

**December 11, 2024**

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

Meeting allows for Zoom appearances. Present online were Crystal Denton, Deb Burell, LC Landfill Gate, IT Department, Planning, Roland Jorgenson, Libby Landfill, Tracie Street, Ray Stout, Feleisha Storkson, Scott Schindeldecker, Chanel Geer and Diana Watson.

Commissioner Letcher opened up with the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

**10:00AM Health Department:** Personally present were Kathy Hooper, Bryan Alkire and Noel Duram.

Kathy Hooper states there are two positions opening in the spring, sanitarian and local collaboration coordinator. The sanitarian position is currently posted as it historically has taken time to fill the position.

Kathy states the county is still working on the memorandum of agreement with the Tobacco Valley Animal Shelter in Eureka. It would be for a temporary hold for animals impounded by the county or quarantined by animal control. It would not be for the public to drop off animals. The current contract is monthly. Outdoor kennels at the Libby shelter are in the process of being installed.

The health department started tracking land research requests and has received 531 requests since March. Online septic permits are nearing completion. About 30% of the permits lacked information and were not able to be put online. 261 applications were received in 2024, 140 in Eureka, 83 in Libby, and 38 in Troy with 117 requiring a local review. A policy is in the works to state all permits prior to 2000 are valid even without a signature.

Kathy presents a community decay violation update. Currently there are 3 new complaints, 16 properties are noncompliant with five of those properties having compliance plans, 7 violations have been sent to the sheriff's office and 4 properties where the property owner has not been located. 25 properties have closed violations. Procedures to report violations to the sheriff's office are being reviewed

The green-box sites have been changed to the new scheduled hours and cameras are being installed. Cameras have captured violators and identifying information has been found in illegally dumped garbage. These instances will be reported to the sheriff's office. New signs have been ordered posting the current hours. Four roll-off containers have been ordered and should arrive in 10 to 12 weeks.

The Libby Landfill expansion license will be issued on Thursday. The public comment period has passed, and the project will go out for bid. Completion is expected to be done by the end of next year.

**10:30 AM Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes. Open Bids – Engineering Services, Study Commission Federal Election Invoice Approval, Board of Health Commissioner Appointment:** Present were Noel Duram, Melanie Howell, Sierra Gustin, Brett McCully and Kathi Hooper.

- Minutes of December 4, 2024, regular meeting for approval: Motion to approve the December 4, 2024, minutes by Commissioner Hammons, seconded by Commissioner Teske, with no further discussion or comment the motion is carried.
- Lincoln County received two requests for qualifications: Evensen Engineering and Foley Engineering. The selection of an engineer will be on next week's agenda to give time for a review of the RFQ's.
- Motion by Commissioner Teske to approve the study commission invoice for \$10,769.40, seconded by Commissioner Hammons, without further comment, the motion is carried.
- After declining the position, Commissioner Teske nominates Commissioner Hammons as a board of health member. Commissioner Hammons accepts the position. No further comment.
- Commissioner Hammons asks for public comment regarding the Savage Lake speed study.

**10:45 AM Public Comment Time:** Present was Noel Duram.

Diane Watson, online, requests the commissioners have a Facebook page to keep the community informed.

**11:00 AM Hall Family Transfer:** Present were Kristin Smith, Jesse Haag, Maggie Anderson, and Noel Duram.

Kristin Smith states the Hall Family Transfer is a family transfer within a platted subdivision. The covenants have been amended to allow a particular section to further subdivide. The lots have good access off Glacial High Drive. The standard requirements have been put in place including DEQ approval, obtaining a new address, paying the taxes, and there is a 2-year hold on transfer per state law. Commissioner Teske motions to approve the request to use the family transfer exemption subject to the 4 conditions recommended by the planning staff. Seconded by Commissioner Hammons. Without further comment the motion is carried.

11:15 AM **Unite for Youth Alcohol Tax Designation for Prevention Services:** Maggie Anderson, Vel Shaver, Kathleen Sheffield and Noel Duram.

Maggie Anderson says Unite for Youth has submitted the paperwork to be certified to receive alcohol tax dollars for prevention services and has been approved by the state. She presents a packet of information on the projects Unite for Youth has been working on. The HOPE framework is explained and the role it plays in prevention. The Search Institute has done a presentation directed at developmental relationships at each of the schools. Maggie explains the implementation of evidence-based programs throughout the schools. Maggie requests 50% of the alcohol tax funds for Unite for Youth to provide prevention services. Vel Shaver mentions putting together an itemized report showing how the funds would be spent. Maggie will follow up with DPHHS to see the percentage of distribution allowed for prevention and bring the matter back for discussion.

Maggie states the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) is holding the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual National Leadership Forum in Washington DC and requests use a portion of the Opioid Funds to send Brandon Holzer of LCSO, Sarah Long of LC Health Department and Kara Matthews of CHC to attend the conference. Commissioner Teske states there have been minimal funds spent out of the local funds, and he will inquire with Zach Sherbo to see if the funds will support this training.

11:35 AM **Adjourned**

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Josh Letcher, Chairman

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Brown, Administrative Assistant