

**September 11, 2024**

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on September 11, 2024, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Hammons, Commissioner Teske, Lincoln County Administrative Assistant Jennifer Brown and Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown.

Zoom Participation: unavailable due to a lack of county internet service

Commissioner Teske opened the meeting with the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

**Motion** by Commissioner Hammons, in the absence of Commissioner Letcher, to appoint Commissioner Teske to chair this meeting. Second by Commissioner Teske, who noted there is no internet. No comments. Motion carried.

10:00 AM **Health Department:** Present were DC Orr, Dustin Webb, Jerry Regh, Noel Duram, Ray Stout and Zach Sherbo.

Zach Sherbo, Health Department, advised they are updating their department-wide strategic plan, which will culminate in assessments. He highlighted Credible Minds as a countywide online well-being resource, emphasizing the tools it provides for addressing community concerns and noted the program has been funded by a grant at approximately \$4,200 per year. There was a discussion about increasing community awareness and incorporating Code Red. He noted that September is Recovery, Suicide Preparedness and Emergency Preparedness Month. He advised flu season is approaching, noting the county health nurse will be in Eureka on Wednesdays and appointments can be made now.

Kathi presented environmental health update.

Total Septic Applications	197
COSA	114
Local Review	83
New Installations (Including Grinder Pumps-16)	171
Replacements	25
Affidavits	1
Libby	67
Troy	29
Eureka	101
Permits Issued	167
Applications Waiting for More Info or at DEQ	30

Dustin Webb, Health Department, advised of working with Kootenai Pets for Life on a month-to-month MOA. He mentioned the road crew has completed some paving and building repairs along with kennel improvements are underway. He advised they are working with the LOR Foundation regarding funding options. Additionally, he discussed a draft for a potential future facility. Kathi noted discussions with Tobacco Valley Animal Shelter regarding temporarily holding dogs in Eureka. He noted the fall burning season is coming up. Kathi advised that a draft policy regarding special events in the community has been submitted to the Board of Health and public comment will be sought. She stated the Eureka transfer site wall is complete. Jerry Regh, Road Foreman, noted that traffic flow has improved. Kathi mentioned that the outside green boxes will be removed, allowing for an even better flow. She added the actual expansion of the landfill is still pending DEQ approval. She advised the funds are allocated in the budget and obligated for the next calendar year. She noted they are working on a one-year extension and ultimately aim to reduce the hauling contract price with Evergreen. Bryan is preparing to seek bids for a roll-off truck for the Eureka area. Kathi mentioned the junk vehicle grant will be submitted soon, noting a restriction to 20% of the funding towards hauling of junk trailers.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes / Approve District Budgets / Begin 30-day Comment Time for Hazard Mitigation Plan / Resolution 2024-24 Declaring Election by Acclamation 2024 / Resolution 2024-25 FY24 Budget Amendments / KBP Project Notice of Award:** Present were Melanie Howell, Noel Duram and Ray Stout.

- Minutes of September 4, 2024, for approval: **Motion** to approve the September 4, 2024, minutes by Commissioner Hammons, seconded by Commissioner Teske. No comments. Motion carried.
- District Budgets: Discussion of district budgets that have been presented. **Motion** to approve the district budgets as submitted for the districts that have been submitted by Commissioner Hammons. Second by Commissioner Teske. No comments. Motion carried.
- Begin a 30-day Comment Time for the Hazard Mitigation Plan: Commissioner Teske read the public notice with comments accepted until October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024. He noted this is a requirement with the new system FEMA and the State has put in place. Boyd advised FEMA requested some additions regarding flood plains. Commissioner Teske noted the public will want to review this document on the county website as it is updated.
- Resolution 2024-24 Declaring Election by Acclamation 2024: Commissioner Teske read the letter from Election Administrator, Melanie Howell, win by acclamation for Lincoln County Conservation District Supervisors. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve resolution 2024-24. Second by Commissioner Teske. No comments. Motion carried.
- Resolution 2024-25 FY24 Budget Amendments: Commissioner Teske read resolution 2024-25. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve resolution 2024-25 the budget amendment. Second by Commissioner Teske. No comments. Motion carried.
- KBP Project Notice of Award: Commissioner Teske read Evenson Engineering & Consulting, Inc's letter recommendation of award. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to award the bid. Second by Commissioner Teske. No comments. Motion carried awarding the bid to Noble Excavating for the Kootenai Business Park project.
- Commissioner Teske, at the requested of the Clerk and Recorder's Office, noted that Elections has the option to pass on the cost of postage to an entity requesting a special election.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time – Non-Agenda Items:** Present were Noel Duram, Ray Stout and Steven David of Aver.

Steven David of Aver raised concerns about the court system's rules, laws and timeliness. He highlighted issues with county hiring practices, noting that several individuals are acting as deputies without official status or oaths filed with the Clerk and Recorder's office. He criticized the Sheriff's Office for being out of control and questioned why their funds have not been restricted by the Commissioners. He emphasized that, as commissioners, ultimate responsibility rests with them and requested the release of his dogs or warned that a lawsuit would follow.

11:00 AM **Approve Final School Budget – Suzy Rios:** Present were Noel Duram and Ray Stout.

Suzy Rios, Superintendent of Schools, presented copies of the budget information and noted her responsibility for finalizing the budget by combining the seven school districts. She discussed various schools and highlighted the importance of checks and balances in budgeting. She emphasized that the trustees are involved and really understand their budgets. **Motion** to approve the final school budget for the school districts by Commissioner Hammons. Second by Commissioner Teske. No comments. Motion carried.

11:13 AM **Adjourned**

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Brent Teske, Chairman

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