



PUBLIC MEETING

January 21, 2020
MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Tuesday, January 21, 2020, at 9:00 AM in Commission Chambers Room 330.

Roll Call

Chair Susan Good Geise called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

Commissioner Jim McCormick was present. Commissioner Andy Hunthausen was out of the office on other County business. Others attending all or a portion of the meeting included Roger Baltz, Sheriff Dutton, Nicho Hash, Jacqueline Islay, Skip Rosenthal, Audre McCue, Sharon Tregidga, Colleen Rivers, and Nadine McCarty, Recording Secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone recited the pledge.

Consent Action Items

There were no consent action items.

Interlocal Agreement Between Lewis and Clark County and Montana Department of Justice. (Leo Dutton)

Leo Dutton, Sheriff, presented the interlocal agreement with the Montana Department of Justice (DOJ), Montana Highway Patrol. The agreement is intended to fulfill the goals of the legislature by providing necessary infrastructure upgrades to the radio system. Sheriff Dutton gave a brief overview of how this group began. The main purpose of the agreement is to establish the terms and conditions related to DOJ's ownership, installation, and maintenance of certain discrete elements of the system that will be housed by and located within facilities owned by Lewis and Clark County. These system elements will be a critical component in the administration of the Statewide Public Safety Communications System. In 2019, the legislature passed Senate Bill 352, which appropriated \$3.75 million per year for the next 10 years for the purpose of upgrading and maintaining the existing public safety radio system infrastructure for the benefit of all law enforcement agencies statewide. Staff recommends approval of the interlocal agreement.

Sheriff Dutton explained the two systems that were built, the northern tier as project number two and the Lewis and Clark County system as project number one. Approximately \$67 million of current infrastructure has been gained and brought into the consortium. Sheriff Dutton gave a brief history of how \$11 million worth of grants were left on the table leaving local governments to step up and take to keep from losing their radio system. Four counties took on some of the remaining projects that included: Yellowstone, Flathead, Hill and Lewis and Clark Counties, some of which still exist today. This project will eventually take the position back and will allow for a backup should it be necessary.

Sheriff Dutton explained the trunk radio system and noted it can be used by fire personnel if they choose to, but many times they talk on direct channels during a fire.

No public comment was received.

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

**Contract Amendment Between Lewis and Clark Public Health and Viola Software, LLC
(Jacqueline Isaly)**

Jacqueline Islay, Community Health Promotion Division Administrator, presented the contract amendment with Viola Software, LLC for services related to the Early Childhood Coalition of the Greater Helena area for website development. This amendment extends the term of the contract from December 31, 2019 to February 29, 2020, which aligns the contract to the end date of the Strengthening Montana's Early Childhood Services Bureau contract. Staff recommends approval of the contract amendment with Viola Software, LLC.

No public comment was received.

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

**Contract Between Lewis and Clark Public Health and Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies
(Jacqueline Isaly)**

Jacqueline Islay, Community Health Promotion Division Administrator presented the contract with Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies to implement activities for the Early Childhood Coalition of the Greater Helena Area as outlined by the Maternal Mental Health Task Force. The contract for services in not to exceed \$2,300 and is good through February 29, 2020. Services included in this contract are development of a podcast; fact sheet development and design; and hosting events in February at the Holter Museum. The activities were approved by the Early Childhood Coalition Leadership Team and are funded by the Strengthening Montana's Families grant from the state. Staff recommends approval of the contract with Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies.

Ms. Islay gave an overview of Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies services.

Ms. Islay stated the intention behind the activities is to create opportunities to talk about the issues for the mothers. She added the podcast would be a perfect place for fathers to discuss issues.

No public comment was received.

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

Presentation from Montana Youth Homes on the Margaret Stuart Shelter. (Skip Rosenthal)

Skip Rosenthal, Montana Youth Homes Executive Director, gave a presentation on the Margaret Stuart Shelter. He noted the shelter is an 8-bed facility that provides crisis and stabilization shelter for kids both short and long term. Many of the referrals come from Child Protective Services and Youth Probation.

Colleen Rivers, Margaret Stuart Shelter Program Director, stated there are currently 8 youth at the shelter with half of them placed by Child and Family Services ranging in age from 14 to 17. Two of the youth have been at the shelter long term, 6 to 9 months, and the remaining 30 days or less. Two have substance abuse issues, which is lower than usual. Ms. Rivers gave an overview of the substance abuse issues that they see. Ms. Rivers noted they do not specifically participate in the handle with care

program but stated they work closely with the schools and if a youth needed that they could easily inform the school administrator.

Mr. Rosenthal stated Youth Homes is based in Missoula, Montana with facilities in Flathead, Ravalli, and in Lewis and Clark County. He gave an overview of the services they provide. He stated the Youth Homes are a community-based environment where kids can participate in sports and other activities. The philosophy is to provide a safe supportive home environment and he noted the Margaret Stuart Shelter is the busiest of all the programs and serves the most kids from the local community. He added the letter he provided discusses the financial struggles, but noted Montana Youth Homes is committed to staying in the area.

Sharon Tregidga, First Judicial District Chief Probation Officer, noted the value of the Margaret Stuart Shelter for their office and clients.

Ms. Rivers noted there is a waiting list for the shelter.

Nancy Everson, Chief Financial Officer, stated when the shelter funding issue came up she reached out to Ms. Tregidga and also the Helena Police Department and the Lewis and Clark County Sheriff's Office. Both Helena PD and the Sheriff's office indicated, though they might not use it a lot, the shelter is very important to them to have when it is needed. Staff recommends adding the increase funding for this year and include Montana Youth Homes in the budget process going forward.

Board Appointment (Audrey McCue)

Commissioner Good Geise disclosed she is married to Ross Geise, the appointee being presented for appointment to the Augusta Fire District Board of Trustees. Because of this she suggested the item be tabled to a date when all three Commissioners are in attendance.

A motion was made by Commissioner McCormick to table the item to the next meeting when there is a three Commissioner quorum present. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Good Geise. The motion Passed on a 2-0 vote.

No public comment was received.

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

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:55 am.

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Susan Good Geise, Chair


Andy Hunthausen, Vice Chair


Jim McCormick, Member

ATTEST:


Paulette DeHart, Clerk of the Board

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