

**June 14, 2023**

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on June 14, 2023, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Letcher, Commissioner Hammons, and Lincoln County Administrative Assistant Jennifer Brown.

Meeting allows for teleconferencing and Zoom availability. Present online were Chanel Geer LCSO, Diane Hansen, Ray Stout, Bruce Phillips, Rebecca Nelson, Jesse Haag, Danielle Faris, Jenny Ressler, Melanie Howell, Evan Comilla, Undersheriff Brent Faulkner, and Angela (last name unknown).

Chairman of the Board, Commissioner Letcher, opened up with the **Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer**.

**9:15 AM SIA Bond Release:** Planning Director, Jesse Haag, states a \$3,500 bond for fuel reduction was part of the Lake Creek Ranch phase 3 final plat approval. The fuel reduction condition has been completed and also verified by the Lincoln County Fire Risk Assessor. The release of funds is requested. Motion by Commissioner Hammons to release the bond. Seconded by Commissioner Teske. No public comment. Motion carried.

**9:20 AM Dutton Acres Final Plat Approval:** Planning Director, Jesse Haag, recommends final plat approval for the Dutton Acres Subdivision and lifting the agricultural exemption. Documentation has been submitted indicating all preliminary approval conditions have been met. Motion by Commissioner Teske to approve the final plat for Dutton Acres. Seconded by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.

**9:30 AM Libby Road Department Budget Meeting:** Libby Road Department Head, Jerry Regh, presented the projected 2023-24 budget. He states the wages may change due to an employee retiring in June. For the most part the budget has not changed with the exception of raw materials due to the increase in oil and utility prices. Plats need to be resubmitted to each owner in the 5<sup>th</sup> St. Riverdale Subdivision and that will be costly. Mr. Regh talks about the need to upgrade the chip spreader as parts are no longer available for it.

Mr. Regh informs the Commissioners that insurance is being paid on 3 or 4 vehicles that are no longer in the possession of the road department. Mr. Regh is directed by to call Kevin Peck to switch the coverage over.

**10:00 AM Health Department Update:** Present were Health Department Director, Kathy Hooper, and Jennifer McCully, Public Health Administrator. Jennifer McCully explains the results of the Lincoln County Health Assessment. 1,200 surveys were sent to Lincoln County residents with 188 surveys being returned. The study revealed the prioritized health needs of Lincoln County. A healthy economy, affordable housing and access to healthcare are what residents would like to see for a healthy community. Secondary data shows Lincoln County has a comparatively high rate of veteran, disabled and over 65-year-old residents. Unemployment is high and the medium income is low. Lincoln County has high rates of lung and prostate cancer, infectious diseases, suicide, and limited access to healthcare. Lack of childcare is also an issue.

Public Health Administrator, Jennifer McCully, says the funding for a health department employee has ended. Ms. McCully has reapplied for the funding of \$55,000 to provide administrative support. Motion by Commissioner Teske to approve the Lincoln County Health Department Strengthening Public Health Workforce Funding. Seconded by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.

Jennifer McCully says there are no changes to the PHEP Task Order. Motion by Commissioner Teske to approve the PHEP Task Order. Seconded by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.

Health Department Director, Kathy Hooper, explains she has two employees with the same job description, but they are at different pay grades. Ms. Hooper would like to increase the grade of Lucy Orr from a 7 to an 8 to be consistent with the other position. The position is 100% grant funded. The Health Department's budget reflected this increase. Motion by Commissioner Hammons to increase Ms. Orr's grade to an 8. Seconded by Commissioner Teske. No Public Comment. Motion carried. Commissioner Teske would like to see the pay grade documented in the job description.

Kathy Hooper expresses frustration with Accela. She has contacted them to cancel. Ms. Hooper says there are other solutions for getting permits online and avoid the annual license fee.

Kathy Hooper would like to increase Dustin Webb's pay grade from a 13 to a 14. Ms. Hooper explains that Dustin has had increased duties and would like him to have the same pay range as the other sanitarian. The position is supported by grants. Motion by Commissioner Teske to increase Dustin's grade to a 14. Seconded by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.

Kathy Hooper also requests a grade increase for Maranda Davis from an 8 to a 9. Maranda has accumulated more responsibilities and 45% of her position is paid from the junk vehicle grant fund. Motion by Commissioner Teske to increase the pay grade to a 9. Seconded by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.

Kathy Hooper talks about the need to update solid waste regulations as it is currently hard to site. Since the ad in the paper regarding the greenboxes, calls to the Health Department have substantially increased. Ms. Hooper talks about the need to remove, consolidate or staff the greenboxes. Hailey is doing an education campaign to educate the public. Kathy Hooper requests a full-time operator to replace the part-time operator. This will allow for added support and cross training. There are multiple employees close to retirement. Motion by Commissioner Hammons to allow for a full-time position. Seconded by Commissioner Teske as long as it replaces the part-time position. No public comment. Motion carried.

**10:45 AM Administrative Issues/Old Business; Approve Minutes; LC Fairground Sewer Bids; Standard Audit Contract; Forest Service Grant Modification:**

- The minutes were submitted from June 7, 2023, June 7, 2023 budget meeting, and June 13, 2023 budget meeting. Motion by Commissioner Hammons to approve the minutes from June 7, 2023, June 7, 2023 budget meeting, and June 13, 2023 budget meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Teske. No public comment. Motion carried.
- The Statements of Interest for the Lincoln County Fairground Sewer were opened. Bids were received from Evensen Engineering, Carver Engineering, WGM Group, and Fraser Management and Consulting. The bids will be reviewed, and a recommendation made.
- Motion by Commissioner Hammons to approve the Standard Audit Contract, Engagement Letter, and Non-Audit Advisory Services. Seconded by Commissioner Teske. No public comment. Motion carried.
- A change in Forest Service funding is needed for road work in the Troy District. Motion by Commissioner Hammons to approve the Forest Service Modification of Grant or Agreement. Seconded by Commissioner Teske to approve maintenance on roads 68 and 92. No public comment. Motion carried.

**11:00 AM Public Comment:** Diane Hansen expresses concern of the transgender danger in the area and the safety of children. She has written a letter to the editor.

Diane Hansen talks about election integrity and the need for simplicity and no computers. She states 15% of Lincoln County residents are in favor of a simpler process. Ms. Hansen is concerned with generated AI.

Jenny Ressler agrees with Ms. Hansen and wants action.

Bruce Phillips questions why the minutes from the last two weeks are not online. He does not agree with Ms. Hansen or Ms. Ressler and is part of the other 85% of Lincoln County residents.

**11:05 AM ARP Budget Meeting:** Present was Amanda Harcourt, ARP Director. Amanda Harcourt presents the projected 2023-34 budget. Her budget is almost 100% reimbursed. There is not much of an increase to the budget. At the end of the MOA she will be asking for a five year term.

**11:30 AM Superintendent of Schools Budget Meeting:** Present was Suzy Rios, Superintendent of Schools. Suzy Rios presents the projected 2023-24 budget. She states her biggest expenses are training and travel. She will inquire with Wendy Drake, Finance Director, to see if a year-long training course will fit the budget.

**1:30 PM Finance Update Meeting:** Present was Wendy Drake, Finance Director. Wendy Drake presents the current status of the budget. Ms. Drake will find the breakdown for the Economic Development, Hard-Rock Mine, and Metal Mine funds. Ms. Drake has no concerns about the budget at this point, but it can change from month to month.

**2:00 Adjourned**

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Josh Letcher, Chairman

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer E. Brown, Administrative Assistant