

Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County
Agenda for January 13, 2026

9:00 Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance

11:00 Joy Johnson, Lincoln County Veterans Service Officer, to provide an update

11:30 Kenny Wheeler with Arriba Wind to provide an update

1. Approve the minutes from the January 8, 2026, meeting
2. Review the December 2025 Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for County General, Public Health, Capital Projects, Conservation Trust, E911, Landfill, Library, Lodging/Tourism, Human Services, Road & Bridge and Individual Road Districts
3. Review the December 2025 reports from the Colorado Counties Casualty and Property Pool and Workers' Compensation Pool
4. Review the December 2025 reports from the County Assessor, County Clerk & Recorder, County Sheriff and County Treasurer
5. County Commissioner reports
6. County Attorney's report
7. County Administrator's report
8. Old Business
9. New Business

12:00 Adjourn for 2025

1:00 Call to Order and reorganize for 2026

- a. Elect Chairman and Vice-chairman
- b. Designate a public place to post meeting notices pursuant to C.R.S. §24-6-402(2)(c)
- c. Designate a representative for the County Health Pool
- d. Approve appointments and holidays
- e. Set the county's vacation and sick leave policy pursuant to the Lincoln County Personnel Manual
- f. Set the E911 surcharge pursuant to C.R.S. §29-11-103(3)(a)
- g. Approve Lincoln County's investment policy
- h. Appoint the County Administrator as the County Budget Officer pursuant to C.R.S. §29-1-04

1. County Commissioner reports
2. County Administrator's report
3. Old business
4. New business

The Board of Lincoln County Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. on January 13, 2026, for the annual reorganization meeting. Chairman Wayne Ewing, commissioners Robert Safranek and Terry Jaques, county administrator Jacob Piper, and clerk of the Board Corinne M. Lengel attended.

Chairman Ewing called the meeting to order and then led a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Jaques moved to approve the January 8, 2026, meeting minutes. Mr. Safranek seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The commissioners reviewed the December 2025 statements of revenues and expenditures for the General, Public Health, Capital Projects, Conservation Trust, E911, Landfill, Library, Lodging/Tourism, Human Services, Road & Bridge funds, individual road district reports, and the December 2025 Colorado Counties Casualty and Property Pool and Workers' Compensation Pool reports.

They also reviewed the December 2025 reports from the Assessor, Clerk & Recorder, Sheriff, and Treasurer.

Mr. Jaques reported attending a virtual presentation on January 9 regarding the kickoff of the Eastern Plains Renewable Energy Impact Study, which covered a project overview, pre-meeting survey findings, and group discussion. The consultant, Energeia, and its team have one year to complete the study, which should deliver a valuable tool to assist communities on the Eastern Plains. Mr. Jaques also spoke with Doug Insley, who works for one of the local windfarms, regarding new 30" and 36" culverts in Oklahoma at less than half the original cost. Mr. Jaques and Bruce Walters agreed that the road districts should combine purchases to reduce shipping costs, estimated at \$2,600 per semi-load.

Mr. Jaques attended the Republican Central Committee meeting the evening of January 12. He met with the District 2 road crew earlier this morning. Before the commissioner meeting, Mr. Jaques reviewed the proposed design for the County Highway 109 concrete entrance to the Sustrich property in Genoa with Travis Miller.

Mr. Ewing checked some roads by the county landfill on his way to the January 8 commissioner meeting. He and Chris Monks discussed his observations. On January 9, Mr. Ewing and Mr. Monks discussed the snow received in the southern areas of the district, plowing, and pickup tires. Mr. Ewing re-signed some papers at the Assessor's office. Mr. Ewing picked up pickup tires in Goodland, Kansas, on January 12 and delivered them to the shop. He and Extension Director Wayne Miller discussed the cargo trailer. Mr. Ewing attended the Republican Central Committee meeting that evening.

Mr. Safranek reported that he and Judd Kravig discussed the number of plow trucks and graders to deploy on January 9, as areas in District 3 had received 5 to 6 inches of snow. That afternoon, Mr. Safranek looked at the wall heater at the landfill shop. Jason Smith said that parts for the

63,500 Btu unit were obsolete due to Colorado's energy regulations. If Mr. Smith couldn't find the last part needed to repair the heater, Mr. Safranek said they would downsize and look for a smaller one. Mr. Kravig informed Mr. Safranek on January 12 that Xcel had cleaned up County Road 2 to his satisfaction.

Mr. Piper said Miss Lowery would give the attorney's report at 10:30 a.m. He explained the 2025 end-of-year financials, noting that revenue was much higher than anticipated, due to sales tax, the Clerk's Clearing account, and investments. Although he had transferred money from the Capital Projects Fund to the General Fund, it hadn't been necessary. Mr. Jaques said they could always deposit unanticipated revenue received in 2026 into the Capital Projects Fund, or wherever needed.

Mr. Safranek asked how much the additional retirement funds raised the overall percentage of the fund; Mr. Piper said it was difficult to know without the report.

Mr. Ewing asked for an update on the jury assembly room restroom project; Mr. Piper said it was ready to go to bid, but he needed to create an RFP.

Mr. Ewing also asked about the roundhouse; Mr. Piper said the engineer's quote for the project oversight was \$10,500. The county might want Roundhouse Preservation, Inc., to pay for the archaeologist. Mr. Piper planned to build a spreadsheet of funds received, costs, and which entity would pay for what. Mr. Ewing asked if they would need to perform a stress test. Mr. Safranek felt it was a good idea considering the size of the doors; Mr. Piper said Travis Miller included it in the RockSol bid.

At 10:30 a.m., County Attorney Kelly Lowery joined the meeting via Teams. She didn't have much to report, aside from working on Land Use projects, including the Road Use Agreements with Limon III and the Sustrich Group. She noted that the latter was complicated and expressed concerns about the information circulating. Mr. Jaques felt that, for its protection, the county should require Scott Elliott to secure a consultant to work hand in hand with CDOT, the town of Genoa, and the county.

Miss Lowery said that the Limon III agreement was far less complicated, and she should have the Road Use Agreement finished this week. She hadn't heard anything further from Columbia Sanitation, nor had anyone else.

Mr. Jaques asked if Ephron Brent and the town of Hugo ever finalized the Brent Pit and Hugo park sales, but Mr. Piper wasn't sure.

Before Miss Lowery disconnected at 10:45 a.m., Mr. Piper asked her to review a couple of resolutions concerning on-site wastewater treatment regulations that the health inspector required the county to adopt.

Veterans Service Officer Joy Johnson met with the Board at 11:00 a.m. to provide department

updates. She voiced her frustration that Kiowa and Washington counties were not submitting the monthly reports containing her hours to the state. Both counties had missed October and November. Mrs. Johnson said she had started copying the state administration and Glen Marciniak on the emails to the county administrators who reported her hours.

Mrs. Johnson said that the state was adamant that she have an office in each county, but she uses the commissioners' meeting room in Kiowa County, which is the space they provide for her. It works fine since she is only there once a month. Mrs. Johnson goes to Washington County on the first and third Mondays, Cheyenne County on the second Monday, and Kiowa County on the fourth Monday. If there is a fifth Monday, she spends it in Lincoln County, as well as Tuesdays through Fridays. Mrs. Johnson said she informed the state that she uses the DHS Limon office. Mr. Ewing asked if she had been inside; Mrs. Johnson admitted she hadn't, but also doesn't have a key. Mr. Ewing told her that if she needed a solid wall or locking door, the county could remodel. Mr. Jaques said her using half of the office shouldn't conflict with DHS, as they are only there once or twice a week. Mr. Piper said that remodeling shouldn't be necessary; they could purchase a locking file cabinet if Mrs. Johnson required more security for her files.

Mrs. Johnson mentioned recent problems with Glen Marciniak forgetting things she's told him. Mr. Jaques advised her to make sure all correspondence was in writing. She also asked Mr. Jaques for help finding someone to contact regarding LCF inmate/veteran denied claims. Mr. Jaques promised to send her information.

Mrs. Johnson said she was pretty busy and left at 11:20 a.m.

Economic Development Director Troy McCue, Land Use Administrator Ty Stogsdill, and Kenny Wheeler with Arriba Wind arrived at 11:30 a.m. Mr. Wheeler provided a project update, stating they continue to move forward; they've secured tax credits, and the third-party they've consistently used verified that there are no issues and said it is the best-looking site they've ever inspected. A contractor is on-site monthly to ensure accurate stormwater infrastructure, and they are currently building a five-strand barbed-wire fence around the excavation for safety. While he couldn't share the company's identity, Mr. Wheeler said they finalized the off-take (power buyers), meaning they could now finance the project. He mentioned milestone payments and development milestones and said that the company has considered moving the timeframe forward, but must first upgrade the entire line section. They have had no issues with landowners, and the site is now thirty percent engineered. While he admitted there was a minor conflict between the state and the FAA regarding the flight path, the contractor assured them it was more of a paperwork issue than a development issue.

As for using the Arikaree Bridge for turbine component transport, Mr. Wheeler said they were waiting for the turbine manufacturer to designate a delivery route. He wasn't sure they would use the bridge since it is so far from the site. He commented that he had seen where the county received grant funding for the bridge, but Mr. Jaques said there was still a 20% match and that the county would have to cover the engineering fees.

Mr. Wheeler asked whether each driveway required a separate permit; Mr. Stogsdill said each would have its own cost, but if Mr. Wheeler provided a location map, he could combine them into a single application to reduce paperwork.

As for the substation, Mr. Wheeler said they had the option to purchase 15 acres of land, which they must deed to power company; the substation would become part of the system it manages. They don't own the land yet, so the next step was to have it surveyed. He asked if they would have to apply for a variance or if the commissioners would consider signing a statement that the property wasn't zoned residential. Mr. Stogsdill said the county's subdivision regulations were explicitly for residential property and wouldn't apply in this circumstance.

Mr. Jaques said they needed to discuss it with the county attorney, and Mr. Wheeler agreed that it would benefit them if the information came from Miss Lowery.

Mr. Wheeler asked if the Special Use Permit covered the substation; Mr. Stogsdill told him he would have to review the original application. Mr. Wheeler said they intended to place the substation at a different location than the one designated in the original permit application. Mr. Stogsdill said they could amend the original permit if the substation remained within the project's scope; Mr. Wheeler said it did.

Mr. Wheeler promised to return with a defined area for the substation and receive the amended permit. By then, the commissioners should have had time to discuss it with their legal counsel. He added that the Arriba Wind substation would be adjacent to the company's, reasonably close together, with a possible structure between them. He noted that the point of interconnect ends at around twenty feet as it leaves their facility. They have significantly reduced the project footprint; it is now less than 20,000 acres, down from over 40,000 acres. While they still intend to install 45 towers, the efficiency is significantly higher, allowing for a smaller footprint. Mr. Wheeler said it is better for everyone, especially the landowners, who receive payment per megawatt.

Mr. Ewing asked whether the project would include a maintenance office. Although Mr. Wheeler said it was likely, it might not be necessary with so many other wind farms in the area. The only ground the project would purchase was the fifteen acres for the substation.

Mr. Jaques asked if they had secured funding; Mr. Wheeler said they would try to close financing mid-year. Even though Lotus can self-fund, the company prefers to use bank funds.

When Mr. Jaques asked how much lead time there was on towers, Mr. Wheeler told him it takes about two years. They are customized and costly, so a company typically waits to order components until it is sure the project will move forward.

Mr. Piper had looked up the resolution to determine when the county approved the first permit. The Board adopted the resolution in August 2020, but Nereo GC Lincoln, LLC, requested

an extension that extended the permit to August 5, 2027. Mr. Wheeler said construction would start before that, so it wasn't a problem.

The group briefly discussed data centers, and then Mr. Wheeler, Mr. McCue, and Mr. Stogsdill left at noon.

At 12:02 p.m., with no other 2025 business to discuss, Mr. Ewing adjourned the meeting.

Corinne M. Lengel, Clerk of the Board

Wayne E. Ewing, Chairman

The re-organization meeting of the Board of Lincoln County Commissioners convened at 1:05 p.m. on January 13, 2026. Commissioners Wayne Ewing, Terry Jaques, and Robert Safranek, County Administrator Jacob Piper, and Clerk of the Board Corinne M. Lengel attended.

Mr. Jaques moved to appoint Wayne Ewing as the chairman of the board, and Mr. Safranek seconded the motion. He and Mr. Jaques voted in favor; Mr. Ewing abstained.

Mr. Ewing moved to appoint Mr. Jaques as the vice chairman of the board, and Mr. Safranek seconded the motion. He and Mr. Ewing voted in favor; Mr. Jaques abstained.

To comply with C.R.S. 24-6-402 (2) (c), Mr. Safranek moved to designate the official noticeboard of the Board of County Commissioners as the one located in the lobby hallway of the county courthouse and by email. Mr. Jaques seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Ewing moved to designate Robert Safranek as the representative to the County Health Pool, with Jacob Piper as an alternate representative. Mr. Jaques seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Jaques moved to approve the following list of appointments and holidays for 2026. Mr. Safranek seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Piper noted that Miss Lowery had requested that he add the Lincoln County Pension Plan Trustees to the appointments.

APPOINTMENTS FOR 2026

County Attorney

Kelly Lowery

Official Banks

(Other than those delineated to the right,
any other qualified financial institution
within the State of Colorado and within a
150-mile radius of the Lincoln County

First National Bank of Hugo
SIGMA Financial Corporation
Equitable Savings & Loan
ColoTrust
Csafe

Treasurer's Office in Hugo, Colorado.)

High Plains Bank
Eastern Colorado Bank
First Financial Equity Corp
Peaks Investment Management
Colorado Statewide Investment
Program (CSIP)

County Physician

Dr. John Fox

Public Health Specialist

Kelly Alvarez

Fairgrounds Manager

John Palmer

Veterans Service Officer

Joy Johnson

Shop Foreman

Chris Monks

Road Foremen

District #1

Chris Monks

District #2

Bruce Walters

District #3

Judd Kravig

Jail & Juvenile Officer

Tom Nestor

Official Newspaper

Ranchland News

Lincoln County Pension Plan Trustees

Wayne Ewing
Terry Jaques
Robert Safranek

Additional Signee: Jacob Piper

Hospital Board – 7 Members – 5 Year Term

2027

Jack Cross

2027

Sarah Nuss

2028

Dave Stone

2029

Kevin Saffer

2030

Linda Orrell

2030

Pat White

2031

Lorie Coonts

Fair Board – 9 Members – 3 Year Term

2027

Kurt Thompson

2027

Elisha Thompson

2027

Justin Fisher

2028

Lindsey Blackwelder

2028	Ephron Brent
2028	Adam Stone
2029	Clinton Clark
2029	Casey Wiersma
2029	April Hollowell
Land Use Board – 9 Members – 3 Year Term	
2027	Rick Ashcraft
2027	James Bledsoe
2027	Jamie Clark
2028	John Reid
2028	Cole Davis
2028	Kim Korsvold
2029	Josiah Higgins
2029	Joshua Leithead
2029	Mark James
Ty Stogsdill	Secretary
Land Use Board of Adjustment – 3 Year Term	
2027	Jamie Clark
2028	Mark Allis
2029	Robert Boyd
2029	Chris Monks
2029	Adam Nuss
Karval Water Authority– 3 Year Term	
2027	Cindy Leonard
2028	Patrick Leonard
2028	Cory Mengenhauser
2029	Lisa Hester
2029	Dustin Hockett
Weed Board – 7 Members – 3 Year Term	
2027	Cole James
2028	Terry Saffer
2028	Todd Thompson
2028	Wade Hollowell
2029	Shelby Britten
2029	Jamie Clark
2029	Chris Monks
E911 Authority Board – 5 Members – 2 Year Term	
2027	Jack Cross
2027	Diane Kimble

2027
2028
2028

Mark Hayes
Patrick Leonard
George Ehlers

Bookmobile Board – 5 Members – No Term Limit

LaRita Sawyer
Cleta Hiner-Felzien
Gloria Newcomb
Ryan Clark
Lisa Miller

Prairie Development Corporation – 2 Members – 2 Year Term

1/2027
1/2027

Robert Safranek
Steve Burgess

Tourism Board – 5 Members – 2 Year Term

1/2027
1/2027
1/2027
1/2028
1/2028

Tim Andersen
Apyrl Huelskamp
Dan Merewether
Steve Beedy
Meg McAtee

Karval Community Cemetery District Board of Directors

12/31/2026
12/31/2027
12/31/2028

Dennis Kravig
Mary Merewether
Vernon Stone

Arriba Cemetery District Board of Directors

Glenn Cox
Leroy King
Jan Schifferns

Representatives for:

Bookmobile
Colorado East Community Action Agency
County Health Pool

East Central Council of Local Governments
ECCOLG Economic Development Board Member
Eastern CO. Services for the Dev. Disabled
EMS and RETAC
Judicial Review Board for 23rd District
Land Use

Wayne Ewing
Robert Safranek
Robert Safranek
Jacob Piper Alternate
Terry Jaques
Derek Isom
Cindy Tacha
Jacob Piper
Terry Jaques
Ty Stogsdill

Lincoln Community Hospital
Lincoln County Fair Board
Lincoln County Human Services Liaison
Ports to Plains
Resources Unlimited
RETAC Pre-hospital
Southeast & East Central Recycling
Transit Advisory Committee

Wayne Ewing
Terry Jaques & Wayne Ewing
Robert Safranek
Terry Jaques
Wayne Ewing & Terry Jaques
Robert Carson
Robert Safranek
Wayne Ewing

The following list of holidays was approved for 2026:

January 19, 2026
February 16, 2026
May 25, 2026
July 3, 2026
September 7, 2026
October 12, 2026
November 11, 2026
November 26 and 27, 2026
December 25, 2026
January 1, 2027

Martin Luther King Day
President's Day
Memorial Day
Independence Day
Labor Day
Columbus Day
Veterans Day
Thanksgiving
Christmas
New Year's Day

Mr. Jaques moved to set the county's vacation and sick leave policy for 2026, effective January 1, 2026, in accordance with the personnel policy. Mr. Safranek seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Safranek moved to set the E911 surcharge at \$2.17 according to C.R.S. 29-11-103 (3) (a). Mr. Jaques seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

County Treasurer Ashley Erwin was unavailable to present the Lincoln County Investment Policy; Mr. Piper said she would do it at the January 29 meeting.

Mr. Jaques moved to adopt a resolution appointing the Lincoln County Administrator as the budget officer for the 2027 budget per C.R.S. 29-1-104. Mr. Safranek seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At a regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County, Colorado held in Hugo, Colorado on January 13, 2026, there were present:

Wayne Ewing, Chairman	Present
Terry Jaques, Vice Chairman	Present
Robert Safranek, Commissioner	Present
Kelly Lowery, County Attorney	Absent & Excused
Corinne Lengel, Clerk of the Board	Present
Jacob Piper, County Administrator	Present

when the following proceedings, among others, were had and done, to-wit:

RESOLUTION #1172 It was moved by Commissioner Jaques and seconded by Commissioner Safranek to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS C.R.S. 29-1-104 states that the governing body of each local government shall designate or appoint a person to prepare the budget and submit the same to the governing body; and

WHEREAS one of the duties of the County Administrator is to act as the budget officer for Lincoln County.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County that the Lincoln County Administrator is designated as the person to prepare the 2027 budget.

Upon roll call the vote was:

Commissioner Ewing, Yes; Commissioner Jaques, Yes; Commissioner Safranek, Yes.

The Chairman declared the motion carried and so ordered.

Board of County Commissioners
of Lincoln County

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board

The commissioners and Mr. Piper had nothing further to report, and there was no old business to discuss.

Mrs. Lengel presented a Special Events Permit, Fermented Malt Beverage, requested by Joe Will Post N. 6612 for the February 16, 2026, Republican Lincoln Day Dinner at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds. Mr. Jaques moved to approve the application, and Mr. Safranek seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The Board scheduled a possible hearing for 10:30 a.m. on January 29, 2026.

Mr. Piper presented the 2026 Public Health Contract Amendment for CORE Public Health Services for \$113,005. Mr. Safranek moved to approve the contract. Mr. Jaques seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Ewing adjourned the meeting at 1:25 p.m. The next meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. on January 29, 2026.

Corinne M. Lengel, Clerk of the Board

Wayne E. Ewing, Chairman