

May 7, 2025

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on May 7, 2025, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Duram, Commissioner Hammons, Administrative Assistant Nikki Fox and Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown.

Zoom participation: Boyd White, Chanel Geer, Chris Bachman, Evan Comella, Feleisha Storkson, Isaiah Williams, Jesse Haag, Jim Hammons, Noah Pyle, Ray Stout, Traci Street and Wendy Drake.

10:00 AM **Public Comment Time – Non-Agenda Items:** Present were Arthur Schauer, Brian Berreman, Karen Edwards, Kate Stephens, Kevin Peck, Mark Edwards, Melanie Howell, Scott Shindledecker, Sierra Gustin and Tony Wickham,

Tony Wickham, President of the Lincoln County Republican Club, spoke about the structure of the Election Administrator (EA) position, expressing support for oversight of the County Commissioners rather than the Clerk and Recorder. He referenced House Bill 293, noting that this structure complies with Montana law and reflects the majority opinion he has encountered. He emphasized that having the EA report to the longest-serving commissioner would provide effective oversight until they are up for election. He recommended utilizing benchmarking performance strategies, pointing out that other counties have implemented similar structures and encouraged the commission to consult with those counties to benefit from their experience. He suggested the County Government Review Study Commission may gather public input and make recommendations to the electorate regarding the Election Administrator position and thanked the commission.

10:15 AM **Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes. Board Appointments. Port Authority Title III Funding Request. Request to Extend Asphalt Contract:** Present were Arthur Schauer, Brian Berreman, Jennifer Nelson, Jesse Haag, Joe Nagle, Karen Edwards, Kate Stephens, Kevin Peck, Mark Edwards, Melanie Howell, Scott Shindledecker, Sierra Gustin and Tony Wickham.

- **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the April 30, 2025 regular commissioner meeting minutes. Second by Commissioner Duram. No comments. Motion carried.
- Approve the April 28th-30th, 2025 ten departments budget meeting minutes: **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to accept the budget minutes. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No comments. Motion carried.
- Port Authority Title III Funding Request: Commissioner Teske noted that two weeks ago, there was a large funding request totaling \$278,000 worth of projects. He advised Jennifer Nelson put together a budget of \$48,000 to fund slated projects to include home inspections leaving a balance of \$181,185. He advised of a two year \$244,816 funding request from LCPA for the MSA. He stated there are enough funds to cover the first but not the second year. Commissioner Hammons asked how many years this money had rolled over. Jennifer responded it had been rolled over prior to her taking the Forester position in 2018 with annual funding varying typically between \$114,000 and \$118,000. Commissioner Hammons questioned whether moving forward with the request would impact any ongoing Port litigation and Commissioner Teske advised he would inquire. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve \$122,408 to the LCPA for the MSA program. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Commissioner Duram stated he feels these funds should be used for immediate local needs. Commissioner Teske noted the relevance of the Master Stewardship Agreement benefiting the entire county. Public Comment: Jesse Haag, Planning Director and Floodplain Administrator, advised these funds can be used to purchase emergency floodplain equipment. Commissioner Teske requested that he submit a formal funding request. Jennifer informed the commission that Title III funding was not reauthorized in the continuing resolution and no additional funds will be available in 2025 or 2026. She stressed the importance of these funds with fire season approaching, suggesting they be held until September. Commissioner Teske voted in favor and Commissioners Duram and Hammons voted in opposition and the motion failed. Note: Isaiah Williams, Fire Chief, Trego-Fortine-Stryker Fire Department also submitted a funding request for a brush truck project.
- Request to Extend Asphalt Contract: canceled

10:30 AM **MACo Renewal with Hope Barker:** Present Arthur Schauer, Brian Berreman, Hope Barker, Kevin Peck and Tony Wickham.

Hope Barker presented the 2025–2026 Property and Casualty Insurance Renewal, noting a 5.6% rate increase from the previous year, bringing the total contribution to \$774,549. The renewal reflects 144 employees and updated total insured values (TIVs), including \$30,076,633 for buildings/contents, \$8,111,405 for vehicles, and \$5,927,810 for equipment. Kevin Peck stated that insurance schedules are distributed to departments in January and encouraged feedback by June 15th.

11:30 AM **Public Hearing- Petitions #314877 and #314878 Troy Rural Fire District Petitions for Annexation:** Present was Brian Berreman.

Commissioner Hammons read the public hearing summary of the Troy Rural Fire District petitions for annexation of Little Bear Flats Subdivision Lots 1-12 and tract land as recorded in #314877 and #314878. It was noted four additional Little Bear Flats Subdivision parcel owner annexation requests were received after the initial recorded request. There was no public comment. Commissioner Teske advised that this move forward to a resolution next week.

11:45 AM **Resolution 2025-18 A Resolution Affirming the Lincoln County Clerk and Recorder as the Election Administrator, Overseeing Election Functions:** canceled

11:46 AM **Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Brent Teske, Chairman

ATTEST:
Corrina Brown, Clerk of the Board