

April 17, 2024

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on April 17, 2024 in the Lincoln County Annex, Eureka, Montana. Present were Commissioner Letcher, Commissioner Teske, and Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown.

Zoom participation: Present online were Chanel Geer, Feleisha Storkson, Judy Russell, Krista, Mary Handy, Byron Sanderson, Jesse Haag, Noel Duram, Commissioner Hammons and Administrative Assistant Jennifer Brown

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

09:45 AM Creekside Survey Discrepancy: Present were Gretchen Lancaster, Michael Lancaster, Pam Rackley and Rebecca Nelson.

Michael discussed research following the last meeting, advising deeds and a 1957 survey that revealed a discrepancy resulting in a loss of half an acre to the county. Michael was told the county established the fence line boundary and feels it's supported by property tax acreage records. He added that in this survey, they are within their designated boundaries and stated this is not an encroachment but a boundary line dispute between the two surveys. Michael proposed reinstating the historical and tax boundaries based on the fence line and declared taxable acreage. He also requested the injunction on their construction be lifted. Gretchen added the fairgrounds property had only a metes and bounds description for 103 years, with the oldest survey dating back to 1957 of the Creekside Trailer Park. Commissioner Letcher mentioned Byron Sanderson of Kootenai Surveyors, Inc. reflects historical information in the survey produced for the county sewer project. Commissioner Teske inquired of ways to resolve boundary line issues, to which Byron explained potential solutions may involve boundary agreement with a filed survey or court settlement. Commissioner Letcher spoke of public lands, an appraisal and the process required. Jesse Haag, Planning Director, mentioned difficulties by the Lancasters in locating corner pins, despite him finding them within minutes resulting in a clear line. Jesse highlighted the trailer court's lack of subdivision review depicting a use change will need to be worked out. Commissioners agreed to review this matter with MACo regarding a resolution that represents everyone in the county.

10:00 AM District Ranger, Seth Carbonari: Present were Pam Rackley, Rebecca Nelson and Seth Carbonari.

Seth updated planned projects; East Fork Sunday salvage timber sales, totaling 3,000 to 4,000 acres this fall, with some decks being sold this spring. Edna Fortine in negotiations with FWP to ensure proper documentation, noting most is in BORZ hoping for sales this summer. Glen Sinclair has an external team assisting with planning and 1,000 acres to be advertised in late summer to fall. Sunday Creek salvage sales are postponed until this winter. The Douglas Hill campground project has been put on the back burner as time permits. Seth reported spring breakup has halted timber sales in Pinkham, Williams Creek and some near Trego. Seth mentioned a couple of small sales at Dodge Creek and Rocky Top. He added prescribed burning is being scheduled; a 700-acre Falls Creek area working with FWP and aiding big horn sheep habitat and plan a couple of thousand acres this summer. He added regeneration planting season begins next week. Seth mentioned a contract to repair Young Creek Road this year. He advised the Youth Conservation Corp hired seven high school students and 3-4 others. Seth noted bunk housing is used for seasonal/permanent staff. Commissioner Letcher inquired of any cleanup plan at Dicky Lake turnoff, to which Seth responded they would address any threats to the highway. Commissioner Letcher requested a review of rock stability near the Koocanusa bridge.

10:30 AM Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes: Present was Rebecca Nelson.

- Review of April 8, 2024 special meeting minutes for approval: **Motion** to approve the April 8, 2024 minutes by Commissioner Teske. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion carried.
- Review of April 10, 2024 regular meeting minutes for approval: **Motion** to approve the April 10, 2024 minutes by Commissioner Teske. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Letcher read a letter from Tobacco Valley Industrial District of 2023 updates for the record.
- Commissioner Hammons mentioned a contract on the ARP building coming up in May with \$140,000 remaining and would like this put on the agenda for discussion.

10:45 AM Public Comment Time, Non-Agenda Items: Present was Rebecca Nelson.

Rebecca Nelson, Tobacco Valley News, sought clarification regarding fairground boundary line discussion.

11:00 AM Fair Budget Meeting: Present were Pam Rackley and Rebecca Nelson.

Pam Rackley, Fair Manager, presented the preliminary fair budget, confirming that HR provided wage information. She itemized each account for clarification and after the sewer project is complete septic pumping and porta-potties will not be needed. Pam discussed various rental income sources. Commissioner Teske confirmed the fair rodeo payment goes into a CIP and noted aside from wages, the budget increase is \$3,100. He will look into the auto insurance amount.

11:30 AM Eureka Airport Maintenance/Manager Position Discussion: Present were Dallas Bowe (zoom), Rebecca Nelson, Scott Mattheis and Wendy Drake (zoom).

Commissioner Letcher initiated the discussion, advising the Eureka Airport Board is seeking a maintenance/manager structure similar to that of the Libby Airport. Discussion of the budget estimate provided by HR depicting a potential

increase of about \$16,330. Scott Mattheis, Airport Board Chairman, highlighted revenue sources such as income from jet fuel tank sales, hanger fees, overnight fees and the likelihood of an aircraft repair person leasing a hangar soon. Scott emphasized a need of aviation experience with this position. Wendy Drake, Finance, noted their fuel revenue goes to a fuel account and the remaining to the airport account. Wendy mentioned two ongoing grants: \$32,000 for Jet A fuel and \$40,000 for airport. **Motion** to approve the maintenance/manager combined position for the Eureka Airport by Commissioner Teske. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion carried.

11:43 AM **Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Josh Letcher, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Corrina Brown, Clerk of the Board