

May 21, 2025

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on March 21, 2025, in the Lincoln County Annex, Eureka, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Duram, Commissioner Hammons and Administrative Assistant Nikki Fox.

Zoom participation: Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown, Bailey Bronson, Chanel Geer, Darren Short, HR, Jennifer Nelson Jesse Haag, John Hyslop, Joshua Persson, Kathi Hooper, Kristin Smith, Lauren O'Neill, Melanie Howell, Ray Stout, Scott Shindledecker and Zach Sherbo.

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

10:00 AM **Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes. Planning Project Contract MCR Grant Approval:** Present were Ed Schweitzer, Jason Moothart, Thomas Sibson and Traci Street.

- Approval of the minutes from May 14, 2025: **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the May 14, 2025, minutes. Second by Commissioner Teske. No public comments. Motion passed.
- Approval of the May 12, 2025 EMA budget meeting minutes: **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the May 12, 2025, minutes. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comments. Motion carried.
- Planning Project Contract MCR Grant Approval: Jesse Haag, Planning Director, advised the state corrected the implementation timeline and it has been through legal review. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to enter into the contract as presented. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Pathways letter from Health Department: Zach Sherbo provided, and Commissioner Teske read a proposed letter of support from the Commission on behalf of the Health Department's pursuit of Pathways Recognition through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to authorize the letter of support. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comments. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Teske discussed a request to Senator Sheehy and county representatives to sponsor legislation conveying long-standing county-use lands to Lincoln County. Commissioner Hammons read a letter from the county's attorney requesting the transfer of three well-established and heavily used public sites—Troy Airport, the Lincoln County Shooting Complex, and the Yaak Community Hall—from the U.S. Forest Service to County ownership. The letter also expressed support for the Pipe Creek land exchange proposal. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve the letter of support. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Duram reported on his recent trip to Washington, D.C., where he met with representatives. He noted that Secure Rural Schools (SRS) funding is included in a legislative package currently under consideration. There was discussion regarding funding for the trip.
- Commissioner Hammons mentioned the old ambulance barn in Troy has returned to the Lincoln County and Spring Up for Youth Group has been working on it with grant funding. He invited the commission to view the progress.

10:15 AM **Public Comment Time – Non-Agenda Items:** Present were Ed Schweitzer, Jason Moothart, Thomas Sibson and Traci Street.

Jason Moothart, General Manager of Interbel, requested support for an upcoming building variance for a property located within the Town of Eureka limits and expanding into the flood plain area. Jesse Haag, Planning Director, noted the 1991 flood plain regulations specific to the Town of Eureka are applicable to this property and approval from the Eureka Town Council will be required. He also confirmed there are no significant concerns from the county's perspective. Commissioner Teske suggested that a letter of support from the county to the Town of Eureka could be issued if formally requested.

10:30 AM **North View – Minor Subdivision Review/Decision- Planning:** Present were Ed Schweitzer, Thomas Sibson and Traci Street.

Kristin Smith, Planning Department, presented the preliminary plat application for the North View minor subdivision and recommended approval subject to nine conditions. She noted the Glen Lake Irrigation District (GLID) is the only non-ordinary condition. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve the preliminary subdivision plat. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Discussion of Hwy 37 traffic, corner access with visual restrictions. No public comment. Motion carried.

10:45 AM **Resolution 2025-19 Annexing a Parcel Located at 29376 Bull Lake Road into Troy Rural Fire District:** Present were Ed Schweitzer, Elizabeth Williams, Isaiah Williams, Oral Hamilton and Traci Street.

Commissioner Duram read resolution 2025-19 reannexing a parcel located at 29376 Bull Lake Road (Tax ID 6153) from Bull Lake Rural Fire District into Troy Rural Fire District, in accordance with petition #314876. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve resolution 2025-19. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comments. Motion carried.

11:00 AM **TFS Title III Funds Request:** Present were Ed Schweitzer, Elizabeth Williams, Isaiah Williams, Oral Hamilton and Traci Street.

Commissioner Teske presented a request for Title III funding from Isaiah Williams, Fire Chief of the Trego-Fortine-Stryker Volunteer Fire Department, proposing \$136,316 to acquire a wildland firefighting engine. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve the request for the Title III funds for the Trego-Fortine-Stryker Volunteer Fire Department. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Discussion that to reduce costs assembly would need to be completed; it was noted the county procurement policy requires three bids for purchases over \$80,000, and Chief Williams was directed to work with Wendy Drake, Finance Director, to ensure all requirements are met. Ed Sweitzer and Oral Hamilton both expressed support for this funding allocation. No further public comment. Motion carried.

11:15 AM **Resolution 2025-11 Establishing a Fee Schedule for the Lincoln County Animal Shelter:** Present were Ed Schweitzer and Traci Street.

Commissioner Duram read resolution 2025-11 establishing a fee schedule for the Lincoln County Animal Shelter.
Commissioner Teske confirmed public notice has not taken place and postponed this resolution until this has occurred.

11:30 AM **Resolution 2025-20 Appointing a Special Deputy County Attorney:** Present was Traci Street.

Commissioner Hammons read resolution 2025-20 appointing a special deputy county attorney. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve resolution 2025-20. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.

11:45 AM **Fair Budget Meeting:** Present were Pam Rackley and Traci Street.

Pam Rackley, Fair Manager, presented a \$123,905 proposed 2025/26 Fair budget, noting an overall increase. She will get with HR to update salaries and employee contributions. She discussed the Fair Foundation banner program as a source of financial support and reported the horse and livestock bleachers will be repaired and painted. She will follow up on increases in auto and building insurance. Discussion of rising refuse and utility service costs; she noted a \$500 donation from the trash provider and reported that the Rodeo Association will collaborate with the Fair to help reduce trash disposal expenses. She budgeted fewer utility meters in anticipation of the completion of the sewer upgrade this fall and will include any impact fees and town water/sewer charges in the final budget.

11:55 AM **Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Brent Teske, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Corrina Brown, Clerk of the Board