



PUBLIC MEETING

March 4, 2021
MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Thursday, March 4, 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, Kevin Horne, Peter Italiano, Clay Caudle, Dan Karlin, Jacki Pierson, Eric Griffin, Leanne Moyer, Mary Smith, Charles Lane, Amanda Jackson, Alexa Noruk, Marvin Weber, Audra Zacherl, Sara Hartley, and Nadine McCarty, Recording Secretary.

All attendees were present via Zoom.

Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone recited the pledge.

Consent Action Items

- a. Vendor Claims Report for Week Ending March 5, 2021. (Marni Bentley)
- b. Public Meeting Minutes for October 29, 2020; January 26, 28; February 2, 4, and 9, 2021. (Nadine McCarty)
- c. Request for Waiver of Penalty or Extension of Due Date. (Nancy Everson)

Roger Baltz 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 Rolfe. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

Bid Award. Lewis and Clark County Landfill Phase 4A Landfill Expansion. (Audra Zacherl)

Audra Zacherl, Public Works Assistant Director, presented the bid award for the Landfill Phase 4A Expansion Project. On February 25, 2021, eight bids were received for the Project. The project generally consists of the construction of the Phase 4A cell within the licensed landfill area. The 7.3-acre expansion will include excavation, embankment, and preparation of liner subgrade and lined with the liner system. The liner system includes from bottom to top: compacted native liner subgrade, 60 mil double-sided textured HDPE flexible membrane liner, non-woven geotextile fabric, gravel base drainage and protective layer, leachate collection piping, leachate pumping station, etc. Other work consists of construction of stormwater diversion ditches, a stormwater detention pond and an access road. The project is expected to start as soon as the ground thaws and the expectation is to have this cell completed and in place by the end of the year.

Of the eight bids received, there was a range between the high and low bid of \$941,120. Funding for the project is through a 12.5-year internal loan from the Road Capital Improvement Plan savings at 2% interest rate. After review of the bids, staff recommends awarding the contract to the low bidder, Bullock Contracting, LLC of Boulder, Montana for a total bid amount of \$1,235,269.50.

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.

Montana State Homeland Security Program Letter of Support. (Marvin Weber)

Marvin Weber, Sheriff's Office Deputy, presented the letter of support from the Local Emergency Planning Committee in support of the Lewis and Clark County Sheriff's Office Emergency Operations Division team's application for funding under the Montana State Homeland Security Program grant for Fiscal Year 2021. The Sheriff's Office applies for this grant every year and the funds help support the Explosive Ordinance Team. Staff recommends approval of the letter of support to Montana Disaster and Emergency Services.

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.

Grant Award to Lewis and Clark County from Montana Disaster and Emergency Services. (Alexa Noruk)

Alexa Noruk, Disaster & Emergency Services Coordinator, presented the grant award from Montana Disaster and Emergency Services for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program stemming from DR-4388, 2018 flooding in the amount of \$56,362.50. In August of 2019, Lewis and Clark County submitted an Advanced Assistance Grant (AAG) application to the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) requesting funds to conduct a Hydraulics and Hydrological (H&H) study along a portion of Elk Creek. The scope of the project is to conduct a H&H study on an approximate three-mile length of Elk Creek from Augusta Clemens Road to just east of Augusta on Highway 21. LIDAR data is already available through the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) from a 2018 bridge project. Because it is State data, the county can use it and the grant will be used to fund the costly process. The goal is to hire an engineering firm to take the MDT LIDAR data, translate it to a map and conduct additional ground surveys to provide a complete study. The data will be used to create a two-dimensional hydraulic model of the study area and once functional, it will be public information. The County can then use it to identify projects that will help alleviate flooding in Augusta. It

will be used to predict what and where flooding will occur, to validate project effectiveness and to permit projects. The total project budget is \$75,150 with the County committing \$18,787.50 from the General Fund for the required 25% local match. Staff recommends acceptance of the grant award from Montana Disaster and Emergency Services.

Dan Karlin, County Engineer, gave a background on the project and the steps that will be taken moving forward, including hiring a consultant to help design the project.

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 2021-14 Setting Seasonal Weight Limits on Specific Roads Under the Jurisdiction of Lewis and Clark County for 2021. (Kevin Horne)

Kevin Horne, Road & Bridge Operations, presented the resolution for seasonal weight limit restrictions on specific hard surfaced roads within the jurisdiction of Lewis and Clark County for the fiscal year 2021. This winter has had unseasonably warm temperatures as well as extremely cold temperatures across Lewis and Clark County. Seasonal weight limit restrictions are necessary as the frozen ground begins to thaw. The base gravel in the road bed becomes saturated and ultimately causes surface break up and premature failure. The current freeze-thaw cycles we have and will be experiencing have the potential to cause severe damage to the roads with heavier loaded vehicles. The ability for the roads to carry fully loaded vehicles is substantially reduced during this period. The resolution is to protect the County's investment and keep the roads safe and serviceable for public use for the period beginning March 8, 2021 through May 31, 2021. Prior to posting and enforcement public notices will go out. Upon Commission approval public notice will be given via social media, news media, and also by fax and email to a current list of contractors and heavy haulers within the County. 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.

Resolution 2021-15 Setting Permanent Weight Limits on Specific Roads Under the Jurisdiction of Lewis and Clark County for 2021. (Kevin Horne)

Kevin Horne, Road and Bridge Operations, presented the resolution for permanent weight limit restrictions on specific hard surfaced roads within the jurisdiction of Lewis and Clark County. Permanent year round weight limits are needed on roads that have sub-standard base material and have a double shot of chip seal. The roads will not with stand normal highway loading. Normal highway loading has the potential to cause severe damage and ultimately lead to costly repairs. The resolution is to protect the County's investment and keep the roads safe and serviceable for public use. Staff recommends that the roads remain permanently restricted. Public notices will begin upon Commission approval and will be given via social media, news media, and also by fax and email to the current list of contractors and heavy haulers within the County. 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.

Bridge Updates for Lewis and Clark County. (Kevin Horne)

Kevin Horne, Road and Bridge Operations, gave an update on the current bridge work throughout Lewis and Clark County. Lewis and Clark County currently has 13 restricted bridges countywide that Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) inspects. This inspection only covers bridges 24 feet in length or longer; bridges that are shorter than 24 feet must be inspected by the County.

Dan Karlin, County Engineer, explained load ratings and how bridges are inspected. Load ratings come down from the Federal Highway Administration.

Mary Smith, Montana Department of Transportation Load Rating Engineer, explained the program changes in load ratings and postings. The trucking industry has changed in the past 20 years so postings have had to change to accommodate the changes in the number of axles and sizes. The 3 load models used in the past were no longer representing what was on the road so additional models were developed and Federal Highway Administration mandated that all states consider these new models when updating bridge limits. As result, MDT has developed new signs and has an education campaign regarding limits.


Clay Caudle, Bridge Superintendent, stated that because Lewis and Clark County is experiencing growth, it is seeing an increase in infrastructure use on roads and bridges, which leads to higher costs to maintain bridges.

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 10:29 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