

**August 26, 2026**

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on August 26, 2026, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Duram, Commissioner Hammons, County Administrator Matt Williams and Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown.

Zoom participation: Alaena Woody, Anthony Jenson, Bree Dahm, Chanel Geer, Chris, Christina Schertel, Jeff Koskela, Jesse Haag, Jessica Jenson, Joel Graves, Katie Anderson, Michael Miller, Neil R, Ray Stout, RWCFLC, Sandra, Sarah Long, Scott Shindledecker, Sierra Gustin, Suzanne Resch, Tony Wickham and Wendy Drake.

10:00 AM **Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes. PILT Claims. Claim Approvals. Board Appointments. Federal Disaster Subrecipient Funding Agreement. Notices to Proceed. Grant Approvals. Letters of Support. County Administrator's Report. Proclamations & Commendations. Commissioners Report:** Present were Alyssa Ruttenbur, Ann German, Ann Holcombe, Brian Berreman, Charlotte Peterson, Christie Silva, DJ Welch, Linda Ralph, Mary Nelson, Patty Rambo and Rosalie Warboys.

- Approval of regular meeting minutes: **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve the August 19, 2026, meeting minutes. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
- PILT claims: Leavitt Great West Insurance Services, LLC \$50. Cobra consulting service. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the PILT claim for \$50 for Leavitt Great West Insurance Services. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Board Appointments: Lincoln County Weed Board received no applicants for their open position. Upper Yaak Fire Service Area received no applicants for their open position. Libby Park District received one application for their open position- Patty Rambo. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve Patty Rambo to the Libby Park Board. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
- The Board discussed a federally funded subaward agreement between the Montana Department of Emergency Services and Lincoln County. The Federal Disaster Subrecipient Funding Agreement provides assistance with the local match for eligible disaster-related projects associated with the December flooding and Presidential Disaster Declaration. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to accept the federally funded subaward grant agreement. Second by Commissioner Duram. Tony Wickham asked if this funding applied to 310 Law or other county permitting requirements. It was clarified that the funding is specific to individual disaster-related projects for county reimbursement. No further public comment. Motion carried.
- Notices to Proceed:
  1. Discussion of a notice to proceed for the Eureka Airport pavement maintenance project, funded through a Federal Aviation Administration grant with additional state aviation funding to help preserve the airport pavement. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to enter the notice to proceed. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
  2. Discussion of a notice to proceed for the Eureka Airport weather camera installation under an MDT Aeronautics grant. The weather cameras will provide pilots with visual information on current airport conditions. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to sign the notice to proceed with the MDT cameras. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Grant Approvals:
  1. The Commission considered an application for a \$175,000 Federal Assistance Grant (SF-424) for the Eureka Airport REILS project to update airport plans. The local match would be \$8,750 if the full grant amount is awarded. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to apply for the federal assistance grant. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried
  2. Discussion of Task Order No. 001 for professional debris monitoring services from Rostan Solutions, LLC, which was selected through the bid process to monitor disaster debris removal and disposal. The task order shall not exceed \$200,000 without prior written authorization. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the task order number one for the professional services task order schedule A for Rostan. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
  3. The Commission reviewed a subcontractor agreement between the Flathead City-County Health Department and Lincoln County Health Department for the Montana Tobacco Use Prevention Program (MTUP). The agreement continues funding for a tobacco use prevention program and employee, with services from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, and a maximum amount of \$50,800. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to enter an agreement with the Montana Tobacco Use Prevention Program. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Commissioners Report:
  - Commissioner Duram reported on the county fair, including concerns with toilet flushing due to low water pressure. He also noted an air-conditioning and drainage issue at the Eureka Annex and provided updates on insurance and activities at the Eureka Sports Park, including recent vandalism concerns.
- County Administrator's Report: Matt provided an update on election activities, noting the ballot was submitted to the Secretary of State and preparations remain on schedule. He also reported attending the Eureka County Fair and meeting with the local Republican Club.

10:30 AM **Public Comment Time Non-Agenda Items:** Present were Alyssa Ruttenbur, Ann German, Ann Holcombe, Brian Berreman, Charlotte Peterson, Christie Silva, DJ Welch, Kathi Hooper, Linda Ralph, Mary Nelson, Patty Rambo, Rosalie Warboys and Tony Whickham.

Charlotte Peterson, an election judge, expressed concerns regarding the ongoing investigation and leave status of the Election Administrator, the upcoming general election, communication with election judges and transparency within the Election Administrator's office. She requested answers and assurance that preparations are on track for a free and fair election. Commissioner Teske stated the Commission is awaiting the outcome of an independent investigation and will not intervene, allowing the process to run its course.

Rosalie Warboys, an election judge, asked who was involved in submitting the ballot information to the Secretary of State. Matt Williams confirmed that he and Sierra were the only individuals with access to the system and completed the required submission in a timely manner.

Christi Silva, an election judge and Secretary of the Republican Central Committee, expressed concern about the length of the ongoing election-related investigation and lack of information. Commissioner Teske acknowledged the concern and

reiterated that the Commission could not intervene in the investigation but could ask the County Attorney whether any status information could be provided.

**10:45 AM Libby Landfill opening of bids / Equipment Lease:** Present were Alyssa Rutenbur, Ann Holcombe, Brian Berreman, DJ Welch, Dustina Deans, Kathi Hooper, Linda Ralph, Mary Nelson, Patty Rambo and Rosalie Warboys.

Kathi Hooper, Health Director, reported that no bids were received for the Libby Landfill building replacement project after the project was divided into concrete, electrical, and structural components. The Commission discussed extending the bid deadline for two weeks to allow additional contractors an opportunity to submit bids.

DJ Welch, Troy Road Forman, presented purchase and lease options for a skid steer for Road District 2. The purchase price was \$93,250, or a five-year lease at \$14,514 annually, with a \$42,925 residual value at the end of the lease. The Commission discussed using Road Fund revenue generated through the Schedule A Road Agreement with the U.S. Forest Service to fund the equipment. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the lease agreement with John Deer funded by the road fund where the money has been put in. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public commenting on leasing a skid steer from Pape Machinery. Motion carried.

**11:00 AM Public Hearing: Preliminary FY 2026/2027 Lincoln County Budget:** Present were Anthony Jenson, Brian Berreman, Dallas Bowe, Darren Short, Dustina Deans, Feleisha Storkson, Jesse Haag, Kerri Teisberg, Kristin Smith and Wendy Drake.

Public hearing: presentation of the preliminary Fiscal Year 2026–2027 Lincoln County budget and review of levy values, appropriations, property tax revenue, cash available and millage rates. Wendy Drake, Finance Director, provided clarification on the budget figures and tax revenues. Dustina Deans, Library Director, questioned the Library District's voted millage rate, which was discussed in relation to the state's new floating mill provisions. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to accept the preliminary FY 2026/27 Lincoln County budget. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried. Commissioner Teske noted final budget numbers to be addressed at the next budget meeting.

**11:17 AM Kings Tracts minor subdivision review and approval. Everett Subdivision final plat review and approval. - Planning:** Present were Brian Berreman, Feleisha Storkson, Jesse Haag, Kristin Smith, Melody Shrader and Vel Shaver.

Kristin Smith presented the King Tracks two-lot subdivision proposal, including shared access from Highway 37 and individual sewer systems. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to grant preliminary plat approval to King's Tracks subdivision subject to the 16 conditions and based on the findings in the staff report. Second by Commissioner Hammons. Discussion of the proposed lot configuration and future development concerns. No public comments. Motion was approved 2–1, with Commissioners Teske and Hammons voting in favor and Commissioner Duram opposed.

Jesse Haag presented the Everett Subdivision final plat. Staff recommended approval after all 10 conditions of preliminary approval were met. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve the final plat of Everett Subdivision. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.

**11:45 AM Discussion of SUDs Allocation:** Present were Alisha Barrows, Amy Fantozzi, Anthony Jenson, Brandon Holzer, Darren Short, Deb Burrell, Katie Davis, Kindra Lima-Hageness, Melody Schrader, Trevor Sheasby, Vanessa Williamson and Vel Shaver.

Matt Williams noted the state representative had confirmed the Commission may allocate the Substance Use Disorder (SUD) funds at its discretion. This meeting was to hear testimony and referenced the county alcohol tax guidelines.

Commissioner Duram expressed a preference for supporting organizations working in Lincoln County and emphasized the importance of youth prevention, noting the significant impact of alcohol and drug abuse.

Commissioner Hammons expressed a preference for prevention while recognizing the importance of coordination between prevention and treatment services.

Trevor Sheasby, Oxytocin participant, spoke about his nearly two years in treatment and credited Oxytocin with providing accountability, structure and support.

Vel Shaver, LC Unite for Youth Project Director, emphasized the importance of prevention, intervention and treatment working together and described Unite for Youth as a comprehensive prevention program.

Maggie Anderson, LC Unite for Youth, emphasized the organization's support for the full behavioral health continuum and highlighted letters of support from educators, law enforcement, mental health providers and youth-serving organizations.

Joel Graves, Eureka Superintendent of Schools, expressed support for Unite for Youth and credited the organization with helping create a culture shift toward prevention in the school community.

Christina Schertel, Troy Superintendent of Schools, highlighted the organization's community events and their ability to connect youth and families with a variety of community services.

Melody Schrader spoke about her longstanding involvement with Unite for Youth and its role in changing social norms, supporting families and promoting prevention.

Brandon Holzer, Lincoln County Narcotics Detective, supported both treatment and prevention, emphasizing the need to prevent substance use before it begins.

Amy Fantozzi, Board of Health, presented data regarding evidence-based prevention and treatment practices and noted that mental health and substance use remain top community concerns. She highlighted Unite for Youth's countywide partnerships and prevention efforts.

Kindra Lima-Hageness, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, emphasized the lack of local treatment services for youth and the need to use alcohol tax funds to address youth substance use and treatment needs within Lincoln County.

Vanessa Williamson, Lincoln County Probation Specialist, reported increasing substance-use concerns among youth evaluated in the emergency room and emphasized the lack of local treatment resources. She recommended bringing stakeholders together to evaluate current programs and develop a workable local system.

Katy Davis, Treatment Court, emphasized that funding should remain in Lincoln County and support prevention, treatment and additional local services to address the community's needs.

Maggie Anderson noted Unite for Youth's implementation of evidence-based programs, including Teen Mental Health First Aid, Sources of Strength, Second Step and Botvin LifeSkills in local schools.

Commissioner Teske advised this matter will be continued with a follow-up meeting to allow other providers to participate.

12:10 PM **Youth Detention Agreement - Bonner County, Idaho:** Present were Anthony Jenson, Darren Short, Kindra Lima-Hageness, Melody Shrader and Vel Shaver.

The Commission reviewed the two-year Youth Detention Agreement between Lincoln County, Montana, and Bonner County, Idaho, effective through September 30, 2028. The agreement provides for a \$250 per-day rate for juveniles housed at the Bonner County Juvenile Detention Center and includes access to medical, chemical dependency and mental health assessments. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the Juvenile detention agreement between Lincoln County, Montana and Bonner county, Idaho. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.

12:13 PM **Adjourned**

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Brent Teske, Chairman

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Corrina Brown, Clerk of the Board