

April 27, 2022

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on April 27, 2022 in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Letcher, Commissioner Bennett, County Administrator Jim Hammons and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson.

Meeting allows for teleconferencing and VisionNet availability.

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

9:30 AM Jail Discussion/Sheriff Darren Short: Present were Sheriff Darren Short, Undersheriff Brent Faulkner, Duane Rhodes, Heather Benjamin, Vanessa Williams, Trista Gilmore, Solomon Alcain, Veronica Bovee-Anderson, Rebecca Nelson and Ray Stout.

Darren said he is here to open up discussion about potentially building a new detention facility. Current facility houses 25 inmates. Inmates currently is running at 29. Darren talked about overcrowding issues from inmate population with no place to house in current outdated facilities.

Darren said that Carbon County is building a 53-bed facility and the cost is slightly under 20 million. The first step is to find a location, then the sheriff's office can begin defining and researching costs.

Asking commissioners to help look into potential locations so we can begin a foot print of costs and design.

Vanessa talked about the high inmate population with mental illness and expressed this is a good opportunity to apply for funding streams that are available right now to accommodate a new facility, and/or expanding current facility. Currently Lincoln County has many outstanding warrants not served because there is no space to house inmates. Vanessa said she has conducted research and feels there is funding at the state and federal level to potentially assist with cost of a new facility.

Brent Faulkner talked about looking at a design that is not incarcerating mental health in a detention facility, but the first goal is the detention facility.

Commissioner Bennett suggested to set up and move forward with a task force or committee to include a couple community folks and a commissioner to start researching locations to begin the process.

9:45 AM GIS Replacement: Present were Undersheriff Brent Faulkner, Election Administrator Paula Buff, Finance Officer Wendy Drake, County Addressing Michelle Byrd, Amanda Eckart, IT Director Solomon Alcain, Adam Gill, Paul Winslow, Veronica Bovee-Anderson, and Ray Stout.

Robin said we are all here to discuss GIS replacement since Jason Singleton of GeoControl will be moving to Kentucky. Robin said she sent out emails to department heads to find out what county departments use GeoControl for mapping or other GIS services to be part of this discussion. Robin said in research with other counties she has found that GIS and Addressing are combined, not separated and would like to see that structure regardless of whether the county moves forward with an internal employee or continues with contracted GIS services.

Brent Faulkner talked about the Next Gen 911 project and its functionality within the Sheriff's Office and discussed how addressing is cohesive with dispatch and emergency services.

Paula talked about how county addressing and the election database are cohesive and there are significant errors that need to be looked into and fixed by a GIS specialist. Paula explained the roll-out of ElectMT in January 2023 by the Secretary of State's Office which is the new statewide voter database and is all GIS based. Paula explained the importance of addressing being as correct and up to date as possible prior to that migration taking place.

Commissioner Bennett suggested to get a list of the services currently provided to Lincoln County by GeoControl and any recommendations he may suggest for Lincoln County to look into. Robin said she will follow-up with Jason and schedule another meeting with the commissioners for further discussion.

10:00 AM Paul Winslow/Falls Creek Access: Present were Paul Winslow, Ray Stout, Adam Gill, and Veronica Bovee-Anderson.

Paul has property in the Forest Service Falls Creek Project area and expressed that he has concerns and wants to be informed. Paul expressed that he wants it to be clear that he is not at all against the project but wants to stay in tune regarding access and easement issues. Paul has 7 plume sites and uses Falls Creek for irrigation, has a ditch easement/access and is taking water out of Falls Creek. Access is partially private and with Stimson. Paul said he is meeting with Chad Benson, Project Manager.

10:30 AM Administrative Issues: Present were TJ Boswell, Charles Ekstedt, Veronica Bovee-Anderson, Kenny Rayome Jr., Solomon Alcain, Adam Gill, and Ray Stout.

- Robin submitted the minutes for April 20, 2022 regular meeting for approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Letcher to approve minutes as submitted. Second by Commissioner Teske, motion carried unanimously.
- Commissioner Bennett submitted the Fiscal Sponsor Agreement from Robyn King for the Yaak Community Hall Restoration Project. Commissioner Bennett said he would change some language in Number 11, agreement subject to review annually, explaining that he does not want to see it hanging out there indefinitely. Commissioner Bennett said he will follow-up with Robyn King and Wendy Drake. Commissioner Letcher suggested putting in language of a 2-year maximum contract and then to start the process over if necessary.
- Commissioner Letcher talked about a land swap that the new superintendent of schools is interested in. The land involves 20 acres of school property and 9 acres of county property where the soccer fields are located.

Commissioner Letcher said he will follow-up with a surveyor quote and put a package together to move forward, but wanted the commissioners to be aware.

- Resolution 2022-12 Establish a City of Libby/Lincoln County PACE Program Public Hearing: Commissioner Bennett read Resolution 2022-12 in it's entirety. Commissioner Bennett commented the PACE Program is a great program as a finance option that allows folks to get upgrades for energy efficiency. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve Resolution 2022-12 as submitted. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

Adam thanked the commissioners for moving the PACE Program opportunity to its communities.

There were no other public comments.

All resolutions can be viewed in their entirety from the county website: www.lincolncountymt.us

10:45 AM Public Comment Time: Present were Veronica Bovee-Anderson, Ray Stout, and Solomon Alcaín. There were no public comments.

11:00 AM RPA Engineering/Troy Water System Upgrade: Present were Troy Mayor Charles Ekstedt, Finance Officer Wendy Drake, Winston Taylor representing Senator Daines Office, TJ Boswell, Chris Hayes, Ray Stout, and Solomon Alcaín.

Commissioner Bennett explained that he did have a conversation with Dallas Carr when he was Mayor and that there may be ARPA funds available to do something for this project.

The City of Troy has been working to replace a section of water main on Highway 2 in Troy in front of Steins/Kootenai Drug Store. The water main will be discontinued and a new main will be installed behind the Steins/Kootenai Drug Store. Troy Mayor Charles Ekstedt is asking Commissioners consideration for \$180,000 of ARPA funding to help with completing the water project.

Commissioner Teske said speaking as a former mayor, he understands the difficulties that cities endure trying to keep up on repairs and maintenance.

Commissioner Letcher commented that it is a good project and supports infrastructure improvements.

Motion by Commissioner Teske to approve \$180,000 Minimum allocation of Lincoln County ARPA funds to support the Troy Water System Upgrade Project. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

12:00 PM Meeting Adjourned

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

Jerry Bennett, Chairman

Robin Benson, Clerk of the Board