

March 19, 2025

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on March 19, 2025, in the Lincoln County Annex, Eureka, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Duram, Commissioner Hammons and Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown.

Zoom participation: Alaena Woody, Beth, Bill Moe, Brandon Hansen, Brian Berreman, Bryan Alkire, Chanel Geer, Chris Noble, Colette F, Crystal Denton, Danielle Maiden, Darren Short, Donna Martin, Feleisha Storkson, HR, Jennifer Nelson, Jesse Haag, John Hyslop, Karin, Kathi Hooper, Kathleen Sheffield, Megan Rayome, Melanie Howell, Michelle Byrd, Ray Stout, Robin Blumberg, Roland Jorgenson, Scott Shindledecker, Sierra Gustin and Vanessa Williamson.

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

09:45 AM **Opioid Funding for Drug Detection K-9**: Present was Traci Street.

Sheriff Darren Short presented the opioid settlement funds request for \$22,500. He advised the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office K9 program has been vital in combating the flow of opioids and other illegal narcotics since 2020. He noted following the retirement of a K9/handler, the program is now limited to one K9 and handler. He advised that adding a second K9 in the northern part of the county would significantly enhance the program's effectiveness. Commissioner Teske noted the county receives sporadic funds from parties in the opioid settlement. It was agreed the commission would offer support and consult with the state on allowable uses before moving forward.

10:00 AM **Nitrous Oxide County Ordinance Proposal – LCSO**: carried over

10:15 AM **Evins Court Order Split - Planning**: Present were Deb Burrell, Don Burrell, LeeAnn Schermerhorn, Theresa Schmuck, Thomas Sibson and Traci Street.

Jesse Haag, Planning Director, advised he received a request for comment on the Evins court order split of land. Based on the information provided, he stated the county review committee found no attempt to evade the Montana Subdivision and Platting Act. He presented a prepared letter to the Lincoln County District Court in support of the Rebecca Evins estate settlement and the court-ordered land division. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve and submit this comment letter to the court in reference to the Evins estate settlement court ordered landowner split. Second by Commissioner Duram. No comments. Motion carried.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes. Libby Creek Community Construction Bid Discussion WGM. DNRC Sewer Connections Grant. Crisis Diversion Grant. Approve Support Letter for GLID. Ugrin Alexander Zadick P.C. Contract Representing Lincoln County**: Present were Deb Burrell, Don Burrell and Traci Street.

- Approval of the minutes from March 12, 2025: **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve the March 12, 2025, minutes. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion carried.
- Libby Creek Community Construction Bid Discussion WGM: Commissioner Teske noted that the presentation of the single bid received took place last week and was under review. He asked for an update. Danielle Maiden confirmed that only one bid was received, advising that Jon Gass stated everything was in order and requested that the bid award be added to the commissioner agenda for next week.
- DNRC Sewer Connections Grant: Commissioner Teske noted the receipt of the grant application to the DNRC. Danielle confirmed there were fourteen units at \$5,000 per unit, totaling \$70,000. Commissioner Teske pointed out that Jon Gass had previously confirmed this is a community rather than a municipal system, and as a community-owned system, it fits the grant criteria. Danielle added that this will be considered a public sewer system due to its size and will be subject to DEQ testing requirements then confirmed it meets the grant requirements. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to enter this renewable resource non-point source program municipal sewer connections grant. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion carried.
- Crisis Diversion Grant: Commissioner Teske noted receipt of a letter from Cabinet Peak Medical Center advising that they are unable to take on this grant program, yet they are working to address the mental health needs in the community by obtaining a Licensed Clinical Social Worker for its Rural Health Clinic. He advised he has communicated with Violet Bolstridge, DPHHS, regarding negotiating the contract with the intent to continue the community based care coordinator position as well as the crisis intervention team training program. He noted a drop in center proposed agreement has been received from the state and will also be reviewed. He will set up a Zoom meeting to work through the contract negotiations with the state before moving forward with the grant.
- Approve Support Letter for GLID: Commissioner Teske presented a letter supporting the Glen Lake Irrigation District's Main Canal-Doxie Slough Modernization Project, which aimed to modernize 2,000 feet of canal and replace the failing Therriault Siphon to address water loss and prevent ecological damage. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to submit the GLID Main Canal-Doxie Slough modernization project support letter. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Ugrin Alexander Zadick P.C. Contract Representing Lincoln County: Commissioner Teske presented a contract agreement regarding an issue requiring outside legal representation for the county. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to accept the attorney retainer agreement between Lincoln County and Ugrin Alexander Zadick. Second by Commissioner Duram. No comments. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Teske noted a legal request regarding Bushfield vs Osloske to confirm Lincoln County no longer has any interest in this narrow strip of property across from the Eureka Annex near the flagpole. He advised this was reviewed by the county attorney along with the county land specialist. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to sign the letter affirming Lincoln County has no interest in Osloske - Bushfield properties. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comments. Motion carried.

- Commissioner Duram advised he has received signatures on the Eureka Fairgrounds MOU. He also noted receiving a letter from DNRC stating they are involved with the DEQ review, with a review deadline of May 3, 2025.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time – Non-Agenda Items:** Present were Deb Burrell, Don Burrell and Traci Street. None

11:00 AM **Flathead Valley Community College Lincoln County Campus Update:** Present were Bryan Brophy-Bremann, Jane Karas, Lorelle Davies and Traci Street.

Jane Karas, President of FVCC, expressed appreciation for the county's support. She raised concerns about the building's roof leaks becoming a health hazard and discussed the contract agreement, where the county owns the property, leases it for a dollar a year, and Lincoln County is responsible for major repairs, with FVCC responsible for maintenance. Commissioner Teske noted the flat roof design is not ideal. It was agreed he will coordinate with Megan Rayome and obtain a repair estimate. Jane mentioned that the five-year operation agreement rolls over yet has not been updated and the commission agreed to a future discussion. Megan highlighted their nursing application enrollment and that the CDL instructor is full-time increasing teaching capacity. She advised they had six graduates last week. Commissioner Teske expressed appreciation for allowing temporary fleet vehicle parking, freeing up space near the courthouse. Commissioner Duram and Jane agreed to look into partnering with calendar hyperlinks.

11:15 AM **North Star Landing Condition Amendment Regarding Solid Waste Disposal Site:** Present were Larry Stewart, Sara Helgert and Traci Street.

Jesse Haag, Planning Director, noted receipt of a request to amend the condition of approval for the North Star Landing subdivision to delay final construction of the required solid-waste disposal site until the development reaches 25% occupancy. He noted closure of county Greenbox sites and reduced hours in that area may make this a greater impact. He concluded planning recommendation is to deny the request to amend the conditions related to solid waste for North Star Landing subdivision. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to deny the request to amend the conditions related to solid waste disposal at North Star subdivision based on discussion by planning. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Larry Stewart discussed the development plan, highlighting a change to 125 lots and the intention to submit an updated map to planning. Commissioner Teske raised concerns with the number of residents managing their own disposal. Larry indicated they are nearing the final plat and expect occupancy within two years. Jesse suggested adjusting the waste management plan based on the number of sites and green boxes, noting that construction waste might increase volume. Larry emphasized the importance of developing the site properly to avoid future change requirements and expressed interest in a phased development process. The commissioners agreed to postpone action until site approval is obtained along with a meaningful agreement. **Commissioner Teske continued with the motion on the floor.** Sara Helgert clarified review fees. There was no additional public comment.

11:45 AM **Lavon Estates CCR Amendment Request:** Present was Traci Street.

Jesse Haag, Planning Director, presented Lavon Estates subdivision conditions, covenants and restrictions (CC&Rs) draft amendment request. He reviewed the impact evaluation and conditions of approval. He recommended approving the request to amend the CC&Rs for Lavon Estates as submitted. He noted receipt of notarized signatures of all five parties who own the eight lots in Lavon Estates. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the request to amend the CC&Rs for Lavon Estates as submitted. Second by Commissioner Duram. No comments. Motion carried.

11:53 AM **Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Brent Teske, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Corrina Brown, Clerk of the Board