

**October 16, 2024**

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on October 16, 2024, in the Lincoln County Annex, Eureka, Montana. Present were Commissioner Letcher, Commissioner Hammons, Commissioner Teske and Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown.

Zoom Participation: Administrative Assistant Jennifer Brown, Alaena Woody, Bryan Alkire, Danielle Maiden, Darren Short, Dustina Deans, Elections, Feleisha Storkson, Hanna Tester, HR, Kathi Hooper, Lauren O'Neill, Ray Stout, Roland Jorgenson and Scott Shindledecker.

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

10:00 AM **Meyer Court Order Split**: Present were Brian Phillips and Noel Duram. Agenda item postponed.

10:15 AM **Glen Lake Lakeshore Violation Remediation**: Present were Brian Phillips and Noel Duram. Canceled.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes / Barnaby Lake HOA Well Agreement / Resolution 2024-27 Resolution Supporting Utah vs. United States Legal Action / Resolution 2024-26 Intent to Annex Lake Creek Ranch Sub to TRFD**: Present were Brian Phillips, Noel Duram and Traci Street.

- Barnaby Lake HOA well agreement: Postponed, pending legal review.
- Minutes of October 9, 2024, for approval: **Motion** to approve the October 9, 2024, minutes by Commissioner Teske. Seconded by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion carried.
- Resolution 2024-27 Supporting Utah vs. United States Legal Action: Commissioner Teske noted that this was brought up last week, has been reviewed with MACo as well as other forested counties and read the resolution. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve Resolution 2024-27. Second by Commissioner Teske. No comments. Motion carried.
- Resolution 2024-26 Intent to annex Lake Creek Ranch Subdivision from Bull Lake Fire District to Troy Rural Fire District. Commissioner Hammons read the resolution. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve Resolution 2024-26. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Commissioner Teske advised this resolution initiates a public hearing for discussion. No comments. Motion carried.
- Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown requested authorization to apply for HAVA grant funds, specifically to supplement poll worker and election judge services for the general election. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve applying for HAVA grant funds. Second by Commissioner Teske. No comments. Motion carried.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time – Non-Agenda Items**: Present were Brian Phillips, Noel Duram and Traci Street.

Brian Phillips complimented the updated format on the County Commissioner's agenda webpage.

11:00 AM **Request for Lincoln County to join the NeighborWorks Montana Community Reinvestment Organization (CRO)**: Present were Brian Phillips, Noel Duram and Traci Street.

Danielle Maiden, NeighborWorks Montana, introduced Hanna Tester, NWMT Homeownership Director. Hanna presented a request for Lincoln County to join the NeighborWorks Montana Community Reinvestment Organization (CRO), as established in HB819, via resolution. She noted advantages, including access to \$560,000 allocated to Lincoln County. Commissioners agreed to review HB819 and draft a resolution for consideration.

11:15 AM **Approve CDBG Facilities Grant Application - Library**: Present were Barb Hvizdak, Brian Phillips, Noel Duram and Traci Street.

Dustina Deans, Library Director, requested approval to proceed with applying for a CDBG grant of \$750,000, with a 25% match made up of \$50,000 cash and an in-kind match of county facilities, requiring no additional funds from Lincoln County. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve the CDBG facilities grant application for the library of \$750,000 for TLOC. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Discussion of dual county CDBG grant requests. Motion carried.

11:30 AM **Garbage Hauling Contract – Health Department**: Present were Brian Phillips, Noel Duram and Traci Street.

Kathi Hooper, Health Department, noted the current hauling contract with Evergreen expires November 9th. She advised the renewal proposed has nearly doubled to around \$3 million over five years for hauling services from the Greenbox sites and the solid waste budget does not have enough revenue to support this increase. She noted Evergreen did not agree to a one-year extension request but did amend the contract to \$400,000 for the first year, which is about \$120,000 more than budgeted. The HECLA site is the most expensive at approximately \$70,000. Kathi highlighted the elimination of the non-county single can sites. She noted that eliminating the Troy remote site attendant position will save around \$45,000 annually. She stated all this will still result in a shortfall of about \$70,000. Commissioner Teske confirmed the five-year contract can be renegotiated throughout the term of the contract. Discussion of using 20-yard rollouts at certain sites, which the county would haul from some sites but may require additional equipment and staff. She pointed out that remote sites increase the contracted price and suggested other options, such as offering site management to interested entities. Discussion emphasized that county-controlled hauling is a manageable cost, adding the short-term solution is a temporary fix to help the county become positioned to manage sites independently. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve the \$70,000 shortfall of a one-year contract from PILT even though it's part of a five-year contract. Second by Commissioner

Hammons. No public comments. Motion carried. Kathi noted the landfill expansion is pending DEQ public comment followed by issuance of a license. She added the newly acquired compactor has reduced annual airspace used and added years to the existing landfill cell and future expansion.

12:00 PM **Ethan Lula – FWP Biologist Update:** Present were Brian Phillips, Ethan Lula, Noel Duram and Traci Street.

Ethan Lula, FWP Biologist, provided an update on projects within the county. He mentioned a camera abundance estimate project aimed at quantifying the big game population in the region using trail cameras. He stated crews have been deploying cameras and the data will be analyzed over the next two years. Ethan provided FWP annual reports, noting they are available on the FWP website under Region One's regional reports. He noted bear conflicts have been low this year. He advised in the Tobacco Valley, there is a special zone license for whitetail deer around the urban center of Eureka aimed to reduce population density. He stated CWD (Chronic Wasting Disease) samples will be collected in the Libby area, with no increase in prevalence reported since initiation. Ethan also discussed the importance of reporting dead sheep on Highway 37 to assist in ongoing herd monitoring. Ethan noted efforts to capture and relocate mountain goats from the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

12:18 PM **Adjourned**

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Josh Letcher, Chairman

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