

## March 20, 2024

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on March 20, 2024 in the Lincoln County Annex, Eureka, Montana. Present was Commissioner Letcher. Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Hammons, Administrative Assistant Jennifer Brown and Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown present via zoom.

Meeting allows for zoom participation. Present online were Mary Handy, Darren Short, Rebecca Nelson, Ray Stout, Wyatt Franke, Jesse Haag, DJ Welch, Kathi Hooper, Jeff Smith, Melanie Howell, John Baisden Jr. and Scott Shindledecker.

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

10:15 AM **1<sup>st</sup> Reading of County Ordinances:** Present were Paul Johnson, Owen Baisden and Kevin French in Eureka.

Commissioner Letcher advised that according to MCA 7-5-107, existing ordinances are to be recodified at 5-year intervals and read the public notice. Commissioner Letcher confirmed these ordinances may be adopted by reference and did so.

2018-01 adopted 5/16/2018	Recodification of Lincoln County Ordinances	new 2024-01
2018-02 adopted 5/16/2018	Litter Control	new 2024-02
2018-03 adopted 5/16/2018	Dog Control	new 2024-03
2018-04 adopted 5/16/2018	Parks/Lands Rules of Conduct	new 2024-04
2018-05 adopted 12/12/2018	Community Decay	new 2024-05
2019-01 adopted 12/04/2019	Silver Butte Road Speed Limit	new 2024-06

**Motion** to recodify county ordinances as read by Commissioner Teske. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion carried. Commissioner Letcher advised a second reading will be held April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024. Ordinances can be found on the Clerk and Recorder web page. <https://lincolncountymt.us/clerk-and-recorder-home/>

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes / Appoint Boyd White Safety Coordinator / Resolution 2024-14 Intent to Adopt a County Zoning District / Assistant Planner Proposal / Forest Landowner Conference Funding:** Present were Paul Johnson, Owen Baisden, Robert Bitner, Kristin Smith, Jesse Haag, Brett McCully and Kevin French in Eureka.

- Review of March 11, 2024 special meeting minutes for approval: **Motion** to approve the March 11, 2024 minutes by Commissioner Teske. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion carried.
- Review of March 13, 2024 regular meeting minutes for approval: **Motion** to approve the March 13, 2024 minutes by Commissioner Teske. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Teske advised the LC Safety Committee met and per the by-laws, the LC Safety Coordinator shall be appointed by the LC Board of Commissioners. They recommend the Board of Commissioners appoint Boyd White as the Lincoln County Safety Coordinator. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to appoint Boyd White as the Lincoln County Safety Coordinator. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Hammons read Resolution 2024-14 A Resolution of Intent to Adopt a County Zoning District. Discussion of this being a resolution of intent, accompanied by a public notice and a thirty-day comment period from people in the district, followed by a public hearing. **Motion** to approve Resolution 2024-14, a resolution of intent to adopt a county zoning district, by Commissioner Teske. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Owen questioned the boundaries, to which Kristin clarified they are available on the Planning Department webpage. Commissioner Teske provided Owen with a printed copy of the boundaries. Motion carried with Commissioners Teske and Hammons voting aye, and Commissioner Letcher voting nay.
- Commissioner Teske advised he reviewed the request from the previous week, noting there are available funds in the planning budget to support the position through the fiscal year. Jesse stated the revenue generated this fiscal year exceeds the budget forecasted, allowing for adequate funding of the position for the remainder of the current fiscal year. Commissioner Teske emphasized the necessity of the position given the current growth challenges Lincoln County faces. Kristin, drawing from her extensive experience with the county, stressed the importance of investing in the Planning Department to ensure effective county planning, responsive citizen services and compliance with growth policies. Commissioner Hammons highlighted the repercussions of past concerns that may have arisen due to understaffing in the planning department. Commissioner Letcher underscored new revenue from growth funding the assistant planner position and the necessity of an assistant planner position to enable new growth. **Motion** to approved hiring an assistant planner proposed at grade 10 with a grade 11 jump after one year by Commissioner Teske. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Jesse added that the fees have been proactively addressed and emphasized the ongoing efforts to increase efficiency while shifting the financial burden from taxpayers to developers. No public comments. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Hammons advised Ed Levert has requested the county pay for his attendance at the Forest Stewardship three-day workshop in Missoula. Commissioner Teske acknowledged Ed's active involvement in the Firewise and Firesafe programs, considering him an asset to Lincoln County. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve Forest Steward Workshop funding . Second by Commissioner Teske. No comments. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Letcher noted inaccuracies in an article in the Kootenai Valley Record written by Ray Stout, with a headline stating a pay raise for elected county officials retroactive to July 1st, 2023. He clarified this increase does not start until July 1, 2024. Commissioner Teske identified further inaccuracies; wages for deputies are established by resolution as they are paid a percentage of the wages of the county sheriff. He added county employees are yet to be addressed. He also mentioned inaccuracies regarding the salary of the Justice of the Peace. Commissioner Letcher expressed hope these inaccuracies would be corrected in future articles.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time:** Present were Robert Bitner, Libby and Kevin French, Eureka. No public comment.

11:00 PM **Adjourned**

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Josh Letcher, Chairman

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Corrina Brown, Clerk of the Board