November 4, 2026

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session on November 4, 2026, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby Montana. Present were Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Hammons, Commissioner Duram, County Administrator Matt Williams and Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown.

Zoom participation: Alaena Woody, Alisha Burrows, Chanel Geer, Dallas Bowe, Danielle Faris, Jesse Haag, Jessica Jenson, John Boyke, John Stears, Katie Anderson, KMS, Nikki Meyer, Patty Rambo, Ray Stout, Sandra Epps, Sierra Gustin, TJ Boswell and Wendy Drake.

10:00 AM **Moment of Silence. Resolution Honoring the Life and Service of Deputy Ryan Terpsma, Killed in the Line of Duty on October 30, 2026.** Present were Alaena Woody, Amanda Harcourt, Ann German, Anthony Jenson, Boyd White, Bree Dahm, Brian Berreman, Chanel Geer, Dallas Bowe, Darren Short, Diane, Jeffrey Zwang, Jesse Haag, Karen Hyslop, Kathi Hooper, Marcia Boris, Mike Bradeen, Patty Rambo, Robin Blumberg, Rocke Gifford, Scott Shindledecker, Sedaris Carlberg, Tony Wickham, Tonya Dixon and Tricia Brooks.

Commissioner Duram read Resolution 2026-32, honoring the life and service of Lincoln County Deputy Sheriff Ryan Terpsma, who was killed in the line of duty on October 30, 2026, while responding to a disturbance call in Eureka. The resolution also acknowledged the death of community member Merrisa Walker and extended condolences to her family and friends. The Board recognized Deputy Terpsma's service and sacrifice, extended condolences to his family and the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office and directed that signed copies of the resolution be presented to his family and the Sheriff's Office. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve Resolution 2026-32. Second by Commissioner Hammons with unanimous approval. Sheriff Short expressed appreciation for the outpouring of support received from the community, neighboring law enforcement agencies and individuals across the nation during this difficult time. He acknowledged the impact of the tragedy on the Sheriff's Office and the communities of Eureka, Libby, Troy, and Lincoln County. Sheriff Short also noted that he had received calls from across the country, including a call from FBI Director Kash Patel offering condolences and assistance from the FBI with the ongoing investigation and any potential prosecution.

10:05 AM **The Board held a moment of silence in honor of those who lost their lives.**

Administrator Williams read Governor Greg Gianforte's proclamation ordering all flags in Montana to be flown at half-staff from sunrise November 2 through sunset November 6, 2026, in honor of Lincoln County Sheriff's Deputy Ryan Terpsma, who was killed in the line of duty on October 30, 2026. The Governor and First Lady extended their condolences and asked Montanans to keep Deputy Terpsma's family, friends, loved ones, and the residents of Lincoln County in their thoughts and prayers. Rocke Gifford paid tribute to Deputy Terpsma's sacrifice, called for greater public awareness and expressed gratitude for the Sheriff's Office's service.

10:15 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 Ann German, Brian Berreman, Jesse Haag, Patty Rambo, Rocke Gifford, Roxanna Parker and Tony Wickham.

- Approval of regular meeting minutes: **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the October 28, 2026, meeting minutes. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Approval of October 29, 2026, special litigation meeting minutes: **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve. Commissioner Teske seconded. Commissioner Hammons abstained, as he was not present at the meeting. No public comment. Commissioners Duram and Teske voted aye.
- PILT Claims: Garlington, Lohn & Robinson, PLLP: $552.50 claim for legal services related to the Island Lake lakeshore permit appeal. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to pay the $552.50. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
  Montana Mold Dogs, LLC**:** $5,500 claim for mold detection services at the Lincoln County Community College building. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the PILT claim for $5,500 for the college. Second by Commissioner Duram. Administrator Williams reported that K9 mold detection identified additional areas of mold throughout the building, including areas not previously identified. Kirby Environmental collected samples for laboratory testing to help define the extent of remediation needed and potentially narrow the project scope. No public comment. Motion carried.
- Claim Approvals: **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve the claims. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comments. Motion carried.
- Notices to Proceed: none
- Grant Approvals: none
- Letters of Support: Administrator Williams reviewed Resolution 2026-31 approved November 3, 2026, authorizing sworn election judges to retrieve and maintain custody of ballots for the November 3, 2026, General Election. He reported that ballots were retrieved without incident by the Montana Highway Patrol in Eureka and by election judges Dr. Katherine Schlater and Ernie Anderson in Troy and Libby.
  Administrator Williams read Resolution 2026-33 appointing special deputy county attorneys to assist in prosecuting State of Montana v. Dye, at no charge for attorney time. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to approve Resolution 2026-33. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.
- County Administrator's Report: none
- Commissioners Report:
  - Commissioner Teske read an MDT notice announcing a proposed reconstruction project on approximately half a mile of Highway 56, south of Savage Lake, from near Chase Cutoff Road to Felix Creek with public comment invited.
- The Board recognized and thanked Commissioner Hammons for his dedicated service to Lincoln County and his constituents, noting this was his final meeting as commissioner.

10:30 AM **Economic Development Proposal, City of Troy:** Present were Ann German, Brian Berreman, Jesse Haag, Patty Rambo, Rocke Gifford, Roxanna Parker and Tony Wickham.

Commissioner Hammons introduced the City of Troy's economic development proposal to upgrade its website to better promote tourism and the South Lincoln County area. Mayor Boswell explained that the proposed website would promote Troy's recreational amenities and nearby attractions, encourage tourism and local spending, and support economic growth and investment in the area. Commissioners discussed the $18,000 proposal and confirmed funding would come from the County's economic development fund. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve economic development proposal for the City of Troy for $18,000 from the ED fund. Second by Commissioner Duram. Jesse Haag supported the proposal, noting the website would benefit the broader area by promoting resources, supporting workforce housing efforts, and assisting with recruitment and economic growth. Ann German encouraged the City of Troy to ensure the updated website includes current contact information for city officials and law enforcement to improve public communication. No further public comment. Motion carried.

10:45 AM **Public Comment Time Non-Agenda Items:** Present were Ann German, Brian Berreman, Patty Rambo, Rocke Gifford, Sedaris Carlberg and Tony Wickham.

Patty Rambo commended County Administrator Matt Williams for his professionalism, leadership, and effective handling of election operations, noting how smoothly the process went.
Rocke Gifford praised County Administrator Matt Williams for his leadership and the positive feedback received regarding the conduct of the election.
John Stears expressed concerns regarding the incinerator feasibility study, public involvement, missing meeting recordings and the availability of previously completed studies. He requested greater transparency, public input and clear project requirements. Commissioner Teske clarified that the administrative facility study was removed because the proposed site had been demolished and was no longer available.

11:00 AM **Elk Sky Final Plat Review & Approval - Planning:** Present were Brian Berreman, Kristin Smith, Patty Rambo, Rocke Gifford and Tony Wickham.

Kristin Smith, Planning Department, presented the Elk Sky final plat, a four-lot subdivision approximately 8.5 miles north of Eureka on Airport Road. All four lots have individual water and septic systems and has satisfied all 19 conditions of approval. **Motion** by Commissioner Hammons to approve the Elk Sky Subdivision. Second by Commissioner Duram. No public comment. Motion carried.

11:15 AM **Election Report:** Present were Brian Berreman, Joe Nagle, Patty Rambo, Rocke Gifford and Tony Wickham.

Administrator Williams reported on the successful conduct of the November 3 election, thanking the Montana Highway Patrol, election judges and county staff for their assistance. He reported that results were uploaded and reconciled, ballots were secured and no major issues occurred. He reviewed election training efforts and explained the provisional ballot process. The Commissioners thanked all staff and judges for their efforts. Tony Wickham asked about election costs compared to budget and the number of ballots requiring review due to improper markings or signatures. Administrator Williams stated that a full cost report would be provided once accounting is complete to the Secretary of State as well as the county and indicated that improperly marked ballots did not appear to be a significant issue.

11:30 AM **ARP Material Movement Bid Award. Green Box Transition Discussion:** Present were Amanda Harcourt, Brian Berreman, Kathi Hooper, Matthew Stull and Patty Rambo.

Amanda Harcourt, ARP, reported that two bids were received for the ARP material movement project from TCI and Noble Excavating. Both bids were reviewed and determined to meet all requirements outlined in the scope of work. Harcourt recommended awarding the bid to TCI, as it submitted the lower-cost proposal. **Motion** by Commissioner Duram to award the materials move bid to TCI. Second by Commissioner Hammons. No public comment. Motion carried.

Kathi Hooper and Matthew Stull provided an update on the transition of Green Box site operations from Evergreen Disposal to county-managed services. They reported that two leased trucks have been received, drivers hired and new green boxes purchased in preparation for the transition. The county planned to begin staging its containers Tuesday, following Evergreen's final day of service on Monday. The sites will remain closed on Wednesday in observance of the holiday and resume the regular operating schedule thereafter. Kathi noted the primary limitation will be the number of operating hours permitted under the truck leases. They will monitor usage, with the possibility of adding a third truck in the future to provide backup capacity. They acknowledged that there may be a learning curve during the transition but indicated that contingency plans are in place for potential equipment issues. Commissioner Teske requested an update after the county has had time to evaluate the new operation.

Commissioner Hammons was recognized for his approximately 12 years of public service, with appreciation expressed for his dedication and contributions to the community. Commissioner Hammons adjourned the meeting.

11:37 AM **Adjourned**

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Brent Teske, Chair of the Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST: _____
Corrina Brown, County Clerk & Recorder