

## September 30, 2026

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on September 30, 2026, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Hammons and Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown.

Zoom participation: Commissioner Duram, County Administrator Matt Williams, Alaena Woody, Anthony Jenson, Bri Hilyer, Chanel Geer, Dallas Bowe, Jessica Jenson, Jonathan R. Jameson, Katie Anderson, KMS, Michael Miller, Neil R, Nikki Meyer, Ray Stout, Roland Jorgenson, Sierra Gustin and Wendy Drake.

10:00 AM **Administrative Issues/Old Business: Approve Minutes. PILT Claims. Claim Approvals. Notices to Proceed. Grant Approvals. Letters of Support. Proclamations & Commendations. County Administrator's Report. Commissioners Report:** Present were Amanda Harcourt, Brian Berreman, Laura Parker, Makayla Caudill, Patty Rambo and Rocky Gifford.

- Approval of Minutes: **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the September 23, 2026, minutes. Second by Commissioner Teske. No public comment. Motion carried. *Note: Commissioner Duram experienced a microphone issue during this item yet was able to vote.*
- PILT Claims: Rick's Total Tree Service \$2,000 for removal of a dead ponderosa pine tree at the college and cleanup of a potentially hazardous cottonwood tree with large branches overhanging the area. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to pay the \$2,000 for the removal of the Ponderosa pine tree and clean-up of the cottonwood. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Claim Approvals: none
- Notices to Proceed: none
- Grant Approvals: none
- Letters of Support: none
- Proclamations & Commendations: None
- County Administrator's Report: Administrator Williams advised that he, Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown, Kristie Silva, and Veronica Bovee-Anderson attended Election Administrator training in Polson. The Election Office remains on schedule with all statutory deadlines. Absentee ballot materials are being prepared, regular voter registration closes October 5 at 5:00 p.m., in-person absentee voting begins October 5, and absentee ballots will begin being mailed October 9. Staff are contacting Election Judges to confirm availability and will fill vacancies as needed, with input requested from the Republican and Democratic Central Committees.
- Commissioners Report:
  - Commissioner Teske read a resignation letter from the Honorable J. C. Sheffield, Justice of the Peace, effective 5:00 p.m. Friday, November 20, 2026. Administrator Williams reported that he is awaiting guidance from the County Attorney regarding the appropriate term for the interim appointment due to the upcoming election. Letters of interest will be accepted once the legal requirements are clarified. Commissioner Teske advised that the contractor, Road Products, LLC, requested suspension of work on the Libby Airport runway resurfacing and restriping project due to wet and cold weather conditions unsuitable for crack sealing and pavement marking. Work is expected to resume in spring 2027. **Motion** by Commission Hammons to approve the suspension of work. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried
  - Commissioner Duram reported attending the MACo meeting with the Administrator Williams. Discussions included PILT funding for the upcoming year. He advised a senator is preparing documentation to clarify the anticipated PILT balance and provide additional information for county planning.

10:15 AM **ARP Updates:** Present were Amanda Harcourt, Ann German, Brian Berreman, Laura Parker, Makayla Caudill, Patty Rambo, Rocky Gifford and Tony Wickham.

Amanda Harcourt, ARP, reported on completed and ongoing activities since July 2026, including 81 hotline calls, 257 utility locate tickets and approximately 70 site visits. Site activities included 164 Jennings Hall Road – flood response and Libby Creek embankment; 700 Idaho – ASA Wood School west wing demolition; 31 Woodway – windstorm tree removal and sampling; 289 Avenue B – quick response and abatement; 113 White – wall demolition; 811 California – quick response and soil sampling; 209 Cherry Creek – house demolition; ongoing communication with Noble at the Port; 933 Farm to Market Road – exterior sampling for development; 1359 Sunset – NOPEC sampling; 217 Dawson – NOPEC attic removal and exterior sampling; 141 St. Regis Hall Road – flood response sediment sampling; and 31312 U.S. Highway 2, Libby – Chinese restaurant demolition. ARP continues communication regarding development at a property in Troy. She reported that the new staging yard is complete, with procurement documents being finalized to relocate materials from the old staging yard. ARP is working on outreach to property owners and realtors regarding NOC/NOPEC properties, status letters and post-abatement or sampling documentation. ARP is addressing property-record challenges associated with new development and subdivisions, including approximately 5,847 new addresses identified in Libby and Troy since 2019, which will be reviewed and incorporated into the ARP database.

10:30 AM **Public Comment Time Non-Agenda Items:** Present were Ann German, Brian Berreman, Laura Parker, Makayla Caudill, Patty Rambo, Rocky Gifford and Tony Wickham.

Tony Wickham addressed the Commission regarding Melanie Howell's administrative leave and the length of the related investigation. He expressed his view that the prolonged investigation and continued paid administrative leave were placing an unnecessary financial burden on the County and questioned the Board of County Commissioners' leadership, accountability and oversight of the matter. He stated that continued delays could contribute to further public actions, including potential recall efforts or litigation.

Ann German, a Lincoln County resident and registered voter, commented on the role of the Board of Commissioners in investigations. Drawing on her experience as a criminal defense attorney, she noted that criminal investigations may involve events that occurred months or years earlier and may require additional time to gather evidence or locate

witnesses. She stated that Commissioners should not interfere with or direct investigations or prosecutorial decisions as such matters are generally outside the Commissioners’ role.

Rocky Gifford addressed the Commission with a question regarding Tony Wickham’s affiliation with Melanie Howell.

10:45 AM **Amend FY 2025-26 Lincoln County Budget:** Present were Brian Berreman, Rocky Gifford, Tony Wickham and Wendy Drake.

Administrator Williams read Resolution 2026-28 approving the 2025/26 budget amendments as listed. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve Resolution 2026-28 for the budget amendment. Second by Commissioner Duram. The Commission discussed that the amendments address budget overruns related to unanticipated expenditures and do not reflect a cash shortfall. They are primarily housekeeping adjustments due to grant funding and disaster recovery expenditures occurring across different budget cycles. The budget did not anticipate approximately \$1.8 million in emergency disaster-related expenditures, which are largely eligible for FEMA reimbursement and grant funding. No public comment. Motion carried.

11:00 AM **Final Plats for (a) Nedved Subdivision, (b) MT Lakes IV Subdivision, (c) North View Subdivision, and (d) Tamaracks at ACM- Planning:** Present were Brad Borden, Brian Berreman, Byron Sanderson, Chelsea Sanderson, Jesse Haag, Kristin Smith, Rocky Gifford and Tony Wickham

Jesse Haag, Planning Director, presented the final plat and reported that all conditions had been met, recommending final approval. The two lots remain undeveloped and are subject to a deed restriction prohibiting further subdivision. Road and driveway improvements must meet applicable requirements, including emergency access standards. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to grant final approval of Nedved Subdivision. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.

Jesse Haag, Planning Director, reviewed the final plat for Montana Lakes 4 Subdivision and reported that all conditions of preliminary approval had been met, recommending final plat approval. The subdivision creates two residential lots from an existing 25-acre parcel off Klabo Drive. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve final plat of Montana Lakes 4 Subdivision. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.

Kristin Smith, Planning, advised that North View Subdivision is a two-lot subdivision located along Highway 37 near Eureka. The subdivision received preliminary approval subject to nine conditions, all of which have been met. Final plat approval was recommended. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the final plat for the North View Subdivision. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.

Kristin Smith, Planning, reported that the Tamaracks at ACM Subdivision near Middle Thompson Lake on ACM Road had met all remaining conditions for final plat approval. A maintenance bond was provided, and an SIA was requested for approximately \$21,000 in remaining road work, including contingency. Driveway exhibits and fire access improvements were also addressed, with the Fire Department recommending approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve final plat for Tamaracks at ACM Subdivision. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.

11:11 AM **Adjourned**

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Brent Teske, Chairman

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