

June 21, 2023

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on June 21, 2023, in the Lincoln County Annex, Eureka, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Hammons, Commissioner Letcher, and Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown.

Meeting allows for teleconferencing and VisionNet availability. Present online were Administrative Assistant Jennifer Brown, Director of Planning Jesse Haag, Bruce Phillips, Chanel Geer LCSO, Rebecca Nelson-Reporter Tobacco Valley Newspaper, Ray Stout-Reporter Kootenai Valley Record, Scott Shindledecker-Reporter Western News, Sheriff Darren Short and Election Administrator Melanie Howell.

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

09:30 AM Call Taking Equipment RFP: Present were Tom Lane EMA, Sheriff Darren Short, and Undersheriff Brent Faulkner.

Sheriff Short advised they have reviewed all the proposals for the 9-1-1 equipment finding they all came in higher than anticipated and have concluded this is cost prohibitive. Sheriff Short advised they will stay with Solacom and do a refresh, keeping costs in line. Commissioner Letcher questioned when this refresh will start. Undersheriff Faulkner advised they will have to revisit this and will have it ironed out in the next two weeks.

09:45 AM EMA Budget Meeting: Present was Tom Lane EMA.

Commissioner Letcher opened the meeting to Tom who advised fringe benefits has increased with family rates. Tom stated communication funds increased for a duplexer to complete Black Butte along with antenna wiring repairs needed at a couple of sites. Commissioner Teske inquired if EMPG has been submitted. Tom advised he will do so upon approval. EMPG grant request of 72,979.53. Commissioner Teske discussed the communication total being funded by fees and leases. Tom advised his total budget is 116,907.45. Tom stated the Forest Service has increased their tower rental and added maintenance fees. Tom advised Pinkham has increased as they have a tenant there. Tom advised they are still working with the tower and have not done the ventilator system to bring the generator bank online.

10:15 AM Board Appointments: Present were none.

Commissioner Letcher requested Corrina present the board appoints to the Commissioners.

- *Weed Board*, 2 open positions, 0 applicants.
- *Airport Board*, 2 open positions, 3 applicants. Motion by Commissioner Teske to reappoint Martha Hendrickson and Glenn Whitfield per board recommendation. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion carried.
- *Tax Appeal Board*, 1 opening, 1 applicant. Motion by Commissioner Teske to appoint Kim Peck. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion Carried.
- *Troy Area District Dispatch*, 2 open positions, 1 applicant. Motion by Commissioner Teske to appoint Jamie Shupe. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion Carried. Commissioner Teske stated the [open position](#) will be reposted to the public.
- *Fisher River Valley Fire Service Area*, 3 open positions, 2 applications. Motion by Commissioner Teske to reappoint Gary Edwards and Agnes Kemp, leaving 1 [open position](#). Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion carried.
- *Fortine/Trego Cemetery District*, 2 open positions, 1 applicant. Motion by Commissioner Teske to reappoint Sally Warren leaving 1 [open position](#). Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion carried.
- *Boyd Hill Cemetery Advisory Board*, 2 open positions, 2 applicants. Motion by Commissioner Teske to reappoint Charles Leidigh and Craig Johnson. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion carried.
- *Bull Lake Rural Fire District*, 2 open positions, 2 applicants. Motion by Commissioner Teske to reappoint Patricia Sargent and Sylvia Maffit. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion carried.

Commissioner Teske suggested the media could spread word of board openings to the public.

10:30 AM Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes: Present were none.

- Minutes for June 14, 2023, regular meeting was submitted for approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve minutes of June 14, 2023. Second by Commissioner Teske. No public comments. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Teske advised they received the bids for the Fairgrounds Sewer. Commissioner Letcher confirmed it is on next week's agenda.
- Commissioner Hammons advised he has been in contact with Mike Fraser regarding the Angel Island Bridge status, inviting him to update the Commissioners.

10:45 AM Public Comment Time: Present were none.

No public comment.

11:00 AM **Eureka Road Department Budget Meeting:** Present was Ray Price Road Foreman.

Ray reviewed his budget line items. Ray will update wages and benefits after reviewing with Human Resource Director Dallas Bowe. Ray will also work with Director of Finance Wendy Drake on several line items that may be altered to reflect usage. Ray advised his Raw Materials total will be offset with Gas Tax Road & Bridge bringing this line item to \$20k. Commissioner Teske inquired, and Ray confirmed he has reviewed vehicle insurance coverage with the Insurance agent.

11:30 AM **LC Fair Budget Meeting:** Present was Pam Rackley.

Pam provided a Fair Book to the Board advising it's available at Feed Stores. Pam advised they finished the Horse Show Arena's new fencing along with steel gates and are working on miscellaneous chain link fencing repairs and electrical. Pam advised they are pressure washing the barns in preparation of paint, which is being covered by the Fair Foundation, via Jody McCully. Pam will review budget lines with Wendy to ensure proper coding is followed. Pam advised they still need work on a pump and some electrical plugs being done through Lincoln Electric. Pam advised the Fairgrounds are hosting: an Arts and Craft Show, a Harvest Fest, Yoga and Dog Groomer service.

12:00 PM **EMA Update: Meadow Peak Lease Agreement:** Present was Tom Lane EMA.

Commissioner Letcher opened EMA update. Tom provided a copy of the updated lease agreement between Fisher River Valley Fire Service Area and Lincon County Emergency Management Agency. Tom advised Lessor owns Meadow Peak Communications facilities located on property leased from Kootenai National Forest. There is a grant for the tower and they have access to the tower. This is a long-term lease for space inside their building and the tower. This will require payment for space on the tower to the Forest Service. Sheriff Short advised they will look to modify the lease agreement once the tower is in place to ensure the tower is covered in the agreement. Tom advised the only current cost in this lease is split propane. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve the Meadow Peak Space Lease Agreement. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion carried.

Tom presented EMA update to the commission as follows:

Lincoln County Emergency Management Agency
Commissioner Update June 21, 2023

Program Grant:

- 2023-24 EMPG grant package completed and submitted (County portion \$64,900. Total 129,800)
- EMPG Reverted funds request to complete eureka EOC tables, chairs, monitors, workstations. 50/50 match requesting \$10,000. from state match from county would be \$5,000.
- Budget preparation

Program work:

- Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) 2023: has been drafted and need to be in the lineup for public comment and commissioner feedback and approval.
- Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) 2023: (regional state sponsored) main document has been drafted and County Annex has been sent out as draft for comments and ancillary data.
- Completed review and tabletop of OUS EAP (PIO)
- Completed Libby dam exercise
- Completed Kootenai Basin flood exercise. Working with Core of engineers on potential mitigation projects for sediment removal/management in Libby, Troy areas. Working to schedule Eureka area for review.
- Completed IZONE wildland ICS training and command trailer deployment. (Bull Lake)
- Completed Libby School EAP 2023 and approved by School board
- Worked with Forster to integrated CWPP into county emergency plans
- Reviewing and updating county emergency plans library at EOC.
- Monitored and communicated local agencies and the public on spring runoff.
- Promoted EAS CodRed to county through social media, and updated marketing added text to enroll of easer setup.

Communications:

- Updated and renewed FCC licenses for 16 of the county's first responder and local government frequencies.
- Pinkham tower: RFP was issued in April with no bids received. Moving forward EMA has removed standing part of damaged tower and will rent the equipment to remove the remaining part that is resting on the roof of the communication building. This is in a effort to make the RFP easier for a contractor and move the project forward.
- Restored county communication on Pinkham installed two temporary antennas.
- Installed, programed and placed in-service local government channel on black butte to provide implementation of single channel dispatching and enhance the north Lincoln county communications zone.
- Worked with NW regional EAS group to update plans for public alerting and messaging at the regional level.
- Reviewed and forwarded lease agreement for Meadow Peak communication project for final approval.
- Coordinated programming of radios for McCormack VFD.
- Working with EmComms group to update SOPs and equipment for HF NVIS coordination during disasters. (pinot to point from Libby to Eureka)

Public safety/ emergency services:

- Fire CO-OP: lined out \$130 for departments with DNRC, forwarded training opportunities and events to local fire departments. Updated resource list and POCs.
- Acquired and in the process of building out a mobile command trailer. In coordination and support of public safety incidents.
- Acquired 4 snowmobiles to be housed by S&R for communications site access and public safety/rescue.
- LEPC: planning tabletop exercise for spring of 23 but was unable to get needed participation it will be moved to fall 2023, reviewed tear2s, discussed emergency sheltering limitations in the county.
- Ambulance Board: worked to assist in bi-law development to add public members of each ambulance district, working to clarify county ambulance district maps to represent true response areas, working to add steps/process for county agencies to become members.
- Responded to monitored and notified commissioners of incidents and potential for events in the county. (ongoing)

12:21 PM **Adjourn**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Josh Letcher, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Corrina Brown, Clerk of the Board