

November 5, 2025

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on November 5, 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: Chanel Geer, Dallas Bowe, Danielle Faris, Darren Short, Feleisha Storkson, Jesse Haag, John Hyslop, Jon Gass, Larry Stewart, Melanie Howell, Ray Stout, Sierra Gustin and Traci Street.

10:00 AM Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes. Correctional Risk Services Agreement Renewal. Approval of Letter in Support of new Medical Director for EMS. DNRC Renewable Resource Grant Extension Request Letter. PILT Claims. Commissioners' Report: Present was Rocky Gifford.

- Approval of the minutes: **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the October 29, 2025 regular commissioner meeting minutes. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Correctional Risk Services Agreement renewal: Discussion regarding the 2025–2026 inmate excess medical insurance and claims administration agreement renewal, continuing the same terms as previous years. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to accept it. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Approval of letter in support of new medical director for EMS: Commissioner Teske introduced a letter of support for Fisher River Valley Fire/Rescue, approving Flathead EMS to provide medical director services. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram for a letter of support for Fisher River. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
- DNRC renewable resource grant extension request letter: Commissioner Teske introduced a letter to the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation requesting a one-year extension of the grant agreement for the Libby Creek Community Water and Wastewater Project, extending the contract term from December 31, 2025 to December 31, 2026. Construction of the project is nearly complete with final improvements expected into the spring 2026 and project closeout anticipated in the summer. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the one year extension request for the Libby Creek Water and Wastewater project. Second by Commissioner Duram. Jon Gass noted the ARPA and MSEP grants are on track for year-end closeout and this extension ensures funds are available for any necessary work in the spring. No further comment. Motion carried.
- PILT claims: Site Services Solutions \$1,385 for septic pumping services at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds. It was noted that this work was performed outside the scope of the original project requiring separate funding. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
Comfort Systems USA \$10,615 for heating and air conditioning replacement at the North Lincoln County Annex. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to pay from PILT \$10,615. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried
Comfort Systems USA \$6,500 for equipment costs. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the Comfort Systems USA invoice for \$6,500. Second by Commissioner Duram. Commissioner Duram advised the work is complete and the system is now fully operational. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Commissioners' Report:
 - Commissioner Hammons advised that the county road policy will be published in the newspaper. He expressed concerns from a Road Supervisor regarding residents plowing snow from private driveways into county rights-of-way or across county roads, creating hazardous ridges and safety risks. He noted that an ordinance will follow to provide legal authority for the Sheriff's Office to enforce violations.
 - Commissioner Duram noted an ongoing water issue, separate from the Fairground sewer system, in an area that requires excavation. He stated that the county crew will handle the digging, line replacement, and restoration work. He *attended the West Kootenai Fire Department Board Meeting. They are getting their new fire engine online. They are also looking at forming a fire district for the West Kootenai area.*

10:15 AM Public Comment Time Non-Agenda Items: Present was Rocky Gifford.

Rocky Gifford, Chairman of TAC, a subcommittee of the Libby City Study Commission, raised concerns about Rustic Avenue, a private road. Residents have complained about fences encroaching on the alley and road maintenance issues. Commissioner Teske clarified that the county has no jurisdiction, as property owners are responsible for upkeep and may utilize a road use agreement; fire access must be maintained.

10:30 AM Behavioral Health Manager/Crisis Coalition Coordinator Position Approval: Present were Dallas Bowe, Kathi Hooper and Rocky Gifford.

Kathi Hooper, Health Department, advised of the job description for the Behavioral Health Manager/Crisis Coalition Coordinator position. Dallas Bowe, Human Resources Director, confirmed that the description had been reviewed. The committee discussed the grant supporting the position, with funding sufficient for a grade 17–19. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve the position grade 17-19 within the grant parameters. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Discussion of the potential structure of the remaining grant-funded position. Kathi noted with just over a year left in the grant term, one full-time position may be supplemented by part-time or contracted support. Rocky Gifford inquired about the source of the grant funding and potential involvement of non-profits. Commissioner Teske explained this grant is funded through a state allocation for mental health initiatives and no other non-profits are involved. No further public comment. Motion carried.

10:45 AM Sheriff's Office Discussion on CAD/RMS Systems: Present were Darren Short, John Hyslop and Rocky Gifford.

Sheriff Short briefed the board on the Sheriff's Office's need to replace the current Motorola Flex computer-aided dispatch (CAD) and records management system, which has become outdated and difficult to maintain. After evaluating several vendors, the department recommended transitioning to Central Square's cloud-based public safety platform. The new system would integrate dispatch, records, and jail management functions within a single, secure environment, reducing IT costs and improving reliability and data sharing across county agencies. The total project cost is approximately \$125,000,

including installation and the first-year subscription, with ongoing annual costs estimated at \$68,000. Funding options, such as the Stonegarden Grant, are being explored, with implementation anticipated to begin in 2026 pending final contract approval. A financial presentation will be provided next week.

11:02 AM **North Star Landing Subdivision – Final Plat Approval Decision:** Present were Jesse Haag and Rocky Gifford.

Jesse Haag, Planning Director, presented the final plat for the North Star Landing Subdivision, summarizing the project details and 29 conditions of approval for 125 lots. He advised that condition 4, requiring a special use permit through the Forest Service for an access easement with a 10% grade, had been satisfied and was no longer needed. Condition 23, regarding parkland dedication, was met through a combination of common area and a cash-in-lieu contribution. He confirmed all requirements were met and recommended final plat approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve the final plat of North Star Landing per planning recommendations. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Larry Stewart noted they are finishing the dumpster area. No further public comment. Motion carried.

11:14 AM **Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Brent Teske, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Corrina Brown, Clerk of the Board