



PUBLIC MEETING

January 11, 2022
MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Tuesday, January 11, 2022, at 9:00 AM in Commission Chambers, Room 330.

Roll Call

Chair Jim McCormick called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

Commissioner Andy Hunthausen was present, Commissioner Rolfe was out of office. Others attending all or a portion of the meeting include Roger Baltz, Carrie Lutkehus, Paul Pacini, Becky Piske, Donna Aline, Rich Plona, Janis Ahlstrom, Emily Auld, Gary Weins, Amy Barrett, Savanna Barrett, Casey Hayes, Ann McCauley, Nicho Hash, Colleen Rivers, Margaret Perry, Olivia Coburn, Jill Van Alstyne, Dick Thweatt, and Misty Edwards, Recording Secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone recited the pledge.

Consent Action Items

- a. Request for Records Disposal from the County Attorney's Office. (Leo Gallagher)

Roger Baltz, Chief Administrative Officer, reported on consent action item 2a and recommended approval.

No public comment was received.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Hunthausen and seconded by Commissioner McCormick. The motion Passed on a 2-0 vote.

Request for American Rescue Plan Act Funds Direct Allocation. (Carrie Lutkehus)

Carrie Lutkehus, ARPA Program Specialist, presented the request for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) direct allocation funds in the amount of \$35,000 for a preliminary architectural report (PAR) for the Margaret Stuart Youth Home. Margaret Stuart Youth Homes is an eight-bed group home located at 200 Miller Street that is dually licensed to provide short-term crisis intervention placements and longer-term group care for youth aged 10 to 18. The building is owned by Lewis and Clark County and the home is maintained and operated by Youth Homes, a nonprofit organization serving youth and families throughout western Montana.

Built in 1989, the home needs numerous safety, structural and interior updates to maintain its use as a licensed group home for youth in the community. County employees toured the facility in October 2021

and items in need of attention include the roof, gutters, and windows which are original to the building, the fire safety system, and the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system. A PAR, conducted by a licensed professional architect, will provide a description of the current conditions and layout specific course of action and estimated budget for solving the identified problems. The ARPA eligible expenditure category for the request is 3.8: Health Childhood Environments: Services to Foster Youth or Families Involved in Child Welfare System. Staff recommends approval of the request.

Colleen Rivers, Youth Homes Program Director, and Margaret Perry, Development Coordinator gave an overview of Youth Homes and the programs offered at the facility. Primarily they provide a safe home environment for youth that have been placed by the juvenile justice system. Most of youth they serve are local, from Lewis and Clark County. They receive funding from the County and from placing agencies as well as community donors and grants from various foundations.

No public comment was received.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Hunthausen and seconded by Commissioner McCormick. The motion Passed on a 2-0 vote.

Public comment on any public matter within the jurisdiction of the Commission that is not on the agenda above.

Olivia Coburn, Senior at Helena High School, spoke about passenger rail transportation and encouraged the Commission to join the Big Sky Rail Authority. She spoke about the safety, social and economic benefits of passenger rail. On Tuesday, January 25th a public forum via Zoom will be held to discuss future planning for the passenger rail system and Ms. Coburn extended the invitation to the Commission to attend the forum.

Dick Thweatt, spoke in support of the passenger rail system.


Jill Van Alstyne, 152 Fairway, spoke in support of the passenger rail system and requested the County join the Big Sky Rail Authority. Ms. Van Alstyn spoke of her experience using passenger trains while living in Japan and the benefit of using the train.

Adjourn


There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:24 a.m.

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jim McCormick, Chair



Tom Rolfe, Vice Chair



Andy Hunthausen, Member

ATTEST:



Amy Reeves, Clerk of the Board