



PUBLIC MEETING

March 16, 2021
MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at 9:00 AM in Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/5669454978>.

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, Nancy Everson, Nicho Hash, Peter Italiano, Ann McCauley, Julia Caro, Steve Utick, Bob Utick, Ray Prill, Sherry Peets, Andy Shirliff, David Nunn, Jeni Garcin, Eric Griffin, Alexa Noruk, Jessica Makus, Greg McNally, and Nadine McCarty, Recording Secretary. All attendees were present via Zoom.

Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone recited the pledge.

Proclamation Declaring March 17, 2021 as Irish Heritage Day.

Commissioner McCormick read the proclamation declaring March 17, 2021 as Irish Heritage Day. There will be a small ceremony to raise the Irish flag at the Capitol as well as proclamations read by the Governor and the Mayor to commemorate the day.

Consent Action Items

- a. Public Meeting Minutes for February 11, 16, 18 and 23, 2021. (Nadine McCarty)
- b. Disaster and Emergency Services Grant Point of Contact Change Requests. (Alexa Noruk)

Roger Baltz reported on the consent action items 2 a-b and recommended approval.

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.

Resolution 2021-18 Delegating Duties By Mutual Agreement Between Lewis and Clark County Treasurer/Clerk and Recorder's Office and Lewis and Clark County Office of Financial Services. (Nancy Everson)

Nancy Everson, Chief Financial Officer, presented the resolution delegating duties between the Treasurer/Clerk and Recorder's Office and the Office of Financial Services. The Office of Financial Services will perform certain duties of the Treasurer/Clerk and Recorder's Office generally relating to budgeting, accounting, financial reporting, accounts payable, and certain accounts receivable and will comply with all financial requirements and reporting deadlines. This resolution formalizes the procedures that are already in place and will not affect any operations. Both offices will supervise the Accountant. Staff recommends approval of the resolution.

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.

Contract Between Lewis and Clark County and Tri-County FireSafe Working Group. (Ann McCauley)

Ann McCauley, Grants Administrator, presented the contract with Tri-County FireSafe Working Group (Tri-County) to provide hazardous fuels and fire mitigation services. Lewis and Clark County has had a contract in place with Tri-County Fire Safe that expired in December 31, 2020. To continue the services, the County released a Request for Proposals in December 2020 for these services, which includes the administration and management of hazardous fuel/fire mitigation grants awarded to the County. Tri-County, a local nonprofit organization that works with land management agencies and private landowners to mitigate the risks of fire in the wildland urban interface, was the selected vendor. The contract is effective January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2028. Staff recommends approval of the contract with Tri-County FireSafe Working Group.

Ray Prill, Tri-County Fire Safe Working Group Executive Director, stated that the organization has been around for about 30 years and they represent Lewis and Clark County, Broadwater County and Jefferson County with respect to wildland urban interface and wildfire mitigation. They also have contracts with DNRC and BLM for similar services.

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.

Contract Amendment Request for Capital 360 Agreement. (Ann McCauley)

Ann McCauley, Grants Administrator, presented the request for an extension to the Participation Agreement with the U.S. Forest Service, Helena Ranger District to conduct fire mitigation activities on private lands as part of the multi-jurisdictional Capital 360 initiative. Tri-County FireSafe Working Group (Tri-County) has been the County's contracted service provider on this agreement that started in 2017 and has an end date of August 31, 2021. Tri-County recently submitted a letter to the County asking the County to request a no-cost extension to August 31, 2022 for this agreement due to work slowing down as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Tri-County has since rescinded the request for the extension.

Ray Prill, Tri-County Fire Safe Working Group Executive Director, stated that this extension is not necessary, as the Forest Service would like the work to be completed by the end of the original contract date.

David Nunn, US Forest Service Fire Services Manager, reiterated that US Forest would like this project completed by August 31, 2021 so there is no need for an extension.

No public comment was received.

A motion was made by Commissioner McCormick to table the item, as it is not necessary to move forward. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rolfe. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

Public Hearing Regarding a Request to Change the Schedule of Completion of Phases for Grand Vista Estate, Phases I-IV. (Applicant: U&M Enterprises, LLC) (Planner: Greg McNally)

Greg McNally, Planner III, presented the request for a change in schedule of completion of the preliminarily approved phases for Grand Vista Estates, Phases I-IV and if a change will negate the existing conditions of approval or otherwise adversely affect public health, safety, or welfare. The request is to extend the approved schedule for the completion of each phase of the development by one year. As this is a phased project, the Applicant may change the schedule for completion of the development upon approval of the Commission, after a public hearing is held. According to the existing preliminary approval, an existing 161.39-acre tract of land will be divided into 40 lots over four phases of development, with 10 lots in each phase. The original preliminary approval is currently subject to 31 conditions of approval.

The project is located north of Lincoln Road, east of and adjacent to Collins Drive, south of and adjacent to Fantasy Road. The property includes one unoccupied single-family dwelling and multiple outbuildings in the southwest corner, although some buildings have been removed in compliance with the conditions of approval. The main Helena Valley Irrigation District canal enters the property on the southwest corner and traverses approximately 300 feet before it exits the southern property boundary. Two ephemeral drainages traverse the property north to south and the property is sloped downward to the south. Development of the property is ongoing, utilities are in place for phases 1 and 2 and the roads for all phases are in various states of construction.

The applicant is seeking the request due to delays with subcontractors that have resulted in the inability to complete Phase 1 within the originally intended and approved timeframe. Approval of the request would result in Phase 1 being completed by March 16, 2022, Phase 2 by March 16, 2023, Phase 3 by March 16, 2024, and Phase 4 by March 16, 2025.

Staff recommends approval of the request subject to an amended condition of approval and one additional finding of fact. All other conditions of approval based on the findings of fact already approved by the Commission on December 17, 2019 continue to apply.

Steve Utick, 2950 Fantasy Road, applicant, stated that the delays are not from Northwestern Energy but rather a slowdown from the current pandemic and winter conditions. Mr. Utick added that they do hope to have all phases completed before the 2025 deadline. They are currently in the process of installing a large water tank for fire protection and they are installing mail facilities for the whole subdivision.

No public comment was received.

A motion was made by Commissioner McCormick to approve the change in schedule including the amended findings of fact and change in the condition of approval number 11. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rolfe. The motion Passed 3-0.

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

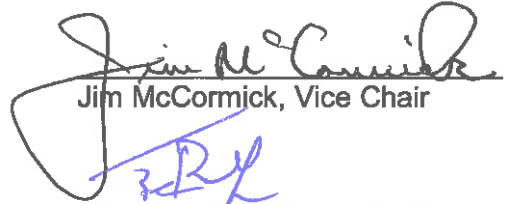
Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:49 a.m.

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Andy Hunthausen, Chair



Jim McCormick, Vice Chair


Tom Rolfe, Member

ATTEST:



Amy Reeves, Clerk of the Board