



## **PUBLIC MEETING**

April 19, 2022  
MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Tuesday, April 19, 2022, at 9:00 AM in Commission Chambers, Room 330.

### **Roll Call**

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

Commissioner Tom Rolfe and Commissioner Andy Hunthausen were present. Others attending all or a portion of the meeting included Roger Baltz, Kevin Wright, Nicho Hash, Drenda Niemann, Candace Payne, Kevin Downs, and Nadine McCarty, Recording Secretary.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Everyone recited the pledge.

### **Consent Action Items**

There were no consent action items.

### **Interlocal Agreement Between Lewis and Clark County and City of Helena. (Brent Colbert)**

Kevin Wright, Sheriff's Office Captain, presented the interlocal agreement with the City of Helena for the Byrne Justice Assistant Grant (JAG) in the amount of \$12,021. The funds will be used by the Sheriff's Office for costs associated with the Missouri River Drug Task Force (MRDTF). There are two fulltime sworn deputies assigned to the MRDTF with a portion of one of the deputy's salary covered through the grant and the remaining portion by the Sheriff's Office.

Captain Wright gave a brief overview of the MRDTF consisting of several counties and federal partners. It is a benefit for law enforcement in Montana. He added there has been an increase in overdose and deaths in Lewis and Clark County and the state regarding fentanyl.

No public comment was received.

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

### **Contract Between Lewis and Clark Public Health and Andrew Laue. (Tabled 4/14/22) (Drenda Niemann)**

Drenda Niemann, Public Health Officer, presented the contract, tabled on April 14, 2022, with Andrew Laue in the amount of \$5,565. She referenced her thorough presentation on April 14 and summarized that the contract is for a trainer that has specific expertise in secondary trauma. They are requesting

support of the Commission for the training to provide Public Health staff with tools to help boost their resiliency and to help recover from the past two years. Staff are experiencing significant overwhelming, burnout and stress.

Commissioner McCormick stated all testimony and comments will come forward from the April 14 meeting.

Ms. Niemann discussed how the anger and threats directed toward Public Health staff regarding the pandemic restrictions caused them ill effects.

No public comment was received.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hunthausen to approve the contract with Andrew Laue and seconded by Commissioner McCormick.

The Commissioners discussed the difficulties that Public Health staff have dealt with during the pandemic, both professional and personal.

Commissioner Rolfe stated many others in county government have had severe effects from the pandemic as well. Additional discussion occurred regarding other departments or offices that may also need support.

Commissioner McCormick asked for a vote on the motion. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

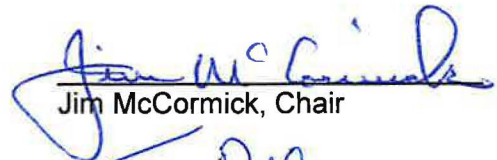
**Public comment on any public matter within the jurisdiction of the Commission that is not on the agenda above.**

Commissioner Hunthausen recognized that Candace Payne, County Commissioner candidate and Kevin Downs, County Attorney candidate were in attendance.

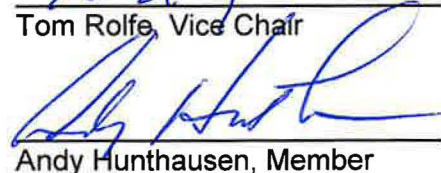
**Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:29 a.m.

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

  
Jim McCormick, Chair

  
Tom Rolfe, Vice Chair

  
Andy Hunthausen, Member

ATTEST:

  
Amy Reeves, Clerk of the Board