

July 23, 2025

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on July 23, 2025, in the Lincoln County Courthouse Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Hammons, Commissioner Duram, Administrative Assistant Nikki Fox and Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown.

Zoom participation: Craig Eaton, Jesse Haag, Kayleen Cook, Melanie Howell, Ray Stout, Ron Hvizdak, Scott Shindledecker, Traci Street and Trevor Mikkelsen.

10:15 AM **Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes. PILT Claims. Board Updates. MCEP Letter of Support. Resolution of Intent to Alter the Boundaries of the EFSA:** Present was Vince Backen.

- Approval of the minutes: **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the July 16, 2025 commissioner meeting minutes. Second by Commissioner Duram. Commissioner Hammons requested Beth Archer's attendance be listed as in person only. No public comment. Motion carried.
- PILT claims: Jackson Murdo & Grant, P.C. legal services totaling \$20,535 dating back to June 2024. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to pay \$20,535 out of PILT. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
Garlington, Lohn, Robinson legal services – planning \$7,514. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the Garlington, Lohn and Robison claim for \$7,514 from PILT. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
Freemyer & Associates, P.C. legal fee – forest service land acquisitions for the Libby shooting range, Troy airport and Yaak Community Center \$6,070.50. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to pay the \$6,070.50 from PILT. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
- MCEP letter of support: Kayleen Cook explained that she and her husband, Jeremy Cook, are working for the Eureka school district to pursue funding for construction of a new K–8 school. She presented a proposed letter from the County Commission in support of the Eureka School District's application for an infrastructure planning grant to address water and waste system needs. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve the letter of support. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Resolution of intent to alter the boundaries of Eureka Fire Service Area was read by Commissioner Duram. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to pass Resolution 2025-27. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Ron Hvizdak discussed growth driving this change and homeowner awareness. No further public comment. Motion carried. Commissioner Teske noted this will move forward with public hearings August 20th and September 17th in Eureka.
- Commissioner Teske announced a public meeting will be held by the EPA regarding Libby groundwater superfund site August 5th from 6-7 pm in the Ponderosa Room at Libby City Hall, offering flyers.
- Board updates: Commissioner Duram reported meeting with Eureka Police Department and town officials regarding a new dog control agreement; the department will handle calls and coordinate with the local shelter under a new MOU. He noted continued training of Eureka dispatchers in Libby. He advised the ARPA grant for the Eureka Fairgrounds sewer main will go out for bid following the County Fair.
Commissioner Hammons noted the City of Libby agreed to maintain the same annual contribution to animal control and offered to assist with next year's spay/neuter clinic. There was a discussion of funding shortfalls and future contract terms. He reported a bid advertisement for roof repairs at the county-owned Flathead Valley Community College building will be published next week.
Commissioner Teske provided updates of the Lincoln County Port Authority, including the swim pond park update, investment planning, a budget amendment, a new storage area agreement and infrastructure work connecting Industry Way and Dawson Way to water, sewer, and roadway systems.
Commissioner Duram noted a request to establish a community greenhouse on public land in the Tobacco Valley Industrial District (TVID) area, with a decision pending.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time Non-Agenda Items:** Present were Matthew Backen, Thomas Lane and Vince Backen.

Vince Backen inquired about vacancies on the Lincoln County Port Authority Board. He was informed that there are currently two openings, received the application form and was advised to submit it by Friday at 5:00 p.m.

Thomas Lane, Fire Chief of West Kootenai, addressed the board regarding their structural fire engine, which has been out of service for approximately nine months. He explained that Trego/Fortine Fire Service Area has temporarily lent them an engine, and after evaluating repair options, the cost to fix their original engine exceeds its value significantly. He advised they have identified a potential replacement engine and are working to coordinate its acquisition. He emphasized the importance of this equipment for the area, which handles 20–45 calls annually and noted that they also now provide EMS service through Eureka Ambulance. He added that they are exploring options to formalize a fire service area or district.

11:00 AM **County HVAC Bid Selection:** Present were Joe Nagle, Josh Durrenberger, Matthew Backen and Vince Backen.

Commissioner Teske presented three submitted bids for county HVAC maintenance services. Bids were received from Comfort Systems USA (\$16,354), Johnson Controls, Inc. (\$32,860) and Columbia Mountain Mechanical (\$10,010). Commissioner Teske noted the wide pricing range and deferred to Joe Nagle, Maintenance Director, to review the proposals in detail. He advised a recommendation and vote will be scheduled for next week's agenda.

11:05 AM **Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Brent Teske, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Corrina Brown, Clerk of the Board