

**February 7, 2024**

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on February 7, 2024 in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske and Commissioner Hammons.

Meeting allows for Zoom participation. Present online were Rebecca Nelson, Ray Stout, Michelle Byrd, Chanel Geer, Jesse Haag, Jerry Reigh, Scott Shindledecker, DJ Welch and Darren Short.

Commissioner Teske opened the meeting with the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

10:00 AM Commissioner Teske advised that Commissioner Letcher was absent, and by resolution, a temporary presiding officer needs to be established. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to appoint Commissioner Teske today's chair in the absence of Commissioner Letcher. Second by Commissioner Teske. No comments. Motion carried.

10:00 AM **USFS**: No Forest Service attendance. Present were Mark Peck, Veronica Bovee-Anderson and Joe Nagle.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes / Reappoint Jennifer Nelson to City of Libby Planning Board / Resolution 2024-09 Election Question of Establishing Local Government Review Study**

**Commission**: Present were Veronica Bovee-Anderson and Joe Nagle.

- Review of January 29, 2024 Local Government Study Commission meeting minutes for approval: **Motion** to approve the January 29, 2024 minutes by Commissioner Hammons. Second by Commissioner Teske. No comments. Motion carried.
- Review of January 31, 2024 regular meeting minutes for approval: **Motion** to approve the January 31, 2024, minutes by Commissioner Hammons. Second by Commissioner Teske. No comments. Motion carried.
- Review of February 1, 2024 Compensation Committee meeting minutes for approval: **Motion** to approve the February 1, 2024 Compensation Committee minutes by Commissioner Hammons. Second by Commissioner Teske. No comments. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Teske read a letter from the Mayor of the City of Libby, Peggy Williams, requesting Jennifer Nelson be redesignate as a county appointee to the City of Libby Planning/Zoning Board for an additional term expiring January 2026. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to reappoint Jennifer Nelson to the Planning Board per the City of Libby Mayor Peggy Williams request. Second by Commissioner Teske. No comments. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Teske read Resolution 2024-09, calling for an election on the question of conducting a local government review and establishing a study commission to be held with the primary election on June 4, 2024. **Motion** to approve Resolution 2024-09 by Commissioner Hammons. Second by Commissioner Teske. Veronica inquired if this will be on the ballot. Commissioner Teske confirmed this resolution will move it to the ballot and municipalities are taking similar actions for their government review. Veronica asked if this has been done before. Commissioner Teske stated it is done every 10 years per the Montana constitution. No comments. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Hammons advised on providing more information for the grant application for restrooms and trail maintenance at Kootenai Falls, adding the state will install new signage on the highway for the park and parking lot.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time**: Present were Veronica Bovee-Anderson and Joe Nagle.

Joe Nagle, Lincoln County's Maintenance Director, provided an update on the courthouse boiler system, highlighting the 1978 model potable hot water boiler has developed a leak in its tank. Additionally, a second boiler for the building's heating system is also from 1978, exceeding its expected lifespan. Joe stressed the critical location of these systems, being on top of the courthouse building. Joe has been advised not to look at repairing the boilers at this stage but to replace the system. He stated locally, there were no companies equipped to handle such a commercial-scale job. After expanding the search, Carson Brothers, part of Comfort Systems USA in Kalispell, agreed to assess the situation and provided a bid for replacement. Joe stated with no other contenders for the job, there weren't multiple bids available for comparison. Their bid for replacing the leaking boiler for potable hot water is \$73,112, considering the necessity of a crane and associated manpower for the rooftop installation. Joe adding replacing both boiler systems at once (73,112 x 2 = \$146,224) would result in a financial savings of \$10,000-\$12,000. Joe also mentioned conducting a comparative study of water usage between Libby City Hall, who uses a different system, and county facilities, noting the county consumes twice as much water, ranging from 72,000 to 165,000 gallons. Comfort Systems confirmed their capability to handle city's type of system and Joe provided additional insights such as it would necessitate hiring a hydrologist and engineer as well as mapping out the building's plumbing. Joe advised a potential cost-saving measure could result from removing two building circulation pumps from the bid as they are currently not used. Commissioner Teske inquired about the life expectancy of the proposed new system. Joe will find out and this will be revisited. No public comments.

11:00 AM **Policy Manual Update (B. Rest Breaks) – Dallas Bowe**: Present was Veronica Bovee-Anderson.

Dallas Bowe, Human Resources, presented a policy manual update, indicating that the wording regarding rest breaks needed to be updated in accordance with the Montana Department of Labor, making it optional rather than mandatory as per the law. **Motion** to approve the changes to Section B. Rest Breaks by Commissioner Hammons. Second by Commissioner Teske. No comments. Motion carried. Dallas provided a copy of the employee acknowledgment form that will be distributed and discussed the policy manual revision process.

11:04 PM **Break**

01:30 PM **Public Hearing – Lakota Ridge Subsequent Minor Subdivision:** Present were Jesse Haag, Kristin Smith, Dave Thomas, DeAnn Thomas, Ken Davis and Michael Webb.

Public Hearing – Lakota Ridge subsequent minor subdivision. Kirstin Smith presented a two-lot split request from Dave Thomas. Planning recommended approval with ten conditions, including the installation of a water tank for fire suppression. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve Lakota Ridge subsequent minor subdivision per planning department recommendation and conditions. Second by Commissioner Teske. Doug advised the reason for the subdivision is to provide access to the creek, making the lot dividing line an easement trail. Commissioner Teske discussed the fire chief's letter and emergency services. DeAnn requested a written copy of standard subdivision regulations to review. No further comments. Motion carried.

01:46 PM **Adjourned**

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Brent Teske, Presiding Officer

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Hammons, Commissioner