

**March 5, 2025**

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on March 5, 2025, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Duram, Commissioner Hammons and Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown.

Zoom participation: Boyd White, Chanel Geer, Cindy Medina, Crystal Denton, Dallas Bowe, Danielle Maiden, Darren Short, Feleisha Storkson, Jerry Regh, Jesse Haag, John Hyslop, Kayla Friss, Ray Stout, Scott Shindledecker, Suzanne Resch, Traci Street and Tony Wickham.

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

10:00 AM **USFS**: canceled

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes. Crisis Team Diversion in Montana Communities Grant Execution Approval. Resolution 2025-10 Amend a Parcel Boundary According to Troy City Limits**: Present were Alisha Barrows, Brian Berreman, Darren Short, Deb Burrell, Don Burrell, Ivan Hagen, James D., Judge Jay Sheffield, Jesse Haag, Melanie Howell, Misty Boyd, Ryan T., Russell Alt, Saun L., Tom H. and Vanessa Williamson.

- Meeting minutes of February 26, 2025, for approval: **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the February 26, 2025, minutes. Second by Commissioner Duram. No comments. Motion carried.
- Crisis Diversion Grant Approval: Vanessa Williamson, Probation Officer, presented handouts. She applied for \$388,870.78 and since the crisis team has been dissolved, the proposal requests to retain the county care coordinator, the CIT program, and, under the Innovative Crisis Project, \$9,500 for a contractor to provide technical support to the sheriff's office. The total request amounts to \$233,398.07 over three years, with a match of \$210,058.26. She provided details of the in-kind match, totaling \$251,436. Commissioner Hammons inquired about the three crisis intervention team coordinators. Vanessa clarified that the CIT academy is held twice a year, with her serving as the lead, along with two sheriff's office employees. She confirmed that a crisis response team is not necessary to receive this grant. She explained the 40-hour crisis intervention training academy is designed primarily to train law enforcement, healthcare professionals and other community members to respond to calls. Commissioner Teske noted today they had received a copy of the diversion grant and would review it alongside the paperwork Vanessa had just submitted. He advised the hospital indicated this morning that discussions are ongoing. He advised this will be on the agenda next week for a decision. He requested public comment: James DePasquale, who operates a faith-based sober men's home in town, emphasized the importance of aftercare in providing ongoing support. Misty Boyd expressed her support for everything the crisis team represents, highlighting the county's issues with poverty, addiction and mental health problems. She noted If this service is unavailable, where else can we turn? Russel Alt presented his mother's cause of death to illustrate the impact of violence. He noted a lack of crisis service would be a big loss. He also mentioned that tribal assistance is available, stressing its importance. Don Burrell shared his medical needs and emphasized the importance of having assistance for the community. Vanessa reported there are 231 active clients, with 133 seen more than once and 62 experiencing suicidal thoughts. She also mentioned that Judge Sheffield has offered to house this program under Justice Court. Deb Burrell confirmed that she would like to meet with clients at least once every couple of weeks in Eureka. Commissioner Teske advised the documents will be reviewed and a decision will be made at next week's meeting.
- Resolution 2025-10 amend a parcel boundary according to Troy City Limits: Commissioner Duram read resolution 2025-10. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve resolution 2025-10. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comments. Motion carried.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time – Non-Agenda Items**: Present were Brian Berreman and Tom Maffei.

Tom Maffei, a resident of Libby since 1987 and retired from a 38-year career with the Forest Service, spoke on behalf of himself, of concerns about the loss of 48-50 well-paying permanent jobs in the area. He pointed out that there have been no public comments from the commissioners regarding these people being out of a job. He referenced Commissioner Duram's emailed response on the matter. Commissioner Teske confirmed receiving Tom's email yesterday and expressed his intention to respond. Commissioner Hammons noted that the USFS would have addressed this issue today had they not canceled. Commissioner Teske acknowledged the lack of influence over federal government decisions and reminded Tom that public comment is not a debate, encouraging Tom to discuss the issue individually.

Tony Wickham, via zoom, mentioned the signing of an executive order on March 1st, which immediately expands American timber production. He encouraged everyone to read the order ([whitehouse.gov](http://whitehouse.gov)) and suggested the USFS layoffs could present an opportunity to hire those affected on a private basis to manage forests within the county. Commissioner Teske agreed, noting they will monitor the situation as more developments arise.

11:00 AM **Request for Sponsorship of the “Non-Point Source Municipal Sewer Connections Grant” for the Libby Creek Water and Wastewater Improvement Project – NeighborWorks**: Present were Brian Berreman, Jesse Haag and Robin Blumberg.

Danielle Maiden informed the commission that she has a draft RFP and will provide specific details once the DNRC releases it next week. She mentioned they applied yesterday for the DNRC WMCC grant and the community was able to apply without municipal sponsorship, requesting \$80,000. She indicated they plan to apply for the non-point source grant through the DNRC for \$70,000. Commissioner Teske inquired about the title of non-point source municipal sewer connections. Danielle clarified they are installing a public sewer system and taking off the four failing systems at Libby Creek, and the grant can be sponsored by either a city or county. Commissioner Teske requested a draft copy to review in advance and will keep this as old business and re-agenda as necessary.

11:15 AM **Nitrous Oxide County Ordinance Proposal – LCSO:** continued to next week for legal review

11:05 AM **Adjourned**

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Brent Teske, Chairman

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