

October 9, 2024

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on October 9, 2024, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Hammons, Commissioner Teske, Administrative Assistant Jennifer Brown and Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown.

Zoom Participation: Commissioner Letcher, HR, Noel Duram and Ray Stout.

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

10:00 AM **Health Department**: Present was Brian Phillips. Commissioner Letcher noted agenda item is postponed.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes / Petition to Annex Lake Creek Ranch Properties into the Troy Rural Fire Dept**: Present were Boyd White, Brian Phillips, Kristi Whickham, Tom Millett and Tony Whickham.

- Minutes of September 25, 2024, for approval: **Motion** to approve the September 25, 2024 minutes by Commissioner Teske. Seconded by Commissioner Letcher. No comments. Motion carried.
- Minutes of October 2, 2024, for approval: **Motion** to approve the October 2, 2024, minutes by Commissioner Hammons. Seconded by Commissioner Letcher. Commissioner Teske abstained, not attending. No comments. Motion carried.
- Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown noted receipt of a petition from the Troy Rural Fire Department requesting the Lake Creek Ranch Subdivision be re-annexed from the Bull Lake Fire District. The petition is currently under review per MCA.
- Montana Department of Commerce: Commissioner Letcher presented a letter of intent to submit two CDBG facilities grant applications for approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the letter of intent to submit for two CDBG grant applications. Second by Commissioner Teske. No comments. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Letcher presented a Federal Lands access program project MOA for the Sofie Lake planning project. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve the Sophie Lake Flats memorandum of Agreement. Second by Commissioner Hammons. no comments. Motion carried
- Commissioner Teske presented an award letter for the 2024-25 Emergency Management Performance Grant, which supplements funding for the EMA office. The total award is \$101,000, with a county match of \$50,500. **Motion** to accept the fiscal year 2024-25 award letter for the EMPG grant by commissioner Teske. Second by Commissioner Hammons. no comments. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Letcher provided an update on the Eureka Sports Park trails, noting that paving has been completed except a part pending approval of the Highway Department to cross Highway 93, which is likely to happen next spring.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time – Non-Agenda Items**: Present were Boyd White and Brian Phillips, Kristi Whickham, Tom Millett and Tony Whickham.

Tom Millett, candidate for HD2, asked the commission to consider supporting a resolution put forth by the American Lands Council, which aims to return federal lands to state control. By signing this resolution of support, it would become an amicus brief as part of Utah's case to the Supreme Court.

Tony Wickham, resident, noted that residents of this county are sitting on a powder keg due to the aging, unlogged forests, which create a public safety hazard. He added that this situation presents concerns with the environmental impact of forest fires and an economic opportunity, urging the commissioners to support the resolution.

Brian Phillips, candidate for Commissioner District 3, emphasized that a major issue is reopening access to the forests, highlighting strong support in the northern part of the county.

Noel Durham, candidate for Commissioner District 3, stressed the importance of obtaining legal counsel from the Attorney General and MACo. He expressed the view that some is better than none. He also expressed concerns about the Evergreen contract, particularly regarding green box changes. He requested the public be notified of any site updates. Commissioner Teske noted the Health Department topic is rescheduled for next week.

11:00 AM **IP Routing Black Butte Contract Approval - Boyd White**: Present were Boyd White, Brian Phillips, Kristi Whickham and Tony Whickham.

Boyd White, EMA, presented a contract agreement for equipment space and internet services between IP Routing LLC and the Lincoln County Emergency Management Agency for part of leased premises at Black Butte Mountain, Rexford, MT. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve the contract for equipment space and internet services with IP Routing LLC in Lincoln County. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Commissioner Teske noted this is an exchange of redundant internet service in exchange for space. Brian Phillips questioned structural security. Boyd advised this is standard procedure to rent such spaces, which helps fund maintenance and upkeep requirements at these sites. Motion carried.

11:03 AM **Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Josh Letcher, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Corrina Brown, Clerk of the Board