

September 25, 2024

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on September 25, 2024, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Letcher, Commissioner Teske, Administrative Assistant Jennifer Brown and Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown.

Zoom Participation: Boyd White, Brian Phillips, Chanel Greer, Feleisha Storkson, HR, Ray Stout, Rosalyn DeLillo and Sierra Gustin.

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

10:30 AM Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes / County Budget Correction / Approve Master Stewardship Agreement / District Budget Approval: Present were Mark Peck, Noel Duram and Wendy Drake.

- Minutes of September 18, 2024, for approval: **Motion** to approve the September 18, 2024, minutes by Commissioner Teske. Seconded by Commissioner Letcher. No comments. Motion carried.
- County Budget Correction: Commissioner Letcher presented a correction to amend the mill levy sheet to include SRS. **Motion** to approve the amended levy sheet by Commissioner Teske. Second by Commissioner Letcher. Commissioner Teske verified this is adding sheriff's retirement fund to the levy sheet. No comments. Motion carried.
- Approve Master Stewardship Agreement: Commissioner Teske discussed an agreement with the Forest Service that allows Lincoln County, through the Lincoln County Port Authority, to manage Forest Service lands within the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). This agreement grants the county the ability to enter into contracts through the Forest Service to manage small parcels of forest land adjacent to private properties within the WUI. He noted this agreement has been through legal review. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve the master stewardship agreement between Lincoln County and the Kootenai National Forest. Second by Commissioner Letcher. Mark Peck and Commissioner Teske highlighted the benefits of the agreement, including industry growth and homeowner security. No public comments. Motion carried.
- District Budget Approval: Commissioner Letcher presented district budgets for the Eureka Cemetery District and Eureka Fire Service Area. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve Eureka Cemetery District and Eureka Fire Service area. Second by Commissioner Letcher. No comments. Motion carried. Commissioner Teske stated Libby Park District budget is still pending.
- Commissioner Teske noted that bids for the ARPA sewer project, crossing Cedar Street to the Port, were opened two weeks ago. The bid was subsequently awarded to Noble Construction last week and presented the contracts for that project to be signed.
- Commissioner Letcher announced that the trails around the Eureka Sports Park will be paved soon, fulfilling the FWP grant. He also mentioned plans to extend the Ksanka View Trail to the Annex and over to Highway 93, including crosswalks and designated bike paths.
- Commissioner Letcher advised the fairgrounds sewer project is being submitted to DEQ.

10:45 AM Public Comment Time – Non-Agenda Items: Present was Noel Duram. No public comment.

11:00 AM Request for Support Letter for METAP Grant – Jesse Haag: Present was Noel Duram.

Jesse Haag, Planning Director, presented the Montana Emergency Tourism Assistance Program Grant, requesting a letter of support and agreement to be fiscal sponsors from the commission. This would benefit the Upper Yaak Fire Service Area through SB540, a new grant for rural communities to provide tourism-related emergency services of up to \$75,000. The project allows until 2026 to complete the grant criteria. **Motion** to approve a support letter and assistance for the METAP grant for the Upper Yaak Fire Department by Commissioner Teske. Second by Commissioner Letcher. No comments. Motion carried. There was a discussion regarding other grants that have supported emergency service agencies, which they may consider exploring.

11:15 AM Request for Commission Support – Angel Island Renewable Resource Planning Grant: Present were Gary Fjelstad, Jesse Haag and Noel Duram.

Gary Fjelstad, president of the Angel Island HOA, discussed development and inadequate water storage on Angel Island and the need for an engineering study to develop a plan that will increase service capacity and provide additional fire protection. He advised they are considering forming a water district, improving grant opportunities. He stated the current water system was established in the 1970s. Gary requested the commissioners sponsor the application. Jesse Haag, Planning Director, advised the Montana Coal Endowment Program (MCEP) grant is specific to local governments and states that ineligible projects include private water and sewer user associations which he noted Angle Island is. He added a county water and sewer district would need to be created prior to applying for this. Gary noted the application deadline is this month, and he will follow up. Commissioner Teske advised that forming a water district now would open up more grant opportunities later. Jesse advised the Department of Commerce can provide insights into the pros and cons of establishing a water and sewer district.

11:30 AM Break, until 1:30 PM

1:30 PM **Overholt Subdivision Review – Planning Dept:** Present were Byron Sanderson, Calen Williamson, Jesse Haag, Kristin Smith and Noel Duram.

Kristin Smith reviewed the Overholt subdivision report, advising the Planning Department recommends removing the agricultural covenant on the 40-acre parcel and granting preliminary approval of the Overholt Subdivision with nine conditions. **Motion** to approve the Lincoln County Planning Department recommended approval of the Overholt subdivision with nine conditions by Commissioner Teske. Second by Commissioner Letcher. Jesse confirmed that the floodplain is satisfactory. No comments. Motion carried.

1:45 PM **Approve Amended School Budget – Suzy Rios:** Present were Noel Duram and Suzy Rios.

Suzy Rios, Superintendent of Schools, presented an amended budget. It was amended for student population (A&B) and Secure Rural Schools (SRS) forest funding. She received commissioner approval to seek input from other counties on best practices regarding SRS funds to streamline the process. She noted in Lincoln County, all seven schools are considered rural, which allows additional program opportunities. **Motion** by Commissioner Teske to approve the amended budget. Second by Commissioner Letcher. No comments. Motion carried.

1:52 PM **Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Josh Letcher, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Corrina Brown, Clerk of the Board