

July 31, 2024

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on July 31, 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.

Zoom participation: Present were Amy Fantozzi, Chanel Geer, Chris Bachman, Danielle Maiden, Darren Short, Feleisha Storkson, Jesse Haag, Jon Gass, Michelle Byrd, Nikki Meyer, Ray Stout and Scott Shindledecker.

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

10:00 AM **State of Montana Volunteer Firefighter Financial Assistance:** Present were Blair Shupe, Ron Denowh and Veronica Bovee-Anderson.

Commissioner Teske stated the Libby Volunteer Fire Department will host the 2025 State of Montana Volunteer Firefighter Convention, a three-day event in June featuring speakers and trainers. The convention is expected to attract attendees statewide, benefiting local businesses and they request \$7,500 in financial support to help with the cost. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve \$7,500 for this from PILT. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Discussion of this convention providing Libby and the fire department a time to shine. No further comments. Motion carried.

10:15 AM **Interlocal Agreement. Update Hauling Contract – Health Department:** Present were Blair Shupe, Boyd White, Bryan Alkire, Dustin Webb, Kathi Hooper, Noel Duram, Ron Denowh and Veronica Bovee-Anderson,

Kathi Hooper, Health Department, advised a legal review regarding population considerations is pending for an interlocal agreement concerning the Town of Rexford's request to join the Board of Health.

Kathi mentioned meeting with Evergreen Disposal regarding the renewal of the ten-year hauling contract, which expires in November. She had budgeted \$292,000 for this year's contract and is negotiating a five-year extension allowed under the contract. She provided Evergreen's proposal starting at \$550,000 with an almost 4.9% annual increase. She noted there is an option to go out for bid and any hauler would have to be licensed by the state public service commission. She discussed the county hauling, stating that wages alone would be about \$360,000 per year, plus equipment and expenses. She advised they could have roll-off containers at sites. Bryan noted 40-yard roll-off containers cost about \$16,000 each. She confirmed there are 220 containers and they are considering closing sites not on county property. She will send a letter to facilities informing them they will no longer receive county-funded waste service. She noted the county has focusing on retaining remote sites which would yield the biggest savings.



Lincoln County Green Box Collection Contract Rates - 2024		
Contract Year	Annual Total	Monthly
Year 11 (2024-2025)	\$ 550,000.00	\$ 45,833.33
Year 12 (2025-2026)	\$ 577,500.00	\$ 48,125.00
Year 13 (2026-2027)	\$ 606,375.00	\$ 50,531.25
Year 14 (2027-2028)	\$ 636,693.75	\$ 53,057.81
Year 15 (2028-2029)	\$ 668,528.44	\$ 55,710.70
Rates calculated above are based on 220 containers, collected from 34 independent sites throughout Lincoln County.		

Dustin said he is collaborating with Kootenai Pets for Life (KPFL) since the contract with Tobacco Valley Animal Shelter (TVAS) ended and plans to discuss a future agreement. Discussion of this resulting in a budget increase, from \$56,000 to an estimated \$90,000. Kathi noted service in Eureka is limited, with both KPFL and TVAS taking animals selectively.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes / Resolution 2024-20 Abandonment of County Road – Creekwood Road Between Lots 1 & 8 Block 9 and lots 5 & 6 of Block 8:** Present were Blair Shupe, Boyd White, Noel Duram, Ron Denowh, Veronica Bovee-Anderson.

- Review of July 24, 2024, regular meeting minutes for approval: **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve the July 24, 2024, minutes. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Teske read Resolution 2024-20 Abandon part of a Creekwood Road between lots 1 & 8 block 9 and lots 5 & 6 of block 8. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve Resolution 2024-20. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Letcher read Emergency Resolution 2024-21 stage 1 fire restrictions. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve Emergency Resolution 2024-21. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Discussion of a permitting agency for waivers. Boyd will verify the Forest Service will handle this. No comments. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Letcher noted minutes of a closed session on July 29, 2024. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the minutes of the closed session. Second by Commissioner Teske. Commissioner Teske noted this was a meeting with legal counsel. No comments. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Letcher advised of getting closer to having a letter from the Town of Eureka regarding the Fairgrounds as indicated in an email from DEQ's, they have been in contact and it's under review.
- Commissioner Letcher encouraged everyone to attend the County Fair in Eureka August 21-25th, 2024.
- Commissioner Letcher noted receipt of a \$98,000 Fish Wildlife and Parks trail grant in Eureka.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time - Non-Agenda Items:** Present were Blair Shupe, Jennifer Nelson, Noel Duram, Ron Denowh, Veronica Bovee-Anderson

Ron Denowh, speaking on behalf of pilots and aircraft owners, noted the increasing community of experimental, light sport and ultra-light aircraft requiring takeoff and landing facilities. He mentioned some of these aircraft can use a runway and others cannot. Ron expressed interest in establishing a grassy area between the taxiway and the south end of the runway. He inquired if the county could provide equipment and expertise for this project. Commissioner Teske confirmed the availability of water and stated that the Libby Road Foreman, Jerry Regh, would his contact. He also encouraged Ron to seek approval from the Airport Board.

11:00 AM **Libby Creek Community Project Update– Danielle Maiden:** Present were Blair Shupe and Noel Duram.

Jon Gass (Zoom), WGM Group, provided an update on the Libby Creek sewer improvement, waste-water collection and disposal system connecting to the City of Libby water with additional improvements on Cedar Street and along Highway 2. He mentioned the design is currently with DEQ and may be in bidding around the end of August. He noted a water main crossing on Hwy 2 at Cedar Street was broken and has received DEQ approval. He added through coordination, it will be included in the Kootenai Business Park Project. He added they have coordinated the water and sewer work with a single contractor. He anticipates parts of the overall Business Park Project may begin this year following the bidding process. Commissioner Teske discussed the procurement policy regarding county contracts and bidding process.

Danielle Maiden reported a water line break in the Libby Creek community. She noted they are managing a well that has been temporarily fixed with hopes these repairs will last through the winter. She noted all reporting of grant funding has been provided to Wendy Drake, Finance Director.

11:15 AM **Drop-in Center and Crisis Team Grant Approval – Vanessa Williamson:** Present were Blair Shupe, Darren Short, Deb Burrell, Jay Sheffield, Kathleen Sheffield, Noel Duram and Vanessa Williamson and Zach Sherbo.

Vanessa Williamson, Probation Officer, reported receiving a state grant of \$704,132 for a Drop-in Center, plus \$35,000 for administrative expenses. She plans to house the center in the Annex building as the grant does not cover rent. Commissioner Hammons expressed a desire for a medical facility to manage this. Vanessa explained the grant will fund two and a half staff positions to address community mental health and crisis issues. She noted a new hire will manage the Drop-in Center, which will operate from 8 AM to 5 PM. She clarified this is not a homeless shelter but a resource center for people in need. Judge Sheffield confirmed Justice Court will provide oversight and stressed the importance of this resource in the community. There was a discussion about other medical facility options and restrictions due to federal funding of FQHC. Vanessa added that treatment and recovery services are included and emphasized the need for extensive training for employees to identify appropriate services. Darren Short noted he favors this as it gives these folks a place to go. Vanessa noted the people being responded to require coordination with law enforcement.

Vanessa advised of receiving a Montana DPHHS grant to provide Mobile Crisis Response Services in Lincoln County. This grant includes budget, legal and insurance requirements for the services provided for relevant state and federal agencies for the delivery and administration of these services. She advised this requires a Behavioral Specialist position which will coordinate billing Medicaid.

Commissioner Letcher expressed frustration of focusing on required county budget required funding and would like to see other entities step up and lead on these things. Vanessa stated non-profits have not been able to keep these facilities open. Commissioner Hammons questioned associated county liability and Vanessa advised they do not diagnose or prescribe medications, just evaluate care needs and provide resources. Vanessa will provide job descriptions for the three and a half positions these two grants entail and reschedule with the commissioners.

11:30 AM **AG-Exempt Covenant Revocation - Sanchez:** Present were Jesse Haag, Ken Davis and Noel Duram.

Jesse Haag, Planning Director, presented a request from Davis Surveying for Terry Sanchez, to revoke the agricultural covenant of Parcel A of certificate of survey 1256 issued in April of 1984. He stated MCA 76-3-211(1)(a) allows the governing body to revoke, in its discretion, the covenant if the lot lines are restored. He advised the Planning Department feels this is a reasonable request. Commissioner Teske confirmed this go from agricultural exempt and to residential for taxation purposes. **Motion** to revoke the agricultural covenant of Parcel A of COS 1256, effective at time of recording of the aggregation COS with the Clerk and Recorder. The FEMA-designated floodway and Zone AE floodplain per the 2006 revision shall be clearly delineated on the COS as shaded areas and is to include language that "Activities and Development in FEMA-designated floodplain and floodway is restricted per the provisions of the Lincoln County Flood Hazard Regulations. Certain uses are prohibited, and floodplain development permits may be required" by Commissioner Teske. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion carried.

11:45 AM **Final Plat Mountain Views - Linnel:** Present were Jesse Haag and Noel Duram.

Jesse presented the final plat of Mountain Views subdivision. He discussed the Planning Department recommendation of approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve final plat for Mountain Views subdivision per Planning Staff recommendations. Second by Commissioner Teske. No comments. Motion carried.

12:00 PM Break

01:30 PM **Public Hearing – Proposed Subdivision on Lot 1A of the Amended Plat of Lot 1 of Velvet Grove No. 2:**

Postponed

01:45 PM **North County Radio Project RFP Review:** Present were Brett Faulkner, Brett Schrum, Darren Short and Noel Duram.

Undersheriff Faulkner reported receiving one bid -from Gold Communications. He mentioned the proposal has been reviewed by the Sheriff's Office and presented it for discussion. Sheriff Short advised the grant has expended \$96,855.87 leaving \$93,806.46 remaining and the balance will be covered with 911 funds. He emphasized this will be a tremendous benefit to Eureka dispatch, mobiles, and handhelds. **Motion** to accept Gold Communication Services RFP for the North County Radio Project by Commissioner Hammons. Second by Commissioner Teske. No public comment. Motion carried. Sheriff Short stated this will cover all communications in the north end of the county.

01:54 PM **Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Josh Letcher, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Corrina Brown, Clerk of the Board