

May 14, 2025

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on May 14, 2025, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Hammons, Administrative Assistant Nikki Fox and Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown.

Zoom participation: Chanel Geer, Darren Short, Deb Burrell, Feleisha Storkson, John Hyslop, Landfill, Maranda Davis, Planning, Ray Stout, DJ Welch, Scott Shindledecker, and Traci Street.

10:00 AM **Health Department:** Present were Brian Berreman, Bryan Alkire, Kathi Hooper, Mathew Stull, Melanie Howell and Tony Wickham.

Kathi Hooper, Health Department, provided the following Health Department update:

Septic Permit Application Report 05/14/2025				
Total	82	Issued So Far- 58	Not Issued- 24	
Libby	23	New 16	Replacements 5	Affidavits 2
Troy	13	New 10	Replacements 1	Declarations 2
Eureka	46	New 46	Replacements 2	Affidavits 2
COSA	52			
Local Review	28			
Declaration of Unpermitted System	2			
Replacements	8			
New (Including Grinder Lift Tank)	68			
Declaration of Unpermitted System	2			
Affidavit	4			

Air Quality Permits (April 2025):
819 residential burn permits, 922 activations
17 management burn permits
2 violations

Community Decay/Litter Violations:
Violations Issued – 3
Turned over to LCSO – 5
In Court – 4
Unable to Locate Owner – 2
In Compliance – 1
New Complaints - 8

Animal Shelter:
14 Dogs
10 Cats

She noted the Lincoln County Shelter Friends is formalizing their board as a non-profit. Discussion of adoption efforts. Lincoln County Solid Waste & Recycling – Proposed Fee Schedule: Kathi advised this is intended to help offset a projected 2025–26 budget deficit of \$315,000. Discussion included the anticipated costs associated with transitioning from contracted services to a county-run operation. Discussion of implementing an uncovered load fee, charging of interest and late fees on past-due landfill bills and a 3% annual increase in the refuse assessment. She highlighted the challenges in addressing recreational vehicles (RVs) on properties that are not currently assessed, encouraging recycling, and ensuring proper assessment for multiple dwellings on a single property. Commissioner Teske requested resolutions be prepared for both the animal shelter and landfill fee adjustments. Bryan provided an update on the landfill expansion.

10:30 AM **Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes. School Election Results. 2025-2026 MACo PCT Renewal. Historical Village Lease. Approval Auditor Change. Planning Project Contract MCR Grant Approval:** Present were Brian Berreman, Jesse Haag, Lonnie Fosgate, Melanie Howell and Tony Wickham.

- **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the May 7, 2025 regular commissioner meeting minutes. Second by Commissioner Teske. No comments. Motion carried.
- Approve the April 30, 2025 Sheriff Department and May 7, 2025 Superintendent of School budget meeting minutes: **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the April 30, 2025 and May 7, 2025 budget meeting minutes. Second by Commissioner Teske. No comments. Motion carried.
- **School Election Results:** Melanie Howell, Election Administrator, presented the 2025 school election results. She noted 246 undeliverable ballots and 55 Libby, and 21 Troy ballots were received too late for the election. Commissioner Hammons discussed schools running their own elections, judges and fees.
- **2025-2026 MACo PCT Renewal:** Commissioner Teske presented the MACo Property & Casualty Trust renewal discussed last week. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the renewal of the property insurance for the coming year. Second by Commissioner Teske. No public comments. Motion carried.
- **Historical Village Lease:** Commissioner Teske presented the renewal of the Historical Village Area lease agreement in Eureka. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the lease agreement with the Historical Village in Eureka. Second by Commissioner Teske. No public comments. Motion carried.
- **Approval Auditor Change:** Commissioner Hammons read the agreement -assignor: Denning, Downey & Associates, P.C. and assignee: Nexus CPA Group, PLLC. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the assignment and client consent agreement. Second by Commissioner Teske. Commissioner Hammons noted the audit was concluded with no findings of fact. He advised Wendy Drake, Finance Director, did a great job. No public comments. Motion carried.
- **Planning Project Contract MCR Grant Approval:** Jesse Haag, Planning Director, advised he has not received anything back from the state on the correction. Commissioner Teske will reschedule for next week.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time – Non-Agenda Items:** Present were Brian Berreman, Lonnie Fosgate and Tony Wickham.

Lonnie Fosgate, a pilot, expressed concern with unfinished work on a grassy area at the Libby Airport. He noted the county had done some work last summer, but the job remains incomplete. He believes another day with a compactor would smooth the area and help prevent potential accidents. He offered to volunteer his time to spread any county provided material. Commissioner Teske responded that the commission had only been asked to rough in the area last year, which is currently unauthorized for use. He advised Lonnie to discuss this with the Airport Manager or Board.

11:15 AM **Resolution 2025-18 Libby Bear Flats Subdivision and Six Tract Land Properties:** Present were Brian Berreman and Tony Wickham.

Commissioner Hammons read resolution 2025-18. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve resolution 2025-18. Second by Commissioner Teske. No public comment. Motion carried.

11:30 AM **Public Hearing- Petition #314876 Troy Rural Fire District re-annex a parcel on Bull Lake Hwy from Bull Lake Fire District:** Present was Brian Berreman.

Commissioner Hammons read the public hearing notice regarding the proposed re-annexation of a parcel located at 29376 Bull Lake Road, Troy, MT 59935 (Tax ID: 6153, Geocode: 56-4173-09-1-01-06-0000), as outlined in petition #314876. This petition transfers the property from the Bull Lake Fire District to the Troy Rural Fire District. There was no public comment. Commissioner Teske advised this will move forward with a resolution next week.

11:45 AM **Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Brent Teske, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Corrina Brown, Clerk of the Board