

July 30, 2025

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on July 30, 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: Alaena Woody, Chanel Geer, Daniel Green, Deb Burrell, Jesse Haag, John Hyslop, Scott Shindledecker, Sierra Gustin and Traci Street.

10:00 AM **Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes. PILT Claims. Notice of Mail Ballot for General Election. Discussion on City of Libby Animal Control. HVAC Bid Decision. Board Updates:** Present were Brian Berreman, Joe Nagle, Josh Durrenberger, Melanie Howell, Mike Rooney, Ray Stout, Rocke Gifford and Tony Wickham.

- Approval of the minutes: **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the July 23, 2025 regular commissioner meeting minutes. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
- PILT claims: None
- Notice of Mail Ballot for General Election: Melanie Howell, Election Administrator, sought governing body approval to conduct the 2025 municipal general elections entirely by mail citing cost-effectiveness and administrative feasibility. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Commissioner Duram expressed that he is not in favor of all mail elections. Melanie advised that each race has a very small voter base, making the cost infeasible. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Discussion on City of Libby Animal Control: Commissioner Hammons reported that the City of Libby agreed to increase its contribution to \$15,000 and expressed willingness to assist with the spay/neuter clinic next year. Due to ongoing concerns about costs and long-term commitment, the Board agreed to invite the City of Libby to a future meeting for further discussion before making a final decision on the contract.
- HVAC Bid Decision: Joe Nagle, Maintenance Director, reported that he reviewed all three submitted bids and recommended awarding the contract to Comfort Systems USA. He cited the company's professionalism, thorough inspection of all units and creation of a comprehensive equipment database as factors in his recommendation. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to accept the bid from Comfort Systems USA. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Commissioner Duram noted his positive experience with the company in North County operations. Tony Wickham questioned why the lowest bid was not selected, noting the significant cost difference. Joe explained that the low bidder submitted an incomplete proposal and expressed confusion with the bid process. Commissioner Teske advised the unit pricing in the lowest bid did not match the total. No further public comment. Motion carried.
- Board updates: Commissioner Duram noted the ARPA grant sewer project in Eureka bid request will go out today. Commissioner Hammons noted bid requests went out for the Flathead Valley Community College roof repair.

10:30 AM **Public Comment Time Non-Agenda Items:** Present were Brian Berreman, Melanie Howell, Mike Rooney, Ray Stout, Rocke Gifford and Tony Wickham.

Mike Rooney, representing the Kootenai Valley Trout Club, addressed the Board regarding selenium standards, referencing past discussions with individual commissioners and citing a recent study on increasing selenium levels in local waterways. He cautioned against leaving a legacy of increased contamination and stated that Fish, Wildlife & Parks opposes the County's decision not to support the new, lower selenium limits. Commissioner Teske clarified that the County is not opposed to selenium standards generally but is concerned with the process and site-specific application. He also provided a DEQ handout and noted that public comments are open through August. Commissioner Duram added that he supports site-specific solutions and invited further discussion with Mr. Rooney following the meeting.

Tony Wickham commended the work completed on the Kootenai River Road, noting strong public approval. He expressed safety concern regarding over 40 dead standing trees along that road toward the end of the guardrail. He will contact the state highway department to address it. Commissioner Teske noted the narrow bridge at Bobtail needs addressed.

10:45 AM **Planning Decision Amended Plat of Lot 2 of Kootenai Ridge Subdivision – Green Family Transfer:** Present were Brian Berreman, Jesse Haag and Tony Wickham.

Jesse Haag, Planning Director, presented a family transfer request from Daniel Green to convey a 15.13-acre portion of Lot 2 to his wife, Olivia Green. The request complies with recent legislation allowing family transfers within platted subdivisions. He noted the recommendation is to approve the family transfer exemption subject to three original Kootenai Ridge subdivision conditions. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve the planning department recommendation with the conditions. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Commissioners acknowledged a public comment letter expressing concerns about an existing mechanic business on the property, including noise, air quality, and visual impacts. It was noted that while the business is pre-existing and no zoning restricts its use, it must comply with DEQ and state requirements, particularly regarding septic and hazardous materials. Commissioner Duram emphasized the importance of enforcing existing environmental and business regulations. No further public comment. Motion carried.

10:54 AM **Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Brent Teske, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Corrina Brown, Clerk of the Board