

August 16, 2023

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on August 16, 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, Melanie Howell, Ray Stout Reporter-Kootenai Valley Record, Tami Berreman, Michelle Byrd and Alyssa Ramirez.

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

10:15 AM Trego Community Hall Renovation Grant Discussion: Present were Kristie Eggebroten and Rebecca Nelson Reporter-Tobacco Valley News.

- Kristie Eggebroten introduced herself and discussed the Trego/Fortine/Stryker Community Hall, a gathering and Red Cross shelter site offering weekly food bank, weekly 0-5 kid's program, weekly winter soup nights, bi-weekly prayer group, free funerals and facility rental. Kristie stated the county sponsored a grant last year to install HVAC in the Community Hall. Kristie advised they now intend to apply for a CDBG to bring the kitchen and bathrooms up to sanitation and plumbing standards and this grant would include plans and construction. Kristie stated she would administer the grant and the county would flow grant funds. Kristie requests the county sponsor them again, with an estimated amount of up to \$50,000 (PAR) and a \$400,000 construction grant. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve the TCH renovation CDBG planning and renovation applications. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comments. Motion carried.

10:30 AM Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes. Take Action-FY24 Lincoln County Tobacco Subcontract. FAA Grant-Eureka Airport Fuel System. LASOC Commissioner Appointment. Resolution 2023-27 Amend Base Salary. Resolution 2023-21 Refuse Fee Increase: Present were Rebecca Nelson Reporter-Tobacco Valley News, Scott Shindledecker Reporter-Western News and Peggy Williams.

- Minutes for August 9, 2023, regular meeting was submitted for approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve minutes of August 9, 2023. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comments. Motion carried.
- CDPHP Program Sub-contractor Agreement Flathead City-County Health Department FY 2024 Montana Tobacco Use Prevention Program standard renewal. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve the CDPHP Program Sub-contractor Agreement with Flathead City-County Health Department. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comments. Motion carried.
- FAA grant for Eureka Airport Fuel System. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the FAA grant for the Eureka Airport Fuel System. Second by commissioner Teske. No public comments. Motion carried.
- LASOC Commissioner Appointment per MCA 7510-16-01 (b): **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to officially appoint Commissioner Teske to Libby Asbestosis Oversight Committee. Second by Commissioner Letcher. No public comments. Motion carried.
- Resolution 2023-27 corrects Resolution 2023-18 by Amending the State Share of the County Attorney distribution for FY 2024 and 2025 to be \$63,271. Commissioner Teske raised concerns about including state funds in the resolution due to the information coming in after the county budget timeline. Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown stated MACO provided guidance that the state portion of the County Attorney pay does not need annual inclusion. Commissioner Teske suggested excluding it in the future as it is not a county fiscal consideration. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve Resolution 2023-27. Second by Commissioner Teske. No public comments. Motion carried.
- Resolution 2023-21 To Increase the Solid Waste Disposal Fee Beginning September 1, 2023. Commissioner Letcher read the resolution aloud. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve Resolution 2023-21. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Commissioner Letcher publicly announced the increase from \$135 to \$150 per year refuse assessment. No public comments. Motion carried.

10:45 AM Public Comment Time: Present were Scott Shindledecker Reporter-Western News and Peggy Williams.

No public comment.

11:00 AM Public Hearing: Intent to Hold A Special Election to Adopt or Reject Local-Option Marijuana Excise Tax: Present were Scott Shindledecker Reporter-Western News, Kathleen Sheffield, Toni Botkin, Mike Rooney, Allen Gerstenecker and Peggy Williams.

Commissioner Teske advised the Commission has provided Resolution 2023-22, publicly posted the public comment period, and held a public hearing today to fulfil the legal requirements of the November election ballot. Kathleen Sheffield Victim/Witness Advocate and former Substance Abuse Prevention Specialists expressed excitement for this public hearing today and is disappointed there are not more people in the room to talk about this. Kathleen hopes the tax funds will support law enforcement and prevention. Peggy Williams Mayor of Libby asked of the next steps. Commissioner Teske advised the intent is to move forward with the special election. Melanie Howell Election Administrator confirmed the ballot language is complete. Commissioner Letcher closed the public hearing and adjourned until 1:30 PM.

11:15 PM Break

01:30 PM **Montana Department of Transportation Update:** Present were John Schmidt, Bob Vosen, Scott Shindledecker Reporter-Western, Jesse Haag, Ray Stout Reporter-Kootenai Valley Record and Rebecca Nelson Reporter-Tobacco Valley News.

Bob Vosen MDT Administrator for District 1. John Schmidt MDT District Construction Engineer. John reported completion of the rock work at Kootenai Falls on Hwy 2. Bob stated he has conversed with Senator Cuffe regarding Hwy 37. Hwy 37 projects Bob discussed: first project (next spring) from dam north 14 miles, mill-fill resurfacing and chip seal; second project pulverized overlay from 61 south to 49, south Rexford to Sutton bridge, approximately \$5M south end, \$15M north end investment. Bob also advised plans include bridge and guard rail rehabilitation. Bob mentioned a remainder of about 22 miles will need future work. Bob advised the three projects push a \$50M investment in Hwy 37. Commissioner Letcher mentioned the need to extend a bike path from Hwy 37 to Hwy 93 for safety. Bob advised to consult Justin Juelfs Maintenance Chief and Rebecca Franke Traffic Engineer regarding an approach there. Commissioner Hammons advised he has discussed a speed study at Kootenai Falls as well as Hwy 56 by Savage Lake, but he has not seen anyone there. Bob confirmed they have orders for these to be done this summer. Tami advised the speed study on Hwy 56 is appreciated as Winslow corner is seeing higher speeds and careless passing but is concerned with timing as the summer traffic has faded. Commissioner Letcher commented Hwy 93 does not have passing lanes in areas leading to risky passing. Bob stated they have nothing in the works for passing lanes coming north.

01:45 PM **Adjourn**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Josh Letcher, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Corrina Brown, Clerk of the Board