

March 22, 2023

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on March 22, 2023 in the Lincoln County Annex, Eureka, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Letcher, Commissioner Hammons, and Deputy Clerk Corrina Brown.

Meeting allows for teleconferencing and VisionNet availability. Present were Neil Tredray, Alyssa Ramires, Andrea Cheverini, Jesse Haag, Sharee Miller, Maggie Anderson, Kathi Hooper, Amanda Eckart, Heather Todd, Tracy Vranizan, Roger Larson, Michelle Giesey, Kathleen Sheffield, and Ray Stout.

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

10:45 AM RFP for Sheriff's Dispatch 911 Call Taking Equipment Review and Approval: Present were Sheriff Darren Short, EMA Tom Lane, Undersheriff Brent Faulkner, Rebecca Nelson.

Sheriff Short advised it's come to his attention the call taking equipment needs refreshed or replaced and is seeking permission to put out a request for bid. Commissioner Teske clarified this is only the Libby dispatch not Troy nor Eureka. Brent provided a brief history with vendor options, explaining it is the 911 system with location and number then Records Management pins to CAD, communicating together. Sheriff Short commented that system support is big with a five-year industry standard on the software. Brent advised the goal is to have this in place by November due to contract alignments. Commissioner Letcher questioned what all is to be replaced and the cost. Brent discussed refresh vs replacement. Brent stated this is not included in the current budget. Sheriff Short advised he is putting together a plan for continuing upgrades, such as this, to be in their budgets and CIP's. Commissioner Letcher requested an estimate. Sheriff Short said they will have to receive bids to know amounts. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske for the sheriff's RFP call taking equipment. Second by Commissioner Hammons, motion carried unanimously.

11:00 AM RFP Pinkham Tower Review & Approval: Present were EMA Tom Lane, Rebecca Nelson, Sheriff Darren Short and Undersheriff Brent Faulkner.

Tom advised this tower is being replaced under insurance due to a catastrophic winter event. He expects the replacement to go smoothly. Commissioner Letcher questioned the location of the tower to prevent this type of incident reoccurring. Tom advised he will be discussing that with the engineers and install crew. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve the RFP for the Pinkham Tower. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Commissioner Hammons questioned the amount. Tom estimated \$120k. Motion carried unanimously.

11:15 AM Administrative Issues/Old Business / Troy Library Opportunity Center Proceeding Approval: Present were Rebecca Nelson.

- Corrina submitted the minutes for March 15, 2023 for approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve minutes as submitted. Second by Commissioner Hammons, motion carried unanimously.
- Commissioner Letcher advised the information on TLOC was presented last week. Commissioner Teske advised Alyssa has found additional possible funding besides grants. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve continuing with the next step of the TLOC process. Second by Commissioner Hammons, motion carried unanimously.
- **Troy Road Hire Approval.** Commissioner Teske commented this is an additional non-budgeted position requiring commissioner approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to hire a sixth person for the Troy road crew. Second by Commissioner Teske. Commissioner Teske commented on D.J. has displayed a good management of funds this year. Motion carried unanimously
- Commissioner Letcher has received complaints about the front door to the Eureka Annex. Commissioner Letcher stated it has to be ADA compliant and requires wiring and extensive framework. Commissioner Letcher is seeking input on vendors and a solution. Commissioner Hammons advised all the county facilities are being reviewed for ADA accessibility as grants are available and they will look into this.

11:30 AM Public Comment Time: Present were Rebecca Nelson.

Maggie asked the commission to attend a collaborative project to bring a HOPE workshop to Lincoln County on Tuesday May 9th site to be determined. Commissioner Teske asked Maggie to send the commission an email with the details.

Hayden Blackford, reporter with Western News commented yesterday, Senator Tester sent a letter to President Biden asking him to address the Selenium issue. Commissioner Teske advised Hayden we were just made aware of the letter and have not read it and that public comment time is not the forum for a discussion on Selenium.

Maggie advised of a public information presentation to the local community regarding the impact of fentanyl. Maggie stated Troy has lost two citizens to fentanyl since November. Maggie elaborated the presentation will be March 30th - 7pm at the Dome Theater, free admission and presented by the NW Drug Task Force and LC Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Teske stated he has posted the flyer of this event around the courthouse and plans to attend.

11:45 AM **Health Department / Lincoln County Wastewater Treatment & Disposal Regulations Approval:** Present were Rebecca Nelson. Presented by LC Environmental Health Director, Kathi Hooper.

Kathi stated she is seeking approval of a Lincoln County Wastewater Treatment & Disposal Regulations. Kathi has worked with installers and the board of health to review and adopt the proposal. Kathi reviewed the changes made to the proposal. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve Lincoln County Wastewater Treatment & Disposal Regulations. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Commissioner Teske expressed his appreciation of the efforts of the Health Department and Board of Health to get this finalized. Motion carried unanimously.

12:00 PM **Break**

1:00 PM **Community Wildfire Protection Plan Public Hearing:** Present were Lincoln County Forester Jennifer Nelson, Logan Sandman, Jacob Jeresek, Seth Carbonari, Harmony Burow, Ron Komac, Dawain Burges, Ron Morgan, Steve Lauer, Keith Williams, Solomon Alcain.

Jennifer welcomed everyone to the public hearing and introduced key personnel. Jennifer provided a slide show containing: Background information highlighting 6.8 million acres burned in wildfires in 2000 and the decision to identify communities at risk. Jennifer's slide show depicted the following: The goals of this CWPP plan. Establishing the WUI boundary. Priority to infrastructure. Wildfire risk analysis. Dividing Lincoln County into 5 geographic areas allowing for prioritization by area. Parties who determined priority treatment areas. Priority Treatment Areas 1. Old Hwy Corridor 2. Glen Lake 3. Trego/Dickey Lake.

Dawain commented Trego is the highest risk in the state as well as in the nation and questioned why it's only a priority 3. Jennifer stated this is an area currently getting work done. Steve advised between now and the end of the five-year plan priorities will change. Jennifer advised of a lot of teamwork went into getting this prepared and put out. Commissioner Teske commented on his appreciation of what has been presented and the work and collaboration that went into it. Isaiah commented on air quality related to fuels treatment has a big role and to plan accordingly. Commissioner Teske advised another public meeting will take place in Libby next Wednesday and response time to any concerns will put this CWPP on the agenda for April 5th.

2:15 PM **Andy Evenson Hwy 93 Trail:** Present were Andy Evensen, PE.

Andy passed out a presentation of the Eureka US-93 Trail. Andy advised they are putting together grant applications for funds for Trails. Andy advised TA funding Program has \$10.2M total funds available. Andy said this funding includes trails along major transportation routes, tying together community gathering areas with non-motorized access. Andy talked about the safety of kids as well as general public in not being on the streets while traveling to different sites. Andy advised these are competitive grants and Eureka qualifies as a community of less than 5,000 people. Andy talked about the design, cost estimate and that community support is required. Andy has already gathered 13 letters of support and plans to get with the mayor, school superintendent and police to gather additional support for the grant application. Andy discussed the MDT grant funds of \$978k with Lincoln County match portion of approximately \$152k. MDT requires maintenance after the project is complete and would like to see the county road department take over this. Commissioner Hammons had Andy confirm this is an asphalt path. Andy has to submit this application by April 12th defining who will back the project. Andy will know by the end of summer if the project is awarded grant funding. Andy explained it will then go into final design taking 2-3 years. Andy stated MDT would be the project manager, select the engineer and the county only needs to let them know they want the trail. Commissioner Teske questioned the 10' boulevard. Andy advised it's grass, the majority of the corridor is grass until it gets to the business area. Commissioner Hammons asked about crossing lights and Andy advised of one at the track and one at four corners. Andy advised before April 12 he will need a resolution of interest and a second resolution for maintenance of the trail.

2:36 PM **Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Josh Letcher, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Corrina Brown, Deputy Clerk of the Board