

10:45 AM AM **Public Comment Time:** Present were Veronica Bovee-Anderson, Scott Shindledecker, Rebecca Nelson and Kerry Finley.

Commissioner Letcher asked for public comment.

Kerry Finley asked what the date was on the library bylaws that were submitted to the commissioners last week. Commissioner Letcher said the bylaws are in his office in Eureka, but guessed they were signed in 2016 or 2017, date of last bylaw revision. Kerry noted that according to Resolution 2020-08 library bylaws are supposed to be reviewed every 3 years and that she found no review in library board meeting minutes from the public information that is posted. Kerry expressed she is not asking for any action and that she will visit with Laura Finley and Library Director Alyssa Ramirez. Commissioner Teske noted it is typical or not uncommon for bylaws to be overlooked, but we need to be more proactive keeping bylaws updated and he will follow up with Alyssa.

11:00 AM **Public Hearing / Resolution 2023-09 Setting hours of operation for county offices:** Present were Veronica Bovee-Anderson, Scott Shindledecker, Rebecca Nelson and Kerry Finley.

Robin explained there are several annual resolutions every January; commissioner meeting dates/locations, holidays, travel rates, public posting locations and included in that should be a resolution establishing office hours/dates for specific county offices. Those offices operate Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm, except legal holidays and Saturdays. Commissioner Hammons read Resolution 2023-09 Establish Days/Hours of Operation for County Offices. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve Resolution 2023-09 as submitted. Second by Commissioner Hammons, motion was unanimous.

12:00 PM **Break**

1:30 PM **Planning / Minor Subdivision Review Whitney Subdivision:** Present were Byron Sanderson, Calen Williamson, County Planner Jesse Haag, and Planning Consultant Kristin Smith.

Whitney Subdivision is located in northwest Libby area off Bothman Drive. The project will divide 5 acres into two lots. This is a minor subdivision and does not require planning board review. Planning staff recommends preliminary approval subject to 6 conditions and based on the findings in the staff report.

Motion by Commissioner Teske to approve preliminary plat to Whitney Subdivision subject to 6 conditions, based on the findings in the staff report and planning staff recommendation. Second by Commissioner Hammons, motion was unanimous.

2:00 PM **Public Health, Task Order Signatures:** Present were Kathi Hooper and Jennifer McCully.

Jennifer said she is looking for signatures for two Task Orders.

First is for the Systems Improvement Grant for \$6750.00 to conduct a community health needs assessment for Lincoln County. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve the Master Contract effective through June 30, 2026 Systems Improvement Grant Task Order #23-07-1-01-186-0. Second by Commissioner Hammons, motion was unanimous.

Jennifer said the 2nd Task Order is for a 2-year grant to pursue accreditation through the Pathways to Recognition Program. Accreditation is to meet public health national standards and offer best customer service. Funding is to work with 5 other counties collaboratively to receive recognition in 2 years. It is a step towards accreditation. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve Task Order #23-07-1-01-192-0 for participation in the Pathways to Recognition Program. Second by Commissioner Teske, motion was unanimous.

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Josh Letcher, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Robin Benson, Clerk of the Board