



PUBLIC MEETING

December 21, 2021
MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Tuesday, December 21, 2021, at 9:00 AM in Commission Chambers, Room 330.

Roll Call

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

Commissioner Jim McCormick and Commissioner Tom Rolfe were present. Others attending all or a portion of the meeting included Roger Baltz, Nicho Hash, Misty Edwards, Jessica Makus, Ann McCauley, Amy Reeves, Brian Coplin, Ty Dralle, Anthony Olvera, Terry Kujaczynski, Forrest Christian, Debbie Christian, Matthew Cooper, Eric Seidensticker, Gary Hageman, Stephanie Kujaczynski, and Nadine McCarty, Recording Secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone recited the pledge.

Consent Action Items

- a. Resolution 2021-110 Declaring County Property Surplus Property. (Amy Reeves)

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

No public comment was received.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner McCormick and seconded by Commissioner Rolfe. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

Resolution 2021-111 to Levy and Assess Countryside Road Rural Improvement District. (Jessica Makus)

Jessica Makus, Special Districts Program Coordinator, presented the resolution to levy and assess the Countryside Road Rural Improvement District (RID). The annual special assessment is for \$123.03 for a fifteen-year debt service upon benefited properties for improvements on Countryside Road. The resolution also includes an annual special assessment of \$105 upon benefited properties to provide annual maintenance for the improvements. The RID is located west of Hauser Dam Road in the North Hills and encompasses the full extent of Countryside Road. On October 21, 2021, the Commission approved Resolution 2021-94 to create the district as a result of a resident submitted petition.

The character of improvements includes the addition of crushed top surfacing and pit run, drainage remediation, culvert installation, and the application of magnesium chloride along the extent of

Countryside Road. The general character of maintenance includes annual grading, snow plowing and sanding, application of magnesium chloride, culvert cleaning and other maintenance as necessary to preserve the road surfaces. Improvement costs were originally estimated to total \$136,943.44; however, property owners within the proposed RID applied for and were awarded a grant through the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and the Lewis and Clark Conservation District to help subsidize the cost of the improvements. With the grant funds the estimated cost per property went from \$234.45 to \$123.03 annually for fifteen years for the improvement loan. The original maintenance estimate was \$137 per property annually and the new estimate is \$105 per property annually. The grant will provide an estimated savings of \$143 per property annually. Legal notice of the public hearing was published on December 5 and 12 and mailed to all property owners within the RID. As of December 21, 2021, one written testimony has been received. Staff recommends approval of the resolution.

Ms. Makus explained the resident submitted petition process. She added a professional traffic analysis service was hired, eleven additional benefiting properties were found. Ms. Makus explained a protest period.

PUBLIC COMMENT -

Ty Dralle, 3175 Mountain Meadows Road, opposes the RID that has been pushed for by those on Black Sandy Loop. The 20% or more to accept the RID is not fair compared to the over 50% to protest the RID. He has seen only one person from Black Sandy do any kind of upkeep on Countryside Road.

Matthew Cooper, 3190 Mountain Meadows Road, stated he recently moved here a couple months ago so did not have an opportunity to protest. He opposes the RID as he does not benefit from it as his driveway is over a mile away from that road and he does not use it to get into town. Residents who do not benefit should be excluded from the RID.

Gary Hageman, 3420 Mountain Meadows Road, he is for improving the roads, but they are not fixing Mountain Meadows Road or where it meets Countryside Road in Black Sandy Loop. They need a culvert there.

Stephanie Kujaczynski, 3465 Mountain Meadows Road, stated they are on the corner where Countryside Road meets Mountain Meadows Road and the absence of a culvert that is not planned for. Flooding is an issue and not having a culvert and proper drainage will create further issues on her property.

Forrest Christian, 3577 Countryside Road, he is in favor of the RID and sees the RID presenting the benefits of making it easier for fire personnel and other emergency vehicles to get through. The money in the RID is lower than what has been asked for in the past and is a minimal impact on budgets.

Gary Hageman, 3420 Mountain Meadows Road, stated he agrees that if Snowdrift was repaired, they are correct, it would be much shorter to take Snowdrift versus Countryside Road.

Commissioner Hunthausen stated public testimony is now closed.

Ms. Makus stated there are 60 properties with several property owners that own multiple properties. She explained the reason for the professional traffic analysis. Discussion occurred regarding funding. She added there is an in-kind match that the RID would cover. The grant will provide drainage remediation for Black Sandy Loop and Countryside Road. The RID was citizen initiated.

Nicho Hash, County Attorney, added the policy the county adopted states the 50% protest process comes out of statute.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Rolfe and seconded by Commissioner McCormick. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

Grant Award to Lewis and Clark County from Montana Secretary of State's Office. (Amy Reeves)

Amy Reeves, Treasurer, Clerk and Recorder, presented the grant award from the Montana Secretary of State's Office for the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Election Security grant in the amount of \$17,110.55. The grant period ends January 12, 2022. Staff recommends acceptance of the grant award from the Montana Secretary of State's Office.

The money is a remainder from the HAVA grant awarded last year for ADA machines for express votes. The grant is to be used only for election security and will be used to make the remodeled tabulator room more secure.

No public comment was received.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner McCormick and seconded by Commissioner Rolfe. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

Agreement Between Lewis and Clark County and Grizzly Security Armored Express, Inc. (Misty Edwards)

Misty Edwards, Finance Coordinator, presented the agreement with Grizzly Security Armored Express, Inc. for the County Treasurer's Office. Services to be provided include armored car services for transportation and protection of daily deposits Monday through Friday from the Accounting Office to the bank. The services shall not exceed \$350 per month. The initial period is from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022 with the option to renew for a period of 7 years.

No public comment was received.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Rolfe and seconded by Commissioner McCormick. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

Request for American Rescue Plan Act Direct Allocation Funds for Hi Country Workforce Housing Project. (Ann McCauley)

Ann McCauley, Grants and Purchasing Director, presented the request for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) direct allocation funds for \$199,700 for the Hi-Country Workforce Housing Project in Lincoln, MT. The project is to provide affordable rentals to Hi-Country employees and other Lincoln-based employees if availability allows. Matching funds in the amount of \$210,000 will be provided through a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) from Montana Business Assistance Connection (MBAC) and will be used to develop the infrastructure for the units. The period is from December 31, 2021 through December 31, 2022. Staff recommends approval of the request.

Eric Seidensticker, MBAC, stated they were approached by the owner of Hi-Country Snack Foods to help alleviate some of the employee affordable housing issues. He understands limited housing availability is negatively affecting the business and the owner is using his own property to build on.

Commissioner McCormick disclosed he serves on the MBAC Board as the current President. He has kept discussions limited to the county and has not been involved in the application process.

Mr. Seidensticker stated that MBAC would be working with him on 2 different funds and there is an understanding that the housing will always be used for the workforce of Lincoln.

PUBLIC COMMENT -

Bill Entwistle, 5 Strawberry Court, stated there is a need for housing in Lincoln. His concern is the dollar amount for the project specifically for one organization. He wants to see money being spread out to create housing in Lincoln that benefits everybody.

Commissioner Hunthausen stated public comment has been closed.

The Commissioners discussed the possibility of other housing projects in the area.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Rolfe and seconded by Commissioner McCormick. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

Sub-recipient Agreement Between Lewis and Clark County and Montana Business Assistance Connection, Inc. (Ann McCauley)

Ann McCauley, Grants and Purchasing Director, presented the sub-recipient agreement with Montana Business Assistance Connection, Inc. (MBAC) for the implementation of an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) direct allocation award from the County. The request is for \$199,700 and the period is from December 21, 2021 through December 31, 2022. Staff recommends approval of the sub-recipient agreement with the Montana Business Assistance Connection, Inc.

Commissioner McCormick disclosed he serves on the MBAC Board.

No public comment was received.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Rolfe and seconded by Commissioner McCormick. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

Sub-recipient Agreement Between Lewis and Clark County and Craig County Water and Sewer District. (Ann McCauley)

Ann McCauley, Grants and Purchasing Director, presented the sub-recipient agreement with Craig County Water and Sewer District for the implementation of an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) direct allocation award. The district will conduct a planning project in the form of an engineering technical memorandum and a systems analysis health check for the district's wastewater treatment plant. The ARPA funds are for \$20,000. The period of performance is June 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Staff recommends approval of the sub-recipient agreement with Craig County Water and Sewer District.

Ms. McCauley gave an overview of the project.

No public comment was received.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner McCormick and seconded by Commissioner Rolfe. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

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

Bill Entwistle, 5 Strawberry Court, stated everyone knows there is an issue with workforce housing. In Helena there is a temporary solution with vacant campground sites at the fairgrounds. If people could use the fairgrounds to live in their campers, it would provide a safe place.

Adjourn

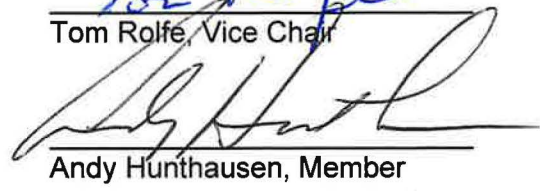
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:31 am.

Meeting minutes approved on October 20, 2022

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Jim McCormick, Chair


Tom Rolfe, Vice Chair


Andy Hunthausen, Member

ATTEST:



Amy Reeves, Clerk of the Board