



PUBLIC MEETING

October 20, 2020
MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Tuesday, October 20, 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 Andy Hunthausen was present. Commissioner Jim McCormick was out of the office. Others attending all or a portion of the meeting included Roger Baltz, Nicho Hash, Misty Edwards, and Nadine McCarty, Recording Secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone recited the pledge.

Consent Action Items

There were no consent action items.

Resolution 2020-90 Referring to the Electorate the Question of Whether the Craig Resort Area Resort Tax Should be Increased by 1% to a Total of 4%, Dedicating the New 1% to Specified Infrastructure Projects. (Misty Edwards)

Misty Edwards, Finance Coordinator, presented the resolution referring to the electorate of the Craig resort area whether the resort tax should be increased by 1% to a total of 4%, dedicating the new 1% to specified infrastructure projects. The Montana legislature passed Senate Bill 241 during the 2019 legislature that allows for the governing body of a resort area to present to the electorate the question of whether to increase the existing resort tax by 1%. The Board of County Commissioners is the governing body of the Craig Resort Area outlined in Ordinance 2010-1.

In the 10 years that the resort tax has been in place, over \$1 million dollars has been collected; \$980,000 have been used for the repayment of the revenue and general obligation bonds associated with the construction of a new wastewater systems as well as the maintenance of that system. The remaining funds have been used for maintenance and upgrades of the Craig school, which serves as a community hall. The requested increase of 1% will be used to repay the revenue obligation bonds and other project costs from the construction of the system. As soon as the debts, project costs and outstanding bonds are paid in full, the 1% will terminate. The additional tax will be effective on an annual basis for the same period of time as the existing 3%; if passed, the tax would become effective on March 5, 2021. Staff recommends approval of the resolution and direct the Election Administrator to conduct a special election to be held by mail ballot on January 26, 2021 and place on the ballot the issue of whether the Craig Resort Area resort tax should be increased by 1% to a total of 4%, dedicating the new 1% to specified infrastructure projects.

Ms. Edwards noted this is at the request of the current Resort Tax Advisory Board. There are still 37 years left on their debt and the extra 1% would allow the debt to be paid off earlier.

No public comment was received.

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

Resolution 2020-91 Referring to the Electorate the Question of Whether the Craig Resort Area Resort Tax Effective Dates Should be Extended to Year-Round. (Misty Edwards)

Misty Edwards, Finance Coordinator, presented the resolution to amend the Craig Resort tax effective dates. On October 7, 2020, the Lewis and Clark County Finance Department received a petition to amend the current effective dates of the Craig Resort Tax. Because the Board of County Commissioners is the governing body of the Craig Resort Area, amendments to the tax must be approved by the Commission before being referred to the voters of the resort area. The tax is currently in effect April 1st through November 15th each year. The petition is seeking to extend the effective dates of the resort tax to year round. The petition seeks only to change the effective dates while leaving all other provisions of the ordinance the same. The initial term of the tax would continue through 2030, the items subject to the tax will not change and the purposes the resort tax may be used for will not change. The County election administrator certified the petition on October 9, 2020. There are 33 registered voters in the resort tax district and 16 or 48% signed the petition. Staff recommends approval of the resolution and to direct the Election Administrator to conduct a special election to be held by mail ballot on January 26, 2021 and place on the ballot the issue whereby the qualified electors of the Craig Resort Area shall vote on the question of whether the Area's resort tax should be extended to be in effect year-round.

No public comment was received.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Good Geise and seconded by Commissioner Hunthausen. 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.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 am.

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Susan Good Geise, Chair


Andy Hunthausen, Vice Chair


Jim McCormick, Member

ATTEST:



Amy Reeves, Clerk of the Board