



PUBLIC MEETING

December 31, 2019
MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Tuesday, December 31, 2019, at 9:00 AM in Commission Chambers Room 330.

Roll Call

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

Commissioner Susan Good Geise and Commissioner Andy Hunthausen were present. Others attending all or a portion of the meeting included Roger Baltz, Jason Grimmis, Nicho Hash, Kellie McBride, Jennifer McBroom, Alan Hughes, Jillian DeAmicis-Danesi, Rocky Infanger, Clair R. Swain, Jennifer Preble, Aaron Edward, Marshall Trainor, John Naylor, Bob Drake, and Nadine McCarty, Recording Secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone recited the pledge.

Proclamation Declaring Saturday, January 4, 2020 as Don Zimmerman Day.

Commissioner McCormick stated York Fire lost one of its members and the Commission would like to recognize the life and service of firefighter Don Zimmerman. He then read the proclamation in recognition of Don Zimmerman and all of his service to the community, declaring Saturday, January 4, 2020 as Don Zimmerman Day in Lewis and Clark County.

Commissioner McCormick presented the proclamation to York Fire Chief John Naylor.

Consent Action Items

There were no consent action items.

Ground Lease and Easement Agreement Between Lewis and Clark County, Wirth Ranch, and Montana Department of Justice, Highway Patrol. (Jason Grimmis)

Jason Grimmis, Undersheriff, presented the ground lease and easement agreement with Wirth Ranch and Montana Department of Justice, Highway Patrol for a five year agreement to commence on October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2024. The contract allows easement access for the purpose of installing, constructing, maintaining, upgrading, repairing, operation, inspecting, and removing a communications facility containing radio and microwave equipment that serves public safety agencies and emergency services. This includes equipment providing the primary radio paging for Lewis and Clark County Sheriff and the Montana Highway Patrol. The contract amount is \$9,942.56 for year one with 1% increases each year thereafter for a total amount of \$50,717.04. Montana Highway Patrol will pay half the cost each year with Lewis and Clark County paying the other half, making the

full amount for each agency of \$25,358.52. Staff recommends approval of the agreement with Wirth Ranch and Montana Department of Justice, Highway Patrol.

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 3-0 vote.

Contract between Lewis and Clark County Criminal Justice Services and Center for Mental Health (Kellie McBride)

Kellie McBride, Criminal Justice Services Director, presented the short-term contract with Center for Mental Health to provide mental health therapist(s) within the Detention Center, during the gap in services since the provider contract ended. She noted the County will be hiring their own therapist. The contract will complete on or before February 28, 2020 at a cost of \$110 per hour and not to exceed \$22,000. Ms. McBride noted in attendance from Center for Mental Health are Aaron Edwards, Director of Intensive Services and Jennifer Preble, Supervisor of Outpatient Services. Staff recommends approval of the contract with Center for Mental Health.

Ms. McBride gave an overview of the previous services that were provided by Western Montana Health, the importance of these positions and that they become County positions.

Jennifer Preble, Licensed Clinical Social Worker with Center for Mental Health, gave an overview of the Center's behavioral health services provided since the late 1970's in 13 counties, including Lewis and Clark County with their headquarters in Great Falls and her role as well. The Center for Mental Health has experience working in detention centers and she gave an overview of the hours they are trying to cover in the Detention Center. Ms. Preble explained the ways the mental health needs can be identified and the process from there.

Roger Baltz, Chief Administrative Officer, stated the services provided in the jail were services listed in the voter approved operations levy budget.

Alan Hughes, Detention Center Captain, gave an overview of the multi-faceted issues in the Detention Center, one being the overcrowding and those that come in with a mental health crisis already go even further into crisis. Captain Hughes noted there has not been a therapist in the jail for the last month and the case manager has been trying to help wherever possible. He gave a brief overview of how the screening tool is used and the request form process. It is estimated the jail population is in the high 80% that self-report mental health issues and over half of the inmate population have both mental health and drug addiction issues.

Captain Hughes noted the mental health meeting place is nonexistent in the current conditions and the new facility will be amazing when it comes to mental, physical health, and the future of the inmates.

No public comment was received.

Commissioner Hunthausen noted reforming the system discussions first started with the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and then the forming of the Citizens Advisory Committee that made the recommendations that went before the voters and included having mental health services in the jail facility to address behavioral health issues.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Hunthausen and seconded by Commissioner Good Geise. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

Contract Between Lewis and Clark County Criminal Justice Services and Center for Mental Health. (Kellie McBride)

Kellie McBride, Criminal Justice Services Director, presented the contract with Center for Mental Health to provide on call, mobile crisis response services after hours from 5:00 pm to 8:00 and weekends to the County Detention Center during the gap in services between providers. Ms. McBride noted a request for proposal has been released looking for a new provider to provide the crisis response services. The contract will end on or before February 28, 2020 at a cost of \$500 per day, not to exceed \$30,000. Staff recommends approval of the contract with Center for Mental Health.

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 3-0 vote.

Grant Award to Lewis and Clark County from Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. (Jennifer McBroom)

Jennifer McBroom, Water Quality Protection District Supervisor, presented the grant award agreement with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) in the amount of \$6,000. The agreement is for the grant writing for the Grizzly Gulch Placer Mine Reclamation Project. The agreement begins upon signing through September 30, 2020. The purpose of the grant is to hire a consultant to prepare an application for implementation funding through the DNRC Reclamation and Development Project Grant.

Ms. McBroom stated the Grizzly Gulch project is located just south of Helena and she read a little history on the project: it has extensive and varied mining history dating back to the 1870s; the site is an abandoned gold placer mine pit on private land; small scale mining activities created hand-dug pits and straightened Grizzly Creek in many locations, resulting in the creek being pushed against the county road; mining activities disturbed and reworked approximately 4 acres of the historic floodplain obliterating the Grizzly Creek channel; upstream of the pit, heavy equipment in the stream channel destroyed the creek's connection to the floodplain and riparian area. The ultimate goal is to restore Grizzly Creek to a functioning stream.

Ms. McBroom explained the reason for acquiring the grant writing services was due to it being part of RESPEC's scope of work when they were originally hired and it was not completed prior to original grant deadline due to late changes in the planning design by the homeowner. For them to finish their scope of work, because they have all the knowledge, the County wrote a mini grant with DNRC using the same grant program and RESPEC will write the grant. She added the application is due May 2020 and has to go through legislature, get ranking and approval, has to meet a certain number of criteria. Once approved there would be a bid process. The estimate completion date is at least three years.

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 3-0 vote.

Contract Between Lewis and Clark County and RESPEC. (Jennifer McBroom)

Jennifer McBroom, Water Quality Protection District Supervisor, presented the contract with RESPEC in the amount of \$5,700 to complete and submit a Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) Reclamation and Development Project Grant application for the 2021 biennium. The grant is due May of 2020. The purpose of the application is to seek funding for the implementation phase. The assessment, planning and design phase of the Grizzly Gulch project was completed recently by RESPEC. The main goal is to restore the creek as a functioning stream with connectivity to a functioning floodplain and a healthy riparian area. Staff recommends approval of the contract with RESPEC.

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 3-0 vote.

Board Appointments. (Roger Baltz)

Roger Baltz, Chief Administrative Officer, presented the board appointments to the Augusta Solid Waste Management District Board; the Lewis and Clark DUI Task Force; and the Open Lands Citizens Advisory Council.

Staff recommends the following appointments: Stephen Balgeman to the Augusta Solid Waste Management District Board to a term that expires December 31, 2022; the reappointment of Bradley Bragg to the Lewis and Clark DUI Task Force as the Sheriff Department representative to a term that expires December 31, 2021; reappointment of Fallon Stanton to the Lewis and Clark DUI Task Force as the County Attorney's Office representative to a term that expires December 31, 2021; reappointment of Maureen Ward to the Lewis and Clark DUI Task Force as the Montana Department of Health & Human Services representative to a term that expires December 31, 2021; reappointment of Jason Zander to the Lewis and Clark DUI Task Force as the Helena Police Department representative to a term that expires December 31, 2021; reappointment of Tracie Kiesel to the Lewis and Clark DUI Task Force to a term that expires December 31, 2021; reappointment of Stacye Dorrington to the Lewis and Clark DUI Task Force to a term that expires December 31, 2021; reappointment of Desiree Navarro to the Lewis and Clark DUI Task Force to a term that expires December 31, 2021; and Richard Lamach to the Open Lands Citizens Advisory Committee as the Helena Valley representative to a term that expires June 30, 2022.

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 3-0 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 10:05 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