



PUBLIC MEETING

October 29, 2020
MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Thursday, October 29, 2020, at 9:00 AM in Commission Chambers Room 330.

Roll Call

Vice Chair Andy Hunthausen called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

Commissioner Jim McCormick was present. Commissioner Susan Good Geise was out of the office. Others attending all or a portion of the meeting included Roger Baltz, Marni Bentley, Peter Italiano, Dan Karlin, Charles Lane, Jessica Makus, Keith Harbour, Drenda Niemann (via telephone), and Nadine McCarty, Recording Secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone recited the pledge.

Consent Action Items

- a. Vendor Claims Report for Week Ending October 30, 2020. (Marni Bentley)

Roger Baltz reported on consent action item 2 a and recommended approval.

No public comment was received.

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

Grant Award to Lewis and Clark Public Health from Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. (Drenda Niemann)

Drenda Niemann, Public Health Officer, presented the CAREs Act funding allocation from the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services to support public health COVID-19 response efforts. The allocation amount is determined by the Governor's office and based on county population. Lewis and Clark County will receive another \$218,797 and these funds will need to be expended by December 30, 2020. The funds can be used for the following: current and future COVID-19 response activities including staffing to assist with case investigations and contact tracing; immunization preparedness; and core public health operations and functions that have been disrupted by the pandemic.

Ms. Niemann stated that Lewis and Clark Public Health will use the funds to cover expenses accrued additional staffing support to assist with contract tracing, quarantine/isolation management, and code enforcement. Ms. Niemann added that at this time, Public Health's expenses related to COVID-19 response exceed \$600,000. They have added 30 contact tracers to the staff to assist with tracing; 3 staff to assist with quarantine management; and 2 staff to help with code enforcement. Staff recommends approval of the funding allocation.

No public comment was received.

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

Bid Opening. Elk Creek Bridge Replacement Project. (Dan Karlin)

Dan Karlin, County Engineer, gave an overview of the Elk Creek Bridge Replacement project what it entails and presented the bid opening. Four bids were received. The first bid is from Dick Anderson Construction, Inc. of Helena, Montana for a total bid amount of \$229,049. The second bid is from Sletten Construction Company of Great Falls, Montana for a total bid amount of \$215,725.25. The third bid is from Battle Ridge Builders of Belgrade, Montana for a total bid amount of \$143,013. The last bid is from Smith River Construction of Great Falls, Montana for a total bid amount of \$233,928.27.

The project consists of the construction of a new bridge located approximately 12 miles southwest of Augusta on Elk Creek Road. The new bridge will replace the existing single-span, timber bridge. The proposed 54-foot by 24-foot usable width single-span bridge will consist of a prefabricated steel modular superstructure on a driven pile foundation. This bridge has been impacted by flooding in recent years.

A motion was made by Commissioner McCormick for staff to take the bids under advisement and make a recommendation to the Commission on November 5, 2020. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunthausen. The motion Passed on a 2-0 vote.

Request for Approval of Updated Rural Improvement District Policy. (Jessica Makus)

Jessica Makus, Special Districts Program Coordinator, presented the revised Rural Improvement District (RID) Policy. The last policy update occurred in 2001 and this update incorporates changes in state statute that have occurred since that time as well as additional updates as recommended by County legal staff.

Major changes include the removal of road maintenance districts (RMDs) as the result of state statute removing them in 2009 and replacing them with rural improvement districts for road maintenance. Arbitrary language in section 2.5 of the old policy was also removed. That language read "nothing in this policy shall be construed as limiting the Board from initiating an RID or RMD, even if the property owners have not previously signed a waiver of protest of the creation of the district." The third major change reduces the petition requirement from 60% to 20%, as it is no longer related to a required statute. In consideration of reducing it to 20%, when a petition is received staff will look at four factors in evaluating whether the project is in the public interest. Those factors outlined in section 3.1 of the new policy and include: effect on health, safety and general welfare of residents within the proposed district; number and manner in which property owners are directly benefited; estimated financial burden on each individual tract; and, public support for the creation within the proposed district.

Other changes include removal of information regarding bid requirements and construction documents as those processes directly follow statute. Section 8 of the update policy and Section 12 of the old policy address financing and details regarding InterCap loans, County loans and bonds have been removed from the draft. Sections 13 and 14 detailing the security deposit required if a district is less than 50%

populated have been removed. Section 19 of the old policy lays out staff responsibilities and has been removed. The petition procedure has been moved to the end as the old version had a lot of detail regarding the petition requirements and it has been removed because the County prepares the documents. Sections 3-7 of the updated policy follow statute to outline the RID formation options, procedures and protest process, as well as requirements for resolutions, assessments and boundaries aligning with sections 6-8 of the old policy; maintenance costs are detailed in section 9 of the updated policy. Staff recommends approval of the revised RID Policy.

No public comment was received.

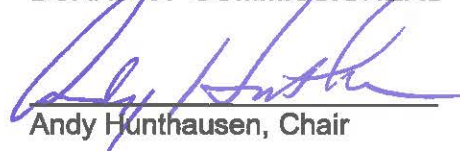
A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner McCormick and seconded by Commissioner Hunthausen. The motion Passed on a 2-0 vote.

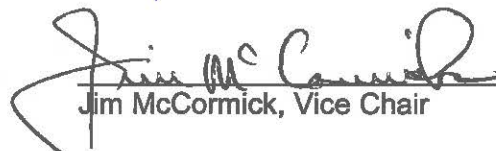
Public comment on any public matter within the jurisdiction of the Commission that is not on the agenda above.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 am.

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Andy Hunthausen, Chair


Jim McCormick, Vice Chair

Tom Rolfe, Member

ATTEST:



Amy Reeves, Clerk of the Board