

May 24, 2023

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on May 24, 2023, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Letcher, Commissioner Hammons, and Clerk & Recorder Corrina Brown.

Meeting allows for teleconferencing and VisionNet availability.

Present online were Chanel Geer, Rebecca Nelson Reporter-Tobacco Valley News, Anthony South YVFC, Scott Shindledecker Reporter-Western News, and Ray Stout Reporter-Kootenai Valley Record.

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

10:00 AM **Andrew Schmidt Ground Water Update**: Present were Peggy Williams Libby Mayor, Jason Rappe DEQ, Christina Pagess EPA, Maggie Ogden EPA, Beth Archer EPA and Nick Raines WR Grace.

Christina Pagess EPA advised she oversees ground water and asbestosis then introduced Maggie Ogden EPA advising she is taking over the asbestosis side at the Lincoln County Port Authority. Commissioner Teske commented on public awareness coming up which will bring up questions and initiate more conversation. Beth Archer EPA introduced herself as working with both ground water and asbestosis. Commissioner Teske commented on receiving questions regarding the Town Pump. Beth encouraged the commissioners to forward public input so they can address the concerns.

10:15 AM **ARP Updates**: canceled

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues/Old Business: Minutes / Administrative Claim / Planning Board Member Discussion / FDR/Dodge Summit and West Kootenai Road Intersection**: Present was Nick Raines WR Grace.

- Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown submitted the minutes of May 17, 2023, regular meeting for approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve minutes of May 17, 2023. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comments. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Letcher advised of minutes from closed meeting of May 10, 2023. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the special meeting minutes. Second by Commissioner Teske. No comments. Motion Carried.
- Director of Planning Jesse Haag advised at the May 16th Planning Board meeting the Board informed Jesse of a request for the resignation of Tracy McNew with the new person serving out the term of appointment through the end of 2024. Jesse advised the board's request is due to Tracy not making the attendance requirements set in the bylaws. Jesse stated he has talked with Tracy who is fine with this decision, and she has other obligations. **Motion** to removed Tracy McNew from the Planning Board by Commissioner Hammons. Second by Commissioner Teske who questioned the number of openings on the Planning Board. Jesse advised there are two openings, one being a Libby District Representative and one at large. No further comments. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Letcher provided an estimate from KSI to survey the FDR/Dodge Summit and West Kootenai Road Intersection to make that intersection safer. Commissioner Letcher is seeking approval of this estimate of \$2,750 with funding from the road budget. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve the bid from KSI for the survey of West Kootenai Road intersection. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Commissioner Letcher advised he met with the Forest Service who may be able to do some administrative process on easements and will do a study as they may need to remove 6-8 trees. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Teske presented the Annual Schedule A Road Agreement from June 1, 2023 to May 31, 2024 between the Forest Service and Lincoln County Road Crews noting no substantial changes that would include more work by the County. **Motion** to approve Schedule A Road Agreement by Commissioner Teske. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Commissioner Hammons advised in the future this is something they should look at given how the road budget is to see how important these roads are to the County and maybe give some roads back to the Forest Service for maintenance reasons. Commissioner Letcher commented that District 3 has given some roads back to the Forest Service in the last few years. Commissioner Teske advised it comes down to priorities and responsibilities needing to be evaluated. Commissioner Letcher commented that populations in some areas have grown to where road maintenance may need reevaluated. Commissioner Teske will provide the signed document to the Forest Service. No comments. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Teske advised of property loss insurance update. **Motion** to renew agreement through HUB International by Commissioner Teske. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Commissioner Teske advised of a concern early on of elevated full-time employees which was clarified with Director of HR Dallas Bowe. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Letcher presented the Trego Community Hall CDBG grant to approve the final close out to be signed certifying the grant was executed and has no outstanding issues.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time:** Present were Sheriff Darren Short and Brent Strum LCSO.

No public comment.

11:00 AM **Opening of Bids: 911 Call Taking Equipment RFP:** Present were Sheriff Darren Short, Brent Strum LCSO and Undersheriff Brent Faulkner.

Sheriff Darren Short advised they received three bids: Valence / Zetron, Comtech / Solacom, and Lumen / Vesta. Undersheriff Brent Faulkner advised they will be reviewed with consultant 3rd Signal to ensure they meet the requirements of the RFP and get back with the commissioners. Brent advised Solacom is the current provider. Commissioner Teske advised no bids were received on the Pinkham Tower and EMA Director Tom Lane may split it into two separate bids. Brent advised Meadow Peak is up and running and they will see if they can get in to set the concrete and later the tower.

11:15 AM **DUI Task Force – Sindy Filler:** Present were Sindy Filler DUI Task Force Coordinator, Kathleen Sheffield Lincoln County Victim/Witness Advocate, Katie Davis Troy Police Chief, Ron B Libby Police, Toya Laveway Prevention Specialist CTC Coordinator and Sheriff Darren Short.

Sindy Filler Coordinator of DUI Task Force for Lincoln County submitted the Lincoln County DUI Task Force Annual Plan 2023-2024 to be approved by the Commissioners after which it will go to the State for approval. Sindy's report showed the DUI Task Forces were first formed in 1987, with the purpose of: a) preventing driving while under the influence of alcohol b) reducing alcohol-related traffic crashes c) educating the public on the dangers of driving after consuming alcoholic beverages or other chemical substances that impair judgment or motor functions. Sindy's report indicated in 2020 Montana ranked in the highest level of percentage of fatalities in crashes involving a driver with a BAC of .15 g/dl or higher at 27% compared to the national average of 20%. Sindy advised after a suspended license due to DUI there is a \$200 reinstatement fee which is distributed to the DUI Task Forces. Lincoln County DUI TF balance of special revenue account as of May 16, 2023 is \$30,535.28. Commissioner Teske questioned getting claims paid. Sindy confirmed receipt of payment for both claims. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve the DUI Task Force Annual 2023-24 plan. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments, one thumbs up. Motion carried. Commissioner Teske advised this is a good organization helping our community. Sindy advised they are getting active and plan to participate in the 4th of July parade.

12:00 PM **Break**

01:30 PM **Planning: Lakeshore Permit-Dickey Lake/Middle Thompson/New Fire Risk Evaluator Selection**
Present were Director of Planning Jesse Haag and Kristin Smith Planning Department.

Kristin Smith LC Planning Department started with a proposal from Levi Shepard and Libby Fields regarding Middle Thompson Lake. The dock is very shallow, so they are requesting a variance from the regulation limiting the length of docks to 50 feet, they are requesting 10 additional feet to allow easy launching of their boat with less disturbance. The Planning Board met last week and recommended granting this variance. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the variance for Levi Shepard and Libby Fields with six conditions of approval as recommended by Planning Department staff. Second by Commissioner Teske. No comments. Motion carried.

Kristin advised of a project on Dickey Lake for Joseph & Mary Hughes where prior work is failing, and the rock bank is not looking stable. The Planning Board agreed this is a solid application, the plans have been prepared by an engineer. In this case regulations stipulate active erosion allows for this type of application. Planning Board made specific recommendations given this is a complicated project. Commissioner Teske commented on the substantial work to shore up the bank. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve the Joseph & Mary Hughes bank stabilization project as presented by Planning Staff. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion carried.

Kristin advised of review of qualification submitted to add to Fire Risk Evaluators as the county historically has had about 4 on staff, 2 in north county and 2 in the south county, generally. Kristin advised they had put out a Request for Qualifications in the Western News and it closed on the 22nd with one application received. Kristin advised this person, if approved, would be added to the pool. Kristin advised forms are uniformly used by all. Kristin recommends adding her to the mix. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to add Carrie Johnson as a Fire Risk Evaluator to Lincoln County. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Motion carried.

Kristin provided history on the Eureka Airport concerns. Kristin advised two subdivisions, planes in one and the hangers in another, joined in one HOA. Kristin will do some research and get back to the Commission.

02:00 PM **Property & Casualty Insurance Renewal Meeting 2023 – 2024** Present were Kevin Peck HUB International and Shannon Chamberlain MACO Property & Casualty Trust Administrator.

Shannon Chamberlain MACO Property & Casualty Trust Administrator reviewed the plan. Liability 5% increase to the base rate. Property includes 15% increase in Buildings/Cnts. B&M/Equipment Breakdown 26% increase. Fidelity & Crime 7% increase. Terrorism no change.

02:40 PM **Budget Meeting – Treasurer:** Present were Lincoln County Treasurer Sedaris Carlberg and Director of Finance Wendy Drake.

Lincoln County Treasurer Sedaris Carlberg advised the only changes are two unfilled supervisor positions she wants to keep available, and the supplies account was under budgeted last year. Commissioner Teske questioned, and Sedaris confirmed the State is not paying for supplies. Sedaris advised her department is not taking on additional State scanning tasks in MVD.

03:00 PM **Budget Meeting – Clerk of Court:** Present were Lincoln County Clerk of Court Tricia Brooks and Wendy Drake Director of Finance.

Lincoln County Clerk of Court Tricia Brooks provided copies of her budget and advised she is seeking an increase in supplies and postage as they have seen price increases.

03:10 PM **FY 2023/2024 Tax Levy Requirement Schedule:** Director of Finance Wendy Drake will seek clarification with the Sheriff's Department and will send numbers to the Fair. Wendy will review ARPA funds and some grants.

03:50 PM **Adjourn**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Josh Letcher, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Corrina Brown, Clerk of the Board