

May 1, 2024

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on May 1, 2024 in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Hammons, Commissioner Letcher, Commissioner Teske, Administrative Assistant Jennifer Brown and Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown.

Meeting allows for zoom participation: Present online were Chanel Geer, Chris Bachman, Dallas Bowe, Darren Short, DJ Welch, Jesse Haag, Ray Stout, Rebecca Nelson and Scott Shindledecker.

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

09:30 AM Motor Vehicle State Contract Renewal/Employee Discussion: Present were Deb Burrell, Sedaris Carlberg, Solomon Alcain and Tara Letcher.

Sedaris Carlberg, Treasurer, advised that MT DOJ MVD is implementing the Credentialing and Registration System (CARS) for vehicle services and distributed the memorandum. Her concern is with the county paying for all the equipment upgrades required to run this system and county IT being responsible for assisting with issues with no increase in county compensation. Deb advised of no county option tax outside of cars and pickup trucks. Deb added there is no county compensation for work with motorcycles, trailers, quads, motorhomes, manufactured dwellings and any heavy GVW. Sedaris noted the state collects a 3% administrative fee for each transaction the county completes. Sedaris advised there is no longer technical support offered by the state regarding transaction concerns such as residency. Sedaris estimated the county receives a million dollars per year in option tax by statute. There was a discussion of how privatization of MVD may look like for Lincoln County, different methods of service such as by mail or express offices, policing of transactions and this is happening statewide. Solomon Alcain, IT Director, stated after reviewing the state memorandum, Lincoln County will need to provide upgraded computer systems yet state network control will remain in place with no compensation for nine workstations. These will ship to Helena for programming with no indication of DOJ access rights to work on the state-required computers given to the county to aid in the required support. Sedaris will provide state contacts for the Commissioners to reach out to. Sedaris sought clarification of staff at the Eureka MVD. Discussion of concerns of understaffing issues given site demand, need to review the job description and that the budget includes two full-time staff.

10:00 AM USFS: Present were Noel Duram and Tara Letcher. No attendance, recessed until 10:30.

10:30 AM Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes / ARP Building Lease/Purchase / Attorney Alan McCormick Engagement Letter: Present were Jesse Haag, Noel Duram and Tara Letcher.

- Review of April 24, 2024, meeting minutes for approval: Commissioner Letcher advised of a name correction to Marsha to Marshal Butterfield. **Motion** to approve the April 24, 2024 minutes with one correction by Commissioner Teske. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion carried.
- ARP Building Lease/Purchase: Commissioner Teske read minutes of February 5, 2020 and noted the motion by Commissioner Bennett was to move forward with the buy/sell agreement with funding out of PILT and rent revenue reimbursing PILT. He added the building appraised for \$240,000 and that is where they entered a contract with four annual payments of \$25,000 and a balloon payment of \$140,000. He will see that reimbursed funds go back to PILT rather than the general fund through finance. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to reapprove the purchase of the building per the contract. He added the amount is \$140,000 balloon payment from PILT and reimbursed to PILT. There are two semi-annual DEQ payments totaling \$28,062. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No further comments. Motion carried. Commissioner Teske will follow up on this transaction.
- Attorney Alan McCormick engagement letter: Jesse Haag advised the letter has not yet been received and will reschedule. Commissioner Teske clarified MACo recommended this for the lake shore action on Island Lake.
- Commissioner Teske advised of a program the Forest Service has published regarding assistance for firewood banks which provide emergency and seasonal wood for households with challenges in heating their homes.
- Commissioner Letcher advised of an email from MT Woods Products Association membership offer at \$292 per year as an allied associate or \$578 per year supporting associate and would like to review this wood product support group and the educational information they provide.

10:45 AM Public Comment Time - Non-Agenda Items: Present were Kyle Carsley, Noel Duram, Paul Dalziel, Randy Bell and Tara Letcher.

Paul Dalziel, member and neighbor of the gun club, advised of attending a meeting of the Yaak Rod and Gun Club where they proposed putting in a pistol range. Paul advised the plan presented has now changed. Randy advised there are too many houses there to expand use of the gun range. Paul suggested an alternate plan referencing a drawing, to shoot in a direction away from their houses. Kyle advised he built his house in a manner to avoid a situation yet now has concerns noting a shooting screen intended to keep shot from his property has blown down adding this limits safe usage of his property. Paul suggested the lease contract allows for a line to be drawn by the county creating a safety zone noting public facilities in the area and expressed concern of any trees being cut. Commissioner Hammons noted he left the last meeting with the understanding of this proposal and it was being moved away from Kyle's property. The next board meeting is on May 20th and safety is the concern. Commissioner Letcher advised of a process with public notifications and this will be reviewed and addressed throughout the process. Noel noted a range-certified developer program is available through the NRA.

11:00 AM **Clerk of Court Budget Meeting:** Present were Mike Bradeen, Noel Duram, Tara Letcher, Tricia Brooks.

Tricia Brooks, Clerk of District Court, advised of an increase in repairs and maintenance for anticipated printer repairs. She confirmed receipt of wages and benefits from HR. Commissioner Teske questioned the use of only 11% for travel expenses. Tricia advised of two trainings next year with no guarantee the Clerks' convention will reimburse travel expenses. She budgeted to replace two chairs for \$500 along with toner from supplies. There was a discussion regarding state reimbursement of jurors but not coroners' inquests. She confirmed four full-time and one part-time employees.

11:30 AM **Weed Department Budget Meeting:** Present were Dallas Bowe, Mike Bradeen, Noel Duram and Tara Letcher.

Dallas Bowe, Human Resource Director, provided a complete wage and benefit report for all departments, which have met with her and reviewed this information.

Mike Bradeen, Weed Director, provided budget information, including expenses for himself, his cell phone, expenses associated with part-time personnel and purchases including fuel, chemicals, and safety equipment. He advised that contract revenue will carry over and he has a long-term goal to slowly replace vehicles. Mike is looking at getting another temporary employee. Commissioner Teske expressed a desire for a clearer account reconciliation between contract and general funds. Mike advised of \$10,000 annually from each county road departments as well as funds from the landfill. He stated the DOT contract went up \$7,000 for treating weeds on state highways. Mike discussed the grant funded Rush Skelton/Tansey weed budget. He advised employees are one six-month and two temporary employees with a lot of travel. He manages this fund fully through both grants. He's updated one truck and plans another in the future.

11:52 AM **Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Josh Letcher, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Corrina Brown, Clerk of the Board