



PUBLIC MEETING

March 16, 2017

MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Thursday, March 16, 2017, at 9:00 AM in Commission Chambers Room 330.

Roll Call

Chairman Susan Good Geise called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

Commissioner Jim McCormick and Commissioner Andy Hunthausen were present. Others attending all or a portion of the meeting included Nancy Everson, Charles Lane, Misty Edwards, Eric Gilbertson, Tammy Potter, Audrey McCue, Paulette DeHart, Brian Coplin, and Nadine McCarty, Recording Secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone recited the pledge.

Proclamation Declaring March 17, 2017 as Irish Heritage Day.

Commissioner McCormick read the proclamation declaring Friday, March, 2017, Saint Patrick's Day as Irish Heritage Day.

Consent Action Items

- a. Public Meeting Minutes for December 22, 2016; January 3, 10, 12, 20; February 7, 9, 14, 16, 23, 28; and, March 2, 2017. (Nadine McCarty)
- b. Resolution 2017-22 Declaring County Property Surplus Property. (Amy Reeves)
- c. Quit Claim Deed - Hooper Park Deed Restriction. (Misty Edwards)

Nancy Everson reported on the consent action items 2 a-c 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 3-0 vote.

Grant Application to Montana Department of Emergency Services, Homeland Security. (Eric Gilbertson)

Eric Gilbertson, Sergeant of Investigations and Bomb Squad Commander, presented the grant application with the Department of Emergency Services, Homeland Security in the amount of \$60,000 for the purchase of bomb equipment and training, of which \$30,000 for equipment to include the update and replacement of self-contained breathing apparatus, protective suits, and \$30,000 for training. Geographically the Lewis and Clark County Bomb Squad covers one-third of the state and responds to other areas when needed. Gilbertson explained how the bomb squad came to Lewis and Clark County. Originally both Billings and Missoula had squads, it was recognized that there was a need for technicians to be able to respond from the central part of the state and approval was sought to work with Missoula.

Gilbertson explained when the bomb squad responds to other counties services are not charged to that county. Some of this is offset through the funds received from this program.

No public comment was received.

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

Resolution 2017-23 Requesting a Mail Ballot Election for the 2017 Federal Special Election to Fill the Office of the United States Representative for Montana. (Audrey McCue)

Audrey McCue, Elections Supervisor, presented the resolution requesting a mail ballot election for the May 25, 2017 special election, contingent upon the adoption of Senate Bill 305. It's estimated running the election by mail would save \$65,000, as opposed to the 2014 and 2016 polling place elections with a cost between \$140,000 and \$200,000 to conduct. This election is only one page so it would most likely be cheaper. In 2015 the mail ballot election and the school district election by mail each cost under \$76,000. Voter turnout usually increases with a mail ballot. Staff recommends approval. Ms. McCue clarified if a mail ballot is allowed, in Lewis and Clark County the voter will have four locations with auto-mark devices to assist voters with disabilities, and these locations will be drop off places for ballots, along with poll booths where people can physically vote.

Ms. McCue gave an overview of the mail in ballot process. Even in a polling place election more than half of the voters vote by mail. When the ballot is received there are two return envelopes, one is the ballot secrecy envelope with no markings that is placed in the outer envelope, also known as the affirmation envelope, which the voter is required to sign. The ballot instructions state the necessary postage. If there is not postage the postal service will still deliver the ballot and then deduct the postage from the County Elections Department's account. When the ballot is received all signatures on the envelopes are verified. This process is automated through a database, which allows a trackable record. The ballot is reconciled through the report that is generated from the database. When signatures are rejected it is required that a second person review it. If rejected, the voter can resolve the issue until the day after the election by showing identification, either by mail or in person. Another set of employees verify that the physical ballots are identical to what the database generated report lists. A second report is created at this time of verification stating how many ballots are from each precinct, at that time the secrecy envelope is removed from the signed envelope. On or before the day of election a new set of election judges will receive the secrecy envelopes and the detailed reports. The ballots are removed, a new report generates and states

the number of envelopes received and the number of ballots opened, this report goes to the tabulator. The tabulator generates a report listing the number of received ballots and the number ballots ran through the tabulator.

No public comment was received.

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

Resolution 2017-24 Appointing Post-Election Audit Committee. (Audrey McCue)

Audrey McCue, Elections Supervisor, presented the resolution to appoint county residents or staff to serve on the audit committee. After any Federal election a post-election audit is conducted for any county that uses machines to count the votes. Certain precincts and races are randomly selected to be audited. The ballots will be hand counted by the committee; the total will be compared to the machine tally. Committee members cannot be someone who worked the election. Staff recommends approval.

No public comment was received.

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

Resolution 2017-25 Designating Polling Places for the May 25, 2017 Federal Special Election. (Audrey McCue)

Audrey McCue, Elections Supervisor, presented the resolution to designate polling places for the May 25, 2017 Federal Special Election, in case the mail ballot election does not occur. The polling places are almost the same as the prior election, with the exception of the Jim Darcy School not being available. All these voters will go to the fairgrounds. Staff recommends approval.

Ms. McCue stated the Elections Department is required by law to post the polling places in the newspaper. Additionally a notice will be sent to the Jim Darcy voters explaining their polling place change. They will have the option to acquire an absentee ballot. They will also ask Jim Darcy School to post notices.

No public comment was received.

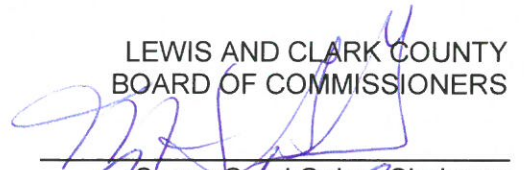
A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Hunthausen and seconded by Commissioner McCormick. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

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

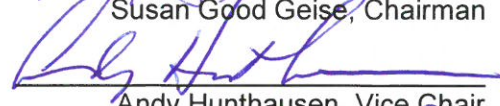
Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:41 am.

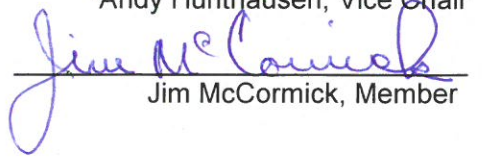
LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Susan Good Geise, Chairman

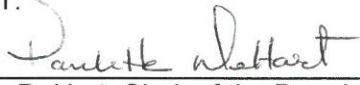


Andy Hunthausen, Vice Chair



Jim McCormick, Member

ATTEST:



Paulette DeHart, Clerk of the Board