

**April 30, 2025**

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a budget meeting on April 28, 2025, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commission Teske, Commissioner Hammons, and Administrative Assistant Nikki Fox.

Zoom participation: Commissioner Duram

2:00 pm **Health Department:** Present was Kathi Hooper

Kathi Hooper presented the Health Department's preliminary budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Kathi Hooper confirmed she had the current wages and insurance added to the budget. Kath Hooper started with the Sanitarium budget, indicating an increase of \$12,000 due to pathways grant. Kathi Hooper stated she expected an increase of approximately \$10,000 in revenue for the department. Kath Hooper discussed the animal shelter budget, saying there were a lot of unknowns in costs at this point, due to significant changes, since previously the County only controlled the Tobacco Valley Shelter. Kathi Hooper suggested an increase of septic permit fees and noted they had not been increased in at least 10 years. Commissioner Teske asked about the animal shelter employees, with Kath Hooper stating there were currently two part time employees. Commissioner Hammons asked if all the department's revenue was from grants, Kathi Hooper clarified. Kathi Hooper discussed the animal shelter fees and revenue, noting what is coming in is from spay/neuters, meds and vaccinations. Commissioner Teske asked where the money for the air quality subscriptions is generated, Kathi Hopper informed the commissioners it is generated by burn permit fees. Commissioner Hammons inquired about the professional services budget and Kathi Hopper informed it was mostly for the Board of Health Attorney. Commissioner Teske opened a discussion about animal control. Kathi Hooper stated there is no change to the 'junk vehicle' program, it remains 100% grant funded. Kathi Hooper also noted that the department spends all of the funds of this program every year, that there is no roll over of fund, money must be returned. Commissioner Hammons questioned how the wages were broken out of this program, Kathi Hooper noted Maranda's wages were paid 60% from junk vehicle grants and 40% from sanitarian. Kathi Hooper addressed the Zero to Five program, which is 100% funded by the Headwaters Grant. Kathi Hooper went on to say the Headwaters Grant focus this year was on staffing, not so much on supplies. Commissioner Hammons asked if this focus also covered professional services. Commissioner Teske noted the majority of increases for the Health Department were due to wages and insurance, Kathi Hooper agreed. Kathi Hoope mentioned that the immunization program was generating revenue, however, the Pathways grant that it was funded through has ended, and the department is operating on carryover money. Kathi Hooper opened the discussion about the landfill budget by

stating it was a hard to manage budget, especially with managing the self-service sites. Kathi Hooper noted a \$315,000 increase this year and there was no money going into anything other than operations and the department was still operating at a \$300,000 deficit. Kathi Hooper suggested increasing the landfill fees, which could generate more than \$62,000 a year. There was discussion around the landfill expansion. Kathi Hooper also indicated there are over \$33,000 in past due invoices that could be collected on to help with the budget deficit. Kathi Hooper suggested an assessment on the refuse fees, stating that businesses and RV/tailer parks should be the priority, she also noted Flathead increases their fees by 3% a year. Commissioner Teske questioned how the assessment was done, which Kathi Hooper clarified.

2:22 pm **Adjourned**

## **LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Brent Teske, Chairperson

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Nikki Fox, Administrative Assistant