



PUBLIC MEETING
November 13, 2018
MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Tuesday, November 13, 2018, at 9:00 AM in Commission Chambers Room 330.

Roll Call

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

Commissioner Susan Good Geise 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, Nicho Hash, Jacob Fuhrer, Michael Woodel, and Nadine McCarty, Recording Secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone recited the pledge.

Consent Action Items

- a. Public Meeting Minutes for August 15, 2017; February 1; October 16, 23, and 30, 2018.
(Nadine McCarty)

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

No public comment was received.

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

Resolution 2018-98 Establishing an Additional Justice of the Peace. (Roger Baltz)

Roger Baltz, Chief Administrative Officer presented the resolution to add an additional Justice of the Peace (JP) position. During the budget sessions this item came up with direction from the Commissioners to move forward. The research completed by the County Attorney's Office noted there is not a defined procedure for establishing an additional JP position. An appropriate method would be to pass a resolution adding the position. Discussion was to add a half-time position and after feedback from the County Attorney's Office a full time position was determined to make the most sense for terms of establishment. After approval of the resolution the Board of County Commissioners would then place the position on the same nonpartisan judicial ballot and in the same manner as the ballot for electing judges of the District Court. The next judicial ballot is 2020. A mission statement and statistics were received from Judge Swingley stating there were 1,298 civil cases filed in Justice Court in 2017, 102 small claims, there were 3,163 citations issued by various agencies, 834 formal cases filed. The mission statement notes since assuming small claims

the staff has found the cases to be very time consuming and under future needs it was stated the court requests an additional part-time Justice of the Peace.

Mr. Baltz read the resolution and noted if the resolution is approved the position would not be filled until the 2020 election.

Commissioner Good Geise asked of the many thousands of cases that a single Justice of the Peace hears and his workload might factor into the overcrowding of the jail.

Mr. Baltz stated what he has been told from those that work in the judicial system is that there is a dramatic influence created by drugs and the activity that occurs in this court is substantial in the criminal justice system. Mr. Baltz read from Judge Swingley's mission statement that listed the types of cases and the various agency citations, search warrants and orders of protection, in addition, the Justice Court is where nearly all felony cases brought by the County Attorney's Office are initially filed.

Commissioner Good Geise stated in years past Judge Swingley has asked for help.

Nicho Hash, Deputy County Attorney stated while Judge Swingley spends a lot of time on the bench there is little time for the order writing. This process will help spread the workload.

No public comment was received.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Good Geise 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.

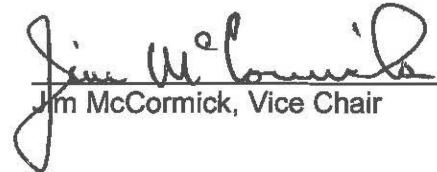
Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:19 am.

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Andy Hunthausen, Chair



Jim McCormick, Vice Chair

Susan Good Geise, Member

ATTEST:



Paulette DeHart, Clerk of the Board