

March 12, 2025

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on March 12, 2025, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Duram, Commissioner Hammons and Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown.

Zoom participation: Alaena Woody, Ben, Brian Berreman, Brianna Dahm, Boyd White, Chanel Geer, Crystal Denton, Colette F, Danielle Maiden, Deb Burrell, Donna Martin, Dustina Deans, Eric, Feleisha Storkson, HR, Jerry Regh, Jesse Haag, Jon Gass, Josh Letcher, Kathi Hooper, Lauren O'Neill, LC Landfill, Maggie Anderson, Marcia Boris, Melanie Howell, Paula Pival, Ray Stout, Robin Blumberg, Ryan Sadowski, Scott Shindledecker, Shala White, Sierra Gustin, Terri Harbst, Toni Miller Mahoney, Traci Street and Violet Bolstridge.

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

09:30 AM **Nitrous Oxide County Ordinance Proposal - LCSO**: postponed

09:45 AM **Opioid Funding for Drug Detection K-9**: postponed

10:00 AM **Health Department**: Present were Bryan Alkire, Randy Fare, Todd Michaels Vanderberg, Kathi Hooper and Zach Sherbo.

Kathi Hooper, Health Department, advised of job openings for an Environmental Health/Sanitarian and a temporary landfill driver/operator. She advised the animal shelter has hired two shelter assistants, set up IT and is creating a website, establishing an animal food program, researching grant funding to build a shelter, recruiting volunteers and seeking veterinary care. She proposed a fee schedule for approval. Commissioner Teske requested an official resolution to formalize the fees. There was a discussion regarding the specifications for the animal shelter building, with a rough estimate of \$180K. Regarding septic permits she advised; Robin will soon be a certified reviewer. Year to date, there have been 33 applications: 18 from Eureka, 10 from Libby, and 5 from Troy. She noted Libby area air quality monitoring will resume. She advised of litter/community decay violations: 15 properties are not in compliance, with 4 having compliance plans in place, 6 properties were sent to the Sheriff's Office, and they have not located the owners of 5 properties. Zach Sherbo, Public Health, advised that he is working with schools on topics related to comedy and mental health, teen mental health/first aid, STI and CPR training, the Health Fair, the Screenagers showing and Dr. Suez's birthday. He noted the purchase of 50 new baby baskets for Cabinet Peaks Medical Center funded by the Maternal and Child Health Grant. He reported two influenza deaths in the county this year. He stated that CPR and lead testing are being offered in North Lincoln County. He mentioned the power outage workgroup has distributed a survey to first responders to assess how Public Health can best support them. He noted two vehicles may be replaced with one due to the statewide travel and reliability concerns. He is working with the Montana Opioid Abatement Trust and will be reviewing those grants. Kathi noted that Zero to Five received the \$5,000 Rotary Grant and highlighted activities, adding that Zero to Five will likely transition to Zero to Eighteen. Bryan Alkire confirmed working with the contractor site manager on the Libby Landfill expansion. Equipment delivery is underway. He advised metal baling has been finished, followed by a discussion on metal revenue. He confirmed chipping is taking place. There was a discussion about Trego site enhancements. Kathi advised septic permits will be available online soon and will provide the commissioners with a preview.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes. Troy Rural Fire District Bylaws Approval. Troy Rural Fire District Petitions for Annexation. Sponsorship for Non-point Source Sewer Connections Grant. Middle Thompson Lake Shore Mediation Extension Request. Election Department: Notice of Cancellation of Election. Crisis Diversion Grant**: Present were Alisha Barrows, Deb Burrell, Don Burrell, Lester Lafleur, Mavis Vaillancourt, Melanie Howell, Noah Reed, Randy Fare, Scott Roush, Sierra Gustin, Tom H, Todd Michaels Vanderberg, Noah Reed, Vanessa Williamson and Zach Sherbo.

- Meeting minutes of March 5, 2025, for approval: **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the March 5, 2025, regular commissioner meeting minutes. Second by Commissioner Duram. No comments. Motion carried.
- Approval of the minutes from the Special Meeting on March 5, 2025, to review Administrative Assistant applications: **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve the minutes. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion carried.
- Troy Rural Fire District bylaws approval: Commissioner Teske advised some entities ask for the commission to review and accept their bylaws. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the bylaws for the board of trustees of the Troy Rural Fire District. Second by Commissioner Duram. No comments. Motion carried.
- Troy Rural Fire District Annexation petitions: Commissioner Teske noted multiple homeowners are involved. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to move forward with the petitions for annexation. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comments. Motion carried.
 - Petition #314477 – Shannon Flats/Itsaview Subdivision areas – public hearing April 16th at 11:30
 - Petition #314478 – Iron Creek, Freeman Ridge and Shannon Lake Road areas – public hearing April 23rd at 11:30
- Sponsorship of non-point source sewer connections grant: Commissioner Teske noted that the bid opening is scheduled for 11 a.m. and requested that this discussion take place afterward. Danielle Maiden agreed.
- Middle Thompson Lake Shore mediation extension request: Commissioner Teske noted no action is required, as the owners have completed the required mediation, and Jesse Haag, Planning Director, will conduct a site review.
- Notice of cancellation of 2025 Special Purpose District Election: Melanie Howell, Election Administrator, noted the special district election to be held on May 6th had no candidates. Commissioner Teske added that the open seats for the Bull Lake Rural, LC Rural, and McCormick Rural Fire Districts will be filled through the board appointment process. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the notice of cancellation of election for those three board positions. Second by Commissioner Duram. No comments. Motion carried.

- **Crisis Diversion Grant:** Commissioner Hammons noted that the hospital has expressed interest but has not yet made a commitment. Commissioner Teske remarked that if the hospital decides not to take over, the contract language with the state will need to be reviewed. Violet Bolstridge, DPHHS, noted the importance of contract approval before the state fiscal year end in June. She advised it is a three year grant, and they are flexible with amendments to the contract. She agreed to email Commissioner Teske the contract. Public comment: James shared firsthand praise for the crisis team and their actions, emphasizing the community's need for this resource. Don Burrell asked if this grant will move forward if the hospital declines to participate. Commissioner Teske confirmed that the county would act as a passthrough for the grant with the hospital's involvement and stated that the contract language would need to be reviewed if the hospital is not involved. Noah Reed testified to the crisis group's positive impact within the community.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time – Non-Agenda Items:** Present were Don Burrell, Melanie Howell and Sierra Gustin.

Don Burrell commented that the hill on Bobtail Road is sluffing away. Commissioner Teske will advise the road foreman.

11:00 AM **Open Construction Bids for WGM Libby Creek Project:** Present was Jesse Haag.

Ryan Sadowski, WGM Group, presented the bids received through an online bidding service. He confirmed the receipt of one bid from Noble Excavating, noting that it was complete, including a 10% bid bond, proper signatures, and the required documentation. He stated that the bid total was \$2,030,927, which includes \$72,000 for the Schedule B city water project and \$100,140 for the Schedule F highway improvements. Commissioner Teske inquired, and Ryan confirmed that this was the only bid received. He advised that the bid would be reviewed and sent back to the county. Jon Gass mentioned that the engineer's estimate for the project construction was \$2.5 million. **Sponsorship for non-point Source Sewer Connections Grant:** Danielle Maiden discussed a \$2.9 million commitment to the project and advised of a Libby Creek Community request for an \$80,000 grant from DNRC. She advised the costs for engineering, design, grant administration, and audit fees are separate from the construction costs. Jon explained the project components include construction, highway boring with water work, and administration soft costs. He confirmed that the city received an MSF grant and that the county will handle the design and construction for a water main upgrade outside the Libby Creek community. Danielle highlighted that the deadline for this \$70,000 grant application for household sewer connections is March 24th. Commissioner Teske requested a written grant application for review. Jon noted a site title opinion of the water portion will be required for the funding agency. Jesse Haag questioned whether this grant, intended for a municipal sewer system, is applicable. Jon confirmed this community system is eligible for the grant according to the funding agency.

11:30 AM **Preliminary Plat Review Stevenson Subdivision:** Present were Byron Sanderson, Calen Williamson, Jesse Haag and Kristin Smith.

Kristin Smith, Planning Department, presented Stevenson subdivision preliminary plat. She noted the planning department recommends approval with nine conditions. **Motion** to remove the agricultural covenants and grant preliminary approval of the Stevenson subdivision preliminary plat by Commissioner Hammons. Second by Commissioner Duram. No comments. Motion carried.

11:45 AM **Preliminary Plat Review Warren Subdivision:** Present were Byron Sanderson, Calen Williamson, Jesse Haag and Kristin Smith, Kristel.

Kristin Smith, Planning Department, presented Warren subdivision preliminary plat. She noted the planning department recommends granting preliminary approval with eleven conditions. **Motion** to grant preliminary approve of the Warren subdivision preliminary plat by Commissioner Duram with eleven conditions. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion carried.

11:52 AM Break

1:30 PM **Lavon estates CCR Amendments:** Present were Jesse Haag and Robin Blumberg.

Commissioner Teske advised of receiving an email from Bill Moe stating he will not be attending today, will reschedule.

01:31 PM **Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Brent Teske, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Corrina Brown, Clerk of the Board