

**February 26, 2025**

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on February 26, 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: Brian Andrews, Chanel Geer, Crystal Denton, Feleisha Storkson, Jaque Mortensen, Jeff Whitbrod, Jesse Haag, Kirk Sullivan, Melanie Howell, Noah Pyle, Ray Stout, Rob Reynolds, Scott Shindledecker, Sierra Gustin, Stephanie Pellican and Traci Street.

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

**10:15 AM Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes. Award Landfill Expansion Bid. Board Appointments. Civil Engineering Rate Discussion:** Present were Brian Berreman, Bryan Alkire, Josh Letcher, Kathi Hooper and Tera Letcher.

- Meeting minutes of February 19, 2025, for approval: **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve February 19, 2025, regular commissioner meeting minutes. Second by Commissioner Duram. No comments. Motion carried.
- Award the landfill expansion bid: Commissioner Teske noted the engineer reviewed the bids and recommends DeAtley Construction, Inc. with the low bid of \$5,049,375.10. Kathi Hooper advised her research was with GreatWest Engineering who advised of similar projects coming in on time, quality manner with minimal change orders. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve M.A. DeAtley Construction, Inc. for \$5,049.375.10 Second by Commissioner Hammons. Commissioner Duram asked Kathi if there was research in the history of Bid overruns for the various Contractors, because of the difference in the High Bid of \$8 million down to the Low Bid of \$5 million. Kathi affirmed that the engineer looked into the change orders, and she is comfortable with this award. No public comments. Motion carried.
- Board appointments: Commissioner Teske presented the following board information.  
Weed: 3 vacancies / 2 applicants: Peter Kitts re-applied. Leslie Ferguson applied. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to appoint both Peter Kitts and Leslie Ferguson to the Weed board. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion carried.  
Fair: 2 vacancies / 1 applicant: Guy Johnson re-applied. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to re-appoint Guy Johnson to the Fair board. Second by Commissioner Duram. No comments. Motion carried.  
Lincoln County Rural Fire District: 1 vacancy / 1 applicant: Joe McElmurry applied. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to appoint Joe McElmurry to the Lincoln County Rural Fire District board. Second by Commissioner Duram. No comments. Motion carried.  
Eureka Parks & Trails: Commissioner Teske noted the resolution creating the board, read the terms then introduced each applicant by name and allowed the opportunity to speak prior to commissioners making nominations.

	Nominated	1st round votes		2nd round votes		3rd round votes		term expiration
		yea	nay	yea	nay	yea	nay	
<b>Robert Thomas Cuffe</b>	D	H/D	T	H/D	T			2025 (D)
<b>Josh Letcher</b>	H	T/H	D	T/H	D	(withdrew)		
<b>Kirk Sullivan</b>	T	T/H/D						2028
<b>Jared Bean</b>	D	D/T	H	D	T/H			
<b>Julie Hughes</b>	H	T/H/D						2028
<b>Jaqueline Mortensen</b>	D	D	H/T					
<b>Corey Hickman</b>	D	D/H	T	D/H	T			2027 (D)
<b>Josie Lochridge</b>	D	D/H	T	D/H	T			2026 (D)

Applicants not nominated:  
 Patricia Kincheloe  
 Courtney Hubbard  
 Jessica Hickman  
 Justin Mortensen (withdrew)  
 Gretchen Landcaster  
 Michael Landcaster

The commissioners expressed appreciation for the interest in this board and noted the public comments received supporting Julie Hughes and Kirk Sullivan.

- Civil Engineering rate discussion: Commissioner Teske presented a proposal from Evensen Engineering & Consulting, Inc., which includes a monthly charge of 3 hours at \$525. Based on previous experience, he proposes a counteroffer of 2 hours at \$300 for monthly consultations, which was discussed and agreed upon.
- Commissioner Teske announced that the county commissioners will sponsor MSU hosted board leadership training at 5:30 pm: May 14<sup>th</sup> at the Ponderosa room/City Hall in Libby and May 15<sup>th</sup> at Eureka Fairgrounds.
- Commissioner Teske presented a drawdown request of \$89,062.50 for the Cedar Street water main replacement project, crossing the highway and connecting the Port. He noted that this project is funded through ARPA and Port TEDD (Tax Economic Development District) funds, requiring commissioner approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to agree to the drawdown. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Duram reported the heat at the North County Annex is working. He's addressing the alarm system.
- Commissioner Duram stated that a well at the Fairgrounds is too close to the events building and after discussions with the Fair Board and the engineer, it was decided that the well will be used strictly for non-potable purposes.

**11:00 AM Public Comment Time – Non-Agenda Items:** Present were Brian Berreman, Josh Letcher and Tera Letcher.

Josh Letcher of Rexford expressed appreciation for the new Eureka Parks board membership approval and provided a history of the hockey rink at the Fairgrounds, the schools twenty-acres and the development of the sports park. He encouraged the board to focus on more than just the sports park, soccer fields, pickle ball. He noted about four dozen small park properties that may be evaluated. He mentioned the newspaper had incorrectly reported that the Eureka Youth Sports Leque was the manager of the Eureka Youth Sports Park and that is not true as they refused to get insurance to sign the lease. He stressed this board must be aware of what can and cannot occur on county property (i.e., splash pad). He would like to see trails developed that address after-school foot traffic on Hwy 93. He pointed out the ordinance was

specific to an area. He mentioned that the Eureka Sports League operates as a non-profit, which helps the Parks board. He also noted that a retaining wall had been started and requested permission to continue this effort as a volunteer.

Brian Berreman of Savage Lake mentioned the increasing amount of trash on Highway 56 and inquired whether there is a tarping ordinance for loads enroute to the landfill. Commissioner Teske responded that the state has an Adopt-A-Highway program, which Brian may want to explore. He was provided the website "adopt-a-highway Montana".

11:15 AM **Adjourned**

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brent Teske, Chairman

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