

January 29, 2025

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on January 29, 2025, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Duram, Commissioner Hammons, Administrative Assistant Jennifer Brown and Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown.

Zoom participation: Alaena Woody, Chanel Geer, Crystal Denton, Darren Short, Deb Burrell, Feleisha Storkson, Jesse Haag, John Hyslop, Melanie Howell, Ray Stout, Roland Jorgenson, Scott Shindledecker and Traci Street.

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

10:15 AM Legislative Update – Proposed Land Use Bills SB146 and LC1009 – Planning Department: Present were Brian Berreman and Jesse Haag.

Jesse Haag, Planning Director, highlighted a few proposed land use bills of particular interest to Lincoln County: SB 146: The Private Property Protection Act. He advised that this bill would affect Titles 76, 1, 2, 3 and 25 and would limit subdivision reviews to public health and safety concerns. SB 168: A revision of laws related to lakeshore protection. He stated that this bill effectively "grandfathers in" lakeshore construction that is two years or older with a loophole for expansion of existing construction. SB 174: This bill would remove RV parks and mobile homes from subdivision review and place them under the buildings for lease or rent category and it is supported by the Montana Association of Planners. He noted that, if the language is cleaned up, this could be beneficial in helping the average landowner create temporary housing without exhaustive reviews. Commissioners offered to provide letters of support regarding legislation of interest.

10:30 AM Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes. Resolution 2025-07 Approving Troy Rural Fire Districts Loan Forgiveness. Resolution 2025-08 Enhanced Board Appointment Procedures. Eureka Area District Dispatch Board Commissioner Appointment: Present was Brian Berreman.

- Minutes of January 22, 2025, for approval: **Motion** to approve the minutes by Commissioner Duram. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion carried.
- Resolution 2025-07 approving Troy Rural Fire District's loan forgiveness: Commissioner Hammons advised the Troy Rural Fire District (TRFD) received a loan for 18,500 in 2022 and it was later determined that their budget valuation letter was incorrect. As agreed, TRFD paid back \$6,850 and this resolution is to satisfy the auditor regarding the balance. He then read resolution 2025-07. **Motion** to approve resolution 2025-07 by Commissioner Duram with typing correction. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comments. Motion carried.
- Resolution 2025-08 enhance board appointment procedures: Corrina Brown, Clerk and Recorder, advised this resolution reflects current statute. She noted it was reviewed with the County Attorney's Office and is intended to clarify the process for all county boards. Commissioner Duram read resolution 2025-08. **Motion** to approve resolution 2025-08 by Commissioner Hammons. Second by Commissioner Duram. No comments. Motion carried.
- Eureka Area District Dispatch Board Commissioner Appointment: **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to appoint Noel Duram to the Eureka Area Dispatch Board. Second by Commissioner Teske. No comments. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Duram advised that heating system repairs are underway at the Eureka Annex, totaling over \$5,000.
- Commissioner Duram noted the flagpole at the Eureka Annex has an issue with a tree and will be replaced through a donation by Flying Freedom Forward.
- Commissioner Hammons noted that the Troy ambulance has moved out of the old barn, which is a county-owned building, and the county will be taking over the utilities. Commissioner Hammons acknowledged he will now have an office in Troy, making him more accessible to residents.
- Commissioner Hammons stated he has received no response from the state on the Savage Lake speed study.

10:45 AM Public Comment Time – Non-Agenda Items: Present were Brian Berreman and Kathi Hooper. None.

11:00 AM Treacy Foundation funding for animal shelter equipment – Health Department. Request for commissioner letter of support: Present were Brian Berreman, Dustin Webb and Kathi Hooper.

Dustin Webb, Environmental Health, provided grant information requesting a letter of support for the grant application, which would fund improvements at the local animal shelter. The request to the Treacy Foundation is for \$7,500 to complete the kennel expansion and purchase new equipment. These funds would replace outdated washing and drying units, expand kennels outdoors, and install guillotine doors to improve safety. The Treacy Foundation's contribution, along with L.O.R. funding, would bring the total project budget to \$17,000. Commissioner Duram read the support letter. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the grant application for the Lincoln County animal shelter improvements support letter. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comments. Motion carried.

Dustin Webb advised the shelter currently has 14 dogs and about 20 cats. He informed the commission of receiving a MOU cancellation letter from Kootenai Pets For Life (KPFL), effective February 28th, 2025. He sought input from the commission on whether to hire county staff or continue with contract services. Discussion of the current shelter budget of about \$56,000, an estimated cost for contract services with KPFL of \$90,000 and a county staff budget estimate for 1.5 employees and supplies of \$122,000. Revenue sources to include donations, licenses, impounds, boarding and adoption were discussed. Commissioner Teske advised further discussions of budget and staffing will take place next week.

11:14 AM Adjourned

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Brent Teske, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Corrina Brown, Clerk of the Board