



## **PUBLIC MEETING**

June 25, 2020  
MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Thursday, June 25, 2020, at 9:00 AM in Commission Chambers Room 330.

### **Roll Call**

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

Commissioner Andy Hunthausen and Commissioner Jim McCormick were present. Others attending all or a portion of the meeting included Roger Baltz, Marni Bentley, Karie Frydenlund, Jacqueline Isaly, Dan Karlin, Paulette DeHart, Chris Sinrud, Mark Juedeman, Kathy Juedeman, Paul Pacini, Patrick Judge and Nadine McCarty, Recording Secretary.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Everyone recited the pledge.

### **Consent Action Items**

- a. Vendor Claims Report for Week Ending June 26, 2020. (Marni Bentley)
- b. Contract Amendment Between Lewis and Clark County and Roos Technologies. (Chris Sinrud)

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 McCormick and seconded by Commissioner Hunthausen. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

### **Amendment No. 1 to Task Order No. 1 Between Lewis and Clark County and Great West Engineering. (Dan Karlin)**

Dan Karlin, County Engineer, presented amendment No. 1 to the task order with Great West Engineering to provide additional services required for design modifications to Elk Creek Road Bridge #5 (EK5) at a cost not to exceed \$30,087 with a completion date no later than December 31, 2020.

In 2017, Great West Engineering was issued task order #1 to design the EK5, EK6 and EK7 bridge replacements as part of a grant Lewis and Clark County received from the Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP). Significant damage to the Elk Creek drainage was sustained as a result of substantial rain and flooding. The EK7 bridge was washed out completely, the approaches to EK6 were damaged and impassable, and the EK5 bridge had damage to the road approach west of the bridge. Trying to find a viable alternative to fortify the road for reasonable cost. All feasible alternatives require the EK5 bridge

to be in place prior to implementation. In order to install the bridge, many conversations were had amongst staff and consultant engineers, concluding that a pile supported foundation is necessary to provide the confidence the IK5 bridge will survive future flooding events and potential damage. However, a pile foundation requires geotechnical borings, additional design, and additional construction observation during the installation process. Staff recommends approval of the amendment to the task order with Great West Engineering.

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.

**Contract Amendment to Contract Number 20203HOME0029 Between Lewis and Clark Public Health and Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. (Jacqueline Isaly)**

Jacqueline Isaly, Community Health Promotion Division Administrator, presented the amendment to the existing contract with Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. The amendment will extend the term of the contract to June 30, 2026. The rest of the contract will remain unchanged. Ms. Isaly stated that Public Health will invoice per participant per class for the individuals who are involved with CFS and referred by CFS. Staff recommends approval of the amendment with Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services.

Commissioner Hunthausen noted the work that is being done is helping families stay together. These families are on the verge of having children removed from the home and helps to keep the families together and Ms. Isaly added it helps the parents to build stronger parenting skills.

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 2020-35 Ordering the Cancellation of Personal Property Taxes That Have Been Delinquent for 5 Years. (Karie Frydenlund)**

Karie Frydenlund, Property Tax, presented the resolution to order the cancellation of personal property taxes on mobile homes that have been delinquent for 5 years. Ms. Frydenlund explained the property tax collection process. If the individual is on social security and a set income, taxes cannot be collected and the county does not want to take possession of the mobile homes. Taking possession of property would cost the county more money to maintain and try to sell.

The Department of Revenue passed a new law that a mobile home that is 28 years of age, under the market value and is under \$10,000 is exempt from ad valorem tax. Tax payers would remain in their homes but does not exempt them from city specials or county specials. It will help clean up the tax rule. Staff recommends approval of the resolution.

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 2020-36 Ordering the Cancellation of Real Property Taxes That Have Been Delinquent for 5 Years or More. (Karie Frydenlund)**

Karie Frydenlund, Property Tax Supervisor, presented the resolution ordering the cancellation of real property taxes that have been delinquent for 5 years or more. MCA 15-16-701 states the County Treasurer shall prepare and submit to the Board of County Commissioners a list of real property taxes

delinquent for five years or more to be written off and submitted for your approval. Ms. Frydenlund explained the difference between real property and personal property that was presented earlier. Staff recommends the approval of the resolution.

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.**

Paul Pacini, Helena resident, stated this is about passenger railroad and read from a letter sent by the Big Sky Passenger Railroad Authority. Montana's air service is all but nonexistent and our interstate air service is dwindling. Dawson, Sanders, and Park Counties have decided to participate in the railroad effort. The City of Helena has had a resolution since September of 2017 to welcome any effort to re-establish passenger rail service through Helena. The impact of passenger rail serve to any community on or near the rail line would be significant, including more available and affordable social and shopping opportunities, improved access to medical care in neighboring communities, business travel, and strong magnet to tourism. In the more distance future a renewed southern passenger rail-line from Missoula to Billings could be expanded to Spokane, Washington in the west and Williston, ND in the east providing a connection to AMTRAK and rail service across the entire country. Joining the Big Sky Passenger Railroad Authority requires no monetary commitment, except assigning a representative to the Board.

Commissioner Good Geise stated there have been conversations with the Missoula County Commissioners and they have talked about this at the MACo Meeting and Urban Counties meeting. Lewis and Clark County Commissioners are still in discussion regarding this matter.

Kathy Juedeman, Helena resident, stated she grew up traveling to visit family on Greyhound bus service. The reality of the communities here and now is there are families that may not have reliable transportation or who are sharing the working car with family members. The opportunity of a train some of the travel would be easier or more affordable. She provided examples such as veterans traveling to get care at VA hospitals, legislators could commute to the capital and work along the way, families could take family trips. She is in support of the Big Sky Passenger Railroad Authority.

Mark Juedeman, Helena resident, stated the train line that used to carry copper from mines at Butte to Great Falls. A study from 2003 showed the Empire Builder along the highline had \$1.6 million direct spending by nonresidents and \$4 million on AMTRAK spending. Spending of those funds resulted in half million dollars in personal income to Montana residents, 30 jobs and \$135 in state and local tax revenue. A southern route connecting major cities and tourist destinations, Missoula Helena, Bozeman, Livingston, Billings, and close proximity to Yellowstone National Park would have considerable larger economic impact. His concern is if Butte acquires the route instead of Helena we lose the opportunity to restore service north of Helena to Great Falls which is currently abandoned. Benefits to the county include revenue, job creation, safe travel and tourism. That will not and cannot occur if Butte gets the line instead of Helena. He strongly urges Lewis and Clark County to join.

Patrick Judge, City of Helena Sustainability Coordinator, discussed a City Resolution from September 2017 restoring passenger rail service through the City of Helena and connecting to other population centers in Montana. The City of Helena Commission supports any effort whether it is AMTRAK, government sponsored, or private to reestablish passenger service. The City Commission further supports a cooperative relationship with freight line rail operations and passenger rail operations. They are in support and urge the County Commission to support.

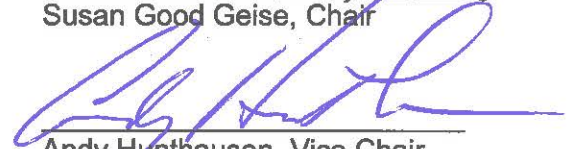
**Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:47 am.

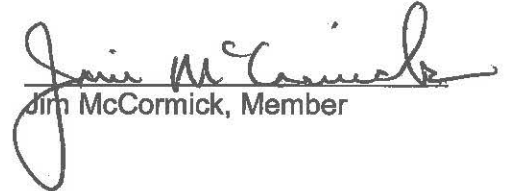
LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Susan Good Geise, Chair

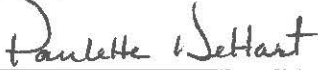


Andy Hunthausen, Vice Chair



Jim McCormick, Member

ATTEST:



Paulette DeHart, Clerk of the Board