

May 3, 2022
FY 22/23 Preliminary Budget Discussions-10:00 PM

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a special session on May 3, 2022 in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Letcher, County Administrator Jim Hammons and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson.

Treasurer/Motor Vehicle: Present was County Treasurer Sedaris Carlberg. Sedaris gave an overview of the preliminary budget and discussed anticipated expenditures for FY 22/23. Sedaris said she may need to add a few OT hours to her budget, dependent on potentially a part-time employee in the Eureka MV Department moving to full time. Sedaris commented the Eureka personnel are great employees.

The commissioners commented that there is an 8% cost increase to employee insurance.

Weed Department: Present was Weed Director Mike Bradeen. Mike gave an overview of the preliminary budget, anticipated expenditures and revenues for FY 22/23. Increased prices last year to contractors due to cost increases in fuels and chemicals. Mike talked about his grant funds, and potentially a pay increase for coordinators, no request for a budget increase, grant funded. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve a one grade step increase for two weed department coordinators. Second by Commissioner Letcher, motion carried unanimously.

Maintenance Department: Present were Maintenance Director Joe Nagle and Roger Guches.

Joe gave an overview of the preliminary budgets for maintenance and parks, discussing anticipated expenditures. Joe talked about inflation and cost increases for most all maintenance repairs and services. Asking for \$22,600 increase in the maintenance budget to help not go in the hole next year and to cover anticipated cost increases. The maintenance budget covers all utility costs for county buildings. No decision was made at this time.

Commissioner Teske asked about the gate and internet at the shooting range and proposed funding

Commissioner Teske commented about the ARPA funds of \$55,000 allocated for roofing improvements. Joe commented those funds did not include the JC Clubhouse. Commissioner Teske suggested to add \$10,000 for roofing needs at the JC Clubhouse. Commissioner Bennett said that project would be contracted out.

Joe talked about two boilers that are 40 years old and expressed concern that if one of them goes down it would create an emergency. One of the boilers services the detention facility. Commissioner Bennett said there may be ARPA funds available for that and potentially keep that cost out of the budget.

Commissioner Bennett commented that between insurance increase of 8% and inflation, it will be an interesting year to balance.

There was a brief conversation about JNeils Park, improvements, options and cost. Robin thanked Joe and Roger for all their help with the Election Center, a big improvement and asset to the county.

Public Comment:

Rocky Schauer said he is here to plant a seed of thought about Jennings Haul Road. A task to rebuild portions and/or move that road to public domain whether it be state or federal to help private owners along that road. Draw in some of the federal money that is out there right now for infrastructure; just need the right person to coordinate those efforts.

**11:30 AM Meeting Adjourned
LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Jerry Bennett, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Robin A. Benson, Clerk and Recorder