

March 27, 2024

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on March 27, 2024 in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Letcher, Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Hammons, Administrative Assistant Jennifer Brown and Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown.

Meeting allows for zoom participation. Present online were Rebecca Nelson, Jen McCully, Darren Short, Ray Stout, Mary Handy, Chanel Geer, Melanie Howell and Kathleen Sheffield.

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

10:00 AM Request to Hire a Crisis Team Coordinator-Vanessa Williamson: Present were Veronica Bovee-Anderson, Scott Shindledecker, Vanessa Williamson, Dallas Bowe and Deb Burrell.

Vanessa Williamson, Probation Officer, presented a job description for a grant-funded position titled Behavioral Health Specialist at Grade 8 to the Commissioners. She expressed the urgency to fill this position before the state training on Medicaid billing, slated between April 1-8, 2024. She noted they are currently receiving 2-3 mental health calls a day. The Commissioners discussed involving the County Health Department in shaping the position's structure, as a long-term approach. They tasked Vanessa with organizing a meeting between April 1st and 8th to delve deeper into this issue.

10:15 AM ARP Updates: Present were Amanda Harcourt, Scott Shindledecker and Veronica Bovee-Anderson.

Amanda Harcourt, ARP Director, provided an update on activities over the last three months. ARP responded to 55 hotline calls, conducted 75 locates, and carried out 53 site visits. Abatement for Libby and Troy properties included the completion of 276 Dolphin Way and phase one of central maintenance buildings. Phase two of the central maintenance building is currently underway. Due to weather, no sampling has been conducted in the last three months. For upcoming abatements, Libby and Troy active properties include 713 Michigan Ave. for interior subfloor removal, 386 Riverside Dr. for exterior removal, and 540 Quartz for exterior removal. Libby and Troy active properties scheduled for upcoming sampling include 365 Bobtail Way and 96 Reedway Dr. Amanda advised that this summer will be busy.

10:30 AM Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes / Pay Out Compensatory Time / Moore Oil Fuel Contract Transfer to Golden State: Present were Scott Shindledecker, Veronica Bovee-Anderson, Larry Kelly, Dallas Bowe and Melanie Howell.

- Review of March 20, 2024 regular meeting minutes for approval: **Motion** to approve the March 20, 2024, minutes by Commissioner Hammons. Second by Commissioner Teske. No comments. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Letcher opened a discussion of HR's request to pay out compensatory time due to technology streamlining the process. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the payout of compensatory time. Second by Commissioner Teske. Commissioner Teske requested a written policy change from Dallas Bowe, the Human Resources Director. No further comments. Motion carried.
- Larry Kelly asked if the Moore Oil fuel contract will be rebid. Commissioner Hammons advised bids are generally done in June, two months from now. Larry advised Moore Oil is closing business as of May 1st, 2024 and agreed to provide service up to that time.
- Commissioner Teske read into the record a letter from Melanie Howell, Election Administrator, regarding an increase in Montana's minimum wage from \$9.95 in 2023 to \$10.30 in 2024. He noted that by statute, election judges must be compensated at least the state or federal minimum wage. Consequently, the pay for Election Judges will be adjusted accordingly: \$10.30 for judges, \$10.80 for Chief Election Judges, and \$11.30 for Polling Place Managers.
- Commissioner Letcher gave an update on Fairgrounds sewer project with bid in May for construction in September.
- Commissioner Letcher advised of attending the Fair Board meeting. Regarding the encroachment onto Fairground property, the Fair Board prefers a boundary line adjustment of equal sizes.
- Commissioner Hammons reported that the only bid received last fall for the Port Authority sewer project was from Everson Engineering & Consulting. It has been reviewed, and they are now seeking a signature on it. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve Everson Engineering for the sewer line extension for the Port Authority. Second by Commissioner Teske. No public comment. Motion carried.

10:45 AM Public Comment Time: Present were Scott Shindledecker, Boyd White and Veronica Bovee-Anderson.

None

11:00 AM EMA Status Update – Boyd White: Present were Scott Shindledecker, Boyd White, Darren Short, Brent Faulkner and Veronica Bovee-Anderson.

Boyd White, EMA, reported that the Emergency Management Performance (EMP) grant has been filed, along with a payment request. The 2024 EMP grant request, including the 50% county match of \$148,124.92, has been submitted to the Department of Emergency Services (DES). He mentioned that a side-by-side vehicle went into Middle Thompson Lake, but the owner managed to recover it and a spill from the Eureka City septic system was reported to the responsible entities. Boyd advised the Forest Service has requested a change from a lease to a license agreement for the Blue Mountain repeater site, which is currently under review by the county attorney.

Larson Tower Specialists submitted the sole bid for the Pinkham Creek tower project, totaling \$284,170.69. Remediation work on the broken part of the tower incurred an initial cost of \$20,280, with MACO insuring a portion at \$11,505. An initial claim payment of \$185,850.12 from MACO leaves a remaining balance of \$86,815.57. Boyd mentioned that Larson has confirmed their ability to complete the work within this budget and with a 6–8-week completion timeline. Discussion of the following. The importance of this tower as a key communication site for emergency services. Despite extending the timeline, Larson's was the only bid received. Although MACO covered the replacement cost, there is a need for design changes due to the ice load, requiring reinforced structures at the site.

11:08 AM **Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Josh Letcher, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Corrina Brown, Clerk of the Board