



## **PUBLIC MEETING**

June 30, 2020  
MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Tuesday, June 30, 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, Kari DesRosier, Nancy Everson, Nicho Hash, Jennifer McBroom, Jeff Wadekamper, Audra Zacherl, Kevin Wright, Paul Pacini, Kraig Pester, Damon Van Diest, Mark Juedeman, Kathy Juedeman and Nadine McCarty, Recording Secretary.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Everyone recited the pledge.

### **Consent Action Items**

- a. Resolution 2020-41 Setting the Salaries for Certain Elected Officials. (Kari DesRosier)
- b. Resolution 2020-42 Setting the Salary for the Lewis and Clark County Justice of the Peace and Establishing Office Hours. (Kari DesRosier)

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.

### **Bid Opening. 2020 Motor Graders. (Audra Zacherl)**

Audra Zacherl, Public Works Assistant Director, presented the bid opening for purchase of motor graders. Two bids were received. The first bid is from RDO Equipment Co. of Great Falls, Montana for a base bid for 3 or more 150 all-wheel drive John Deer 772 GPC6 model or equivalent \$296,940 each; base bid for 3 or more 160 all-wheel drive GP6 model or equivalent John Deer model number 872GP value \$319,316 each for a total for 6 new motor graders \$1,848,768. The base bid for item number 2 used motor graders total trade in value of \$790,000; base bid for item No. 3 machine warranty and service agreement total warranty value for 6 new motor graders is \$123,520.50. With a delivery date of no later than 120 days after bid award. There are 2 alternates if the budget allows. Additive Alternate number 1, one or more side snow wings value each \$16,975; number 2, three or more Rylan manufacturing 12 foot folding V extension snow plow A frame osculation \$1,100 nitrogen accumulation kit value \$1,980.

The second bid is from Tractor Equipment Co. of Great Falls, Montana for a base bid amount for 3 or more 150 all-wheel drive 772 GP 6 Caterpillar, Inc. model number 2021 of \$339,000 each; base bid amount for item number 2, three or more 160 all-wheel drive 872 6 wheel drive model Caterpillar Inc. of \$357,700 for a total value for six new motor graders is \$2,090,100; base bid for item no. 2 for used motor graders total trade in value of \$1,194,480; base bid for item No. 3 machine warranty and service agreement total warranty value for 6 new motor graders is \$89,400. Delivery date is no later than 210 days after bid award. Additive Alternate number 1, one or more side snow wings value each \$14,800; number 2 three or more Rylan manufacturing 12 foot folding V-extension snow plow A frame osculation \$1,180 nitrogen accumulation kit value \$1,975.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hunthausen for staff to take the bids under advisement and make a recommendation to the Commission on July 7, 2020. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McCormick. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

#### **Bid Award. 2020 Dump Bodies and Assembly. (Audra Zacherl)**

Audra Zacherl, Public Works Assistant Director, presented the bid award for 2020 dump bodies and assembly. On June 23, 2020 a bid opening was held for the purchase of four dump bodies and assembly for the road department and two bids were received. When reviewing the bids, the committee looks for the lowest price, but also for a qualified bidder who has fully complied with all the bid requirements and whose past performance, reputation and financial capability is deemed acceptable. In the review, the apparent low bidder was not found to be the responsive and responsible bidder. In order to be responsible, the bidder must also have the skill, ability and integrity to do faithful, conscientious work and promptly fulfill the contract. In the past, on two occasions the apparent low bidder provided poor workmanship causing many years of complications that took equipment out of service on a regular basis. Based on experience with the bidder, and knowledge of past practices with other local governments, the committee deemed the apparent low bid not in the best interest of Lewis and Clark County. The difference between the apparent low bid and the next bid is \$12,246. Budget authority for this purchase is in the FY20 road Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and totals \$450,000. The cab and chassis component of the dump trucks was awarded on June 23, 2020 for \$238,300. Staff recommends awarding the bid to the lowest, responsive and responsible bidder, 3V Distributing, Inc. for the purchase of four new Duraclass HPT316 15 cubic yard end-dump bodies and assembly for the price of \$123,586.

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.

#### **Approval of the Helena Regional Airport Authority Selection of Anderson Zurmuehlen. (Jeff Wadekamper)**

Jeff Wadekamper, Helena Airport Director, presented the request for concurrence on the Airport Authority's selection of Anderson Zurmuehlen to complete the financial audits for fiscal years 2020 through 2022. At the requirement of the airport authority agreement with Lewis and Clark County and the City of Helena, approval must be made by the respective Commissions. They received two responses to their request for proposals with the selection committee choosing the lowest bidder of Anderson Zurmuehlen.

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.

#### **Contract Amendment No. 1 Between Lewis and Clark County and Bonneville Environmental Foundation. (Jennifer McBroom)**

Jennifer McBroom, Water Quality Protection District Supervisor, presented the amendment to the contract with Bonneville Environmental Foundation to increase contribution funds an additional \$42,000 for years 2021 and 2022 and extend the end date to December 31, 2028. Staff recommends approval of the contract amendment with Bonneville Environmental Foundation.

Ms. McBroom gave an overview of the project that began as a pilot project in 2007 and noted the increase in fish numbers.

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.

**Discussion and Possible Approval to Participate in the Montana Association of Counties Workers' Compensation Risk Retention Group. (Nancy Everson)**

Nancy Everson, Chief Financial Officer, presented the proposal from the Montana Association of Counties (MACo) Workers' Compensation Risk Retention Group. If the County joins the group, the current agent and fees would remain the same. Staff recommends approval to move to the MACo Compensation Workers' Compensation Risk Retention Group.

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.

**Presentation of the Lewis and Clark County Preliminary Budget Fiscal Year 2021. (Nancy Everson)**

Nancy Everson, Chief Financial Officer, presented the preliminary budget for Fiscal Year 2021 noting a public hearing will be advertised for July 7, 2020. She gave an overview of the budget process that begins in March each year. The Commission goals were reviewed.

The fiscal year budget expenditures is at a little over \$95 million. This is down from FY20 by \$6.9 million due to the Lewis and Clark detention center remodel project as well as spending down some open space bond money. The FY21 revenue is \$80 million with a lot of long range planning built into the yearly budgets which leads to reserves being built up to be spent in any given year. Total revenue increase is about \$1.5 million due to inflation and an increase in tax revenues and an increase in the detention levy as the remodel project wraps up. Other revenue is down and the budget is conservative due to the unknown in the revenue due to COVID-19. All purpose fund expenditures of \$14.5 million. General fund revenue has an increase of \$221,000 which is pretty flat and conservative estimates. The General fund has a reserve of \$1.8 million. Revenue/reserves analysis shows an inflationary increase estimated at a 2% increase due to new growth in the county.

The all-purpose general fund includes the following: special tax levies, grant restricted funds, health department grant funds, maintenance districts, debt service funds, open space bonds, capital projects funds, road and bridge fund, enterprise funds, internal service funds.

Personnel includes the 2.2% cost of living increase and new personnel. New personnel includes .5 FTE RID administrative assistant, new Justice of the Peace and clerk for the Justice of the Peace, new deputy attorney for county attorney office, approximately 18 detention officers, road department administrative assistant, public works shop mechanic and operator, IT&S security officer and systems administrator, and behavioral health coordinator. The operations and maintenance budget retains current services and programs.



Ms. Everson noted the low debt ratio and each department's commitment for savings for capital purchases and projects.

No public comment was received.

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

Mark Juedeman, Helena resident, stated he is here to reiterate his support of the Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority. He added quick action is needed for Lewis and Clark County to have a seat at the table in order to have a say in the route, design and budget of this project. Missoula County will drop the resolution on July 9, 2020 and time is of the essence.

Paul Pacini, Helena resident, stated Mark Juedeman summed it up on top of what was presented the previous week. When the benefits are considered, the question is not where, but how are we going to find the money? This is desperately needed in the state of Montana.

Commissioner Good Geise asked if there has been any data collected that would indicate the need or desire ridership of the passenger service. Mr. Pacini noted he does not know of a recent study. An Amtrak study was completed 17 years ago and it showed how locals used Amtrak.

Mr. Pacini stated the Amtrak plan pointed out it would be too expensive to run a line along the southern part of Montana, but a complete train is not necessary. This is more a commuter train across Montana. The rails are in place, but there are a number of freight trains that run through the valley.

Commissioner Hunthausen asked if Lewis and Clark County were to join this authority would there be any cost to the county. Kathy Juedeman responded that there would only be an investment in a person who would need to be appointed to attend the meetings and take part in the discussions.

Mr. Juedeman stated the County could join later, the concern is there is a lot of interest in Butte-Silver Bow County and if Butte-Silver Bow County joins before Lewis and Clark County the route could go through Butte instead of Helena.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



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Susan Good Geise, Chair



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Andy Hunthausen, Vice Chair



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Jim McCormick, Member

ATTEST:



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Paulette DeHart, Clerk of the Board