

January 7, 2026

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on January 7, 2026, 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: Chris Bachman, DJ Welch, Feleisha Storkson, Jesse Haag, Melanie Howell, Ray Stout, Roland Jorgenson, Sierra Gustin, Traci Street and Wendy Drake.

09:45 AM Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes. Resolution 2026-01 Establishing Regular Meeting Date of County Commissioners and to Elect a Presiding Officer of the Board for the Ensuing Year. Resolution 2026-02 Establishing Locations for Posting Public Notice. Resolution 2026-03 Set 2026 Holiday, Mileage and Meal Rates. Letter of Support for Tobacco Valley Board of History. Yaak Community Hall Restoration Project Bid Selection. Support to Fund Continued AED Maintenance. PILT Claims. Commissioners' Report:
Present were Brian Berreman, Jim Germany, Scott Shindledecker and Tony Petrusha.

- December 17, 2025 regular meeting minutes: **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the December 17, 2025 minutes. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
- December 19, 2025 8:30 AM emergency session minutes: **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve the minutes. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
- December 19, 2025 1:00 PM emergency session minutes: **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the December 19, 2025 meeting minutes. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
- December 24, 2025 special session meeting minutes: **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve December 24 meeting minutes. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
- December 31, 2025 special session meeting minutes: **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the December 31, 2025 meeting minutes. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Teske presented Resolution 2026-01 establishing Wednesdays as regular meeting date of county commissioners and to elect a presiding officer of the board for the ensuing year. **Motion** to nominate Brent Teske as officer of the commission by Commissioner Hammons. Second by Commissioner Duram. No other nominations. No public comment. Motion carried. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve Resolution 2026-01. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Duram read Resolution 2026-02 establishing locations for posting public notice. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve Resolution 2026-02. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Hammons read Resolution 2026-03 setting 2026 holiday, mileage and meal rates: **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve Resolution 2026-03. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
- The Board reviewed and discussed a proposed letter of support for the Tobacco Valley Board of History's application to the Foundation for Montana History Grant Program, seeking funding for museum boardwalk reconstruction and wagon repairs. Commissioners acknowledged the museum's long-standing lease, volunteer operation and expressed support for the project's role in preserving local history, safety and visitor access. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve the support letter for the Tobacco Valley Board of History grant. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Yaak Community Hall restoration project bid selection: postponed
- Nikki Fox, Administrative Assistant, discussed a pending grant application to replace outdated county AEDs, noting that the application requires commission commitment to ongoing maintenance funding of approximately \$500 annually. The Board agreed to county support to ensure continued AED availability for public safety at various county facilities. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve the grant application. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
- PILT Claims: Advanced Roofing \$87,134.16 remaining contract balance related to roof work at the Lincoln County campus at Flathead Valley Community College (FVCC). Commissioner Hammons noted the project's completion and mentioned a future proposal for annual maintenance and inspection moving forward. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve the PILT claim. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Commissioners' Report:
 - Commissioner Teske reported receipt of a letter from the Heritage Museum advising that, due to unforeseen circumstances, it will not apply for the Montana Tourism Grant in January 2026 but intends to pursue a future grant cycle.
 - Commissioner Hammons reported that an RFP will be issued for remaining damage repairs inside the college building, plans to discuss a repair and maintenance contract next week and ongoing lease renewal negotiations with FVCC to support spring enrollment.
 - Commissioner Duram reported on an SRS funding meeting, noting funding of approximately \$3.4 million per year and an upcoming membership drive. He mentioned receipt of an invitation from HDR to tour waste and energy plants in Tampa, Florida, at the end of the month.

10:15 AM Public Comment Time Non-Agenda Items: Present were Brian Berreman, Jim Germany, Scott Shindledecker and Tony Petrusha.

Tony Petrusha, representing Kootenai Winter Sports regarding the Turner Mountain Ski area, requested ongoing road maintenance on Pipe Creek Road to ensure safe access for ski traffic, including scraping the road Friday ahead of the ski hill season opening, anticipating approximately 200 visitors on Saturday.

Traci Street, reporter for Tobacco Valley News, requested an update on fairgrounds electric. Commissioner Duram advised there is no update on the electrical work, as sewer work is being completed first, with final connection to the town pending before proceeding with the power installation.

10:30 AM Park Board Special Levy Ballot Approval – Jim Germany: Present were Brian Berreman, Jim Germany, Kathleen Sheffield, Scott Shindledecker and Tony Petrusha.

Jim Germany, Libby Park District, presented draft ballot language for a special levy to fund operations and maintenance of the aquatic facility, noting it will appear on the school ballot (the park district shares the same district boundaries). Commissioner Teske reviewed the draft and discussion focused on updating the language to reflect a specific dollar amount rather than mills and removing references to bond issuance. Jim will review the draft with the treasurer and election administrator and a final version will be submitted to Nikki Fox for a resolution.

10:45 AM Applying for VOCA Grant – Victim Advocate: Present were Brian Berreman, Dan Broers, Kathleen Sheffield and Scott Shindledecker.

Kathleen Sheffield, Victim Witness Advocate, discussed the VOCA grant opportunity, which provides up to \$250,000 with a 20% local match through in-kind contributions such as office costs, administration and volunteer hours. She summarized services provided under the current two-year grant (expiring June 2026), with more than 508 people receiving assistance and requested approval to apply for the next cycle. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to move forward with the Victim Advocate applying for the VOCA grant. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comments. Motion carried.

11:00 AM Public Hearing: Resolution 2026-04 Superseding Resolution 2024-36 Conveyance of a County-Owned Fee Strip to FS: Present were Brian Berreman, Dan Broers, Ken Davis, Noah Pyle and Scott Shindledecker.

Commissioner Teske opened the public hearing on Resolution 2026-04 to rescind Resolution 2024-36 and expand the conveyance to encompass lots 1, 7 and 8 of a county-owned fee strip. Noah Pyle, Land Specialist, presented the road abandonment request and referenced email confirmation from Nate Gassman District Ranger of the Kootenai National Forest, guaranteeing landowners perpetual access via Forest Service Road #14433/ Nixon Road which remains open year-round for use by the affected property owners, with no permit required. The email also clarified that while landowners may make improvements to the road, such as widening or adding gravel, prior authorization would be required for those activities. Dan Broers, representing the property owners, expressed no concerns with the abandonment of the currently overgrown and unused road, provided that Nixon Road remains available for perpetual access. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve Resolution 2026-04 with the condition that we get a letter from the Forest Service to go with it stating they have no intention of closing Nixon Road #14433. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No additional public comment. Motion carried.

11:30 AM Minor Subdivision Review/Decision; Elk Sky & Osler – Planning: Present were Brian Berreman, Ken Davis and Kristin Smith.

Kristin Smith, Planning, presented the Elk Sky subdivision, dividing 20 acres into four 5-acre lots north of Eureka. Planning staff recommended preliminary approval with nineteen conditions, noting minimal impacts and required water and road provisions. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to grant preliminary plat approval for the Elk Sky subdivision with nineteen conditions. Second by Commissioner Duram. Discussion included water rights and filing a notice of intent with DNRC. Ken Davis clarified well depths on a nearby property. No additional public comment. Motion carried.

Kristin presented the Osler subdivision, proposing to divide a property in the Dickey Lake community, 15 miles south of Eureka, into two lots. The site is mostly level, treeless and has historically been used for hay production. Existing water rights to Dicky Creek will be transferred to the owners. Planning staff recommended preliminary plat approval subject to nineteen standard conditions, including updates to covenants, road access and water use provisions. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve the preliminary plat of Osler subdivision with nineteen conditions. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.

11:52 AM Adjourned

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Brent Teske, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Corrina Brown, Clerk of the Board