



## **PUBLIC MEETING**

July 13, 2017  
MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Thursday, July 13, 2017, at 9:00 AM in Commission Chambers Room 330.

### **Roll Call**

Chairman 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 Bob Abelin, Roger Baltz, Nancy Everson, Eric Griffin, Charles Lane, Eric Merchant, Drenda Niemann, and Nadine McCarty, Recording Secretary.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Everyone recited the pledge.

### **Consent Action Items**

- a. Vendor Claims Report for Week Ending July 14, 2017. (Marni Bentley)
- b. Facilitated Team Building, Licensed Establishment Program. (Eric Merchant)

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.

### **Ordinance 2017-1 Establishing a Speed Limit on a Section of Lake Helena Drive. (Eric Griffin)**

Eric Griffin, Director of Public Works, presented the first reading of the ordinance to establish a speed limit on a section of Lake Helena Drive, North of the East Helena City limits and the causeway at Lake Helena, and to provide penalties for any violations. After 30 days of the ordinance process a second reading will be presented, at that time the decision will be made and signs will be ready for posting.

Mr. Griffin introduced Bob Abelin from Abelin Traffic Services. Mr. Abelin gave an overview of how speed investigations are conducted and used to establish speed limits throughout the county. Real world information is used when establishing speed investigations to include road geometries, road widths, clear zone areas, curves, the number of driveway approaches, as well

as vehicle crash information. The biggest are the actual speed investigations where the vehicle speeds are monitored through traffic counters over a couple of days. A high level of uniformity makes the roads safer. The goal is to match the physical conditions and the operating conditions to what the drivers are actually doing. Mr. Abelin gave an overview of the graph that results from the traffic counters information to include: a speed profile, includes the average speed; the accumulation curve, the total number of drivers at a particular speed; the 85th percentile speed. The 85th percentile is generally the speed limit they like to get close to.

Mr. Abelin stated when reviewing a speed limit one particular factor is not taken as the ultimate rule. If there are other factors occurring and looking at the possible future of increased traffic volumes the limit may not be right on the 85th percentile.

Mr. Abelin stated when speed studies are done it is dependent on the road being studied. They are usually two to three days. These particular studies are looking at high use time and weather conditions. The roads being discussed are mostly commuter traffic roads so standard week days are good to use. Longer duration studies have shown a small amount of vehicle speed variation.

Mr. Griffin stated there are rules that apply to county roads and those that apply to public roads. The ordinance process on speed studies is required by statute and Mr. Griffin gave an overview of the explanation outlined by the County Attorney's Office. Many of the speed limits in Lewis and Clark County just had signs put up. The process is cumbersome, but Public Works is working their way through the county to do the studies on the collector and arterial roads. The goal is to have consistency for the driving public.

Mr. Griffin stated the existing speed limits on Lake Helena Drive from East Helena to Canyon Ferry Road is 45 MPH, Canyon Ferry Road to York Road is 50 MPH, York Road to Deal Lane is 40 MPH and Deal Lane to the Causeway is 35 MPH. The proposal is from East Helena to Canyon Ferry Road remains at 45 MPH, Canyon Ferry Road to York Road decrease to 45 MPH, York Road to Deal Lane an increase to 45 MPH, and Deal Lane to the Causeway remains at 35 MPH. This will make the corridor a consistent speed excluding the gravel portion of the road between Deal Lane and the Causeway. Mr. Griffin noted the Sheriff's office will be part of the notification process. Staff recommends approval of the ordinance.

No public comment was received.

Commissioner Good Geise noted this being the first reading, the public will have 30 days to comment on this proposal.

Commissioner Hunthausen noted that the minimum speed limit signs are usually at each end of the corridor and asked that speed limit signs be put in the middle of the corridor as well. People that live on this corridor have requested more speed signs be posted.

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

#### **Ordinance 2017-2 Establishing a Speed Limit on a Section of Valley Drive. (Eric Griffin)**

Eric Griffin, Director of Public Works, presented the first reading of the ordinance to establish a speed limit on a section of Valley Drive and to provide penalties for any violations. The existing speed limit on Valley Drive from both East Helena to Canyon Ferry Road and Canyon Ferry Road to York Road is 35 MPH. After completion of the speed study no change is recommended. Staff recommends approval of the ordinance.

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.

**Ordinance 2017-3 Establishing a Speed Limit on a Section of Wylie Drive. (Eric Griffin)**

Eric Griffin, Director of Public Works, presented the first reading of the ordinance to establish a speed limit on a section of Wiley Drive and to provide penalties for any violations.

The existing speed limit through the city limits steps up or down from 25 to 45 MPH, proposed speed limit would remain the same. From the step down to Canyon Ferry Road the existing speed limit is 55 MPH and the recommendation is a decrease to 45 MPH due to the trailer court, roads coming on and the canal bridge. Canyon Ferry Road to York Road is currently 55 MPH and the recommendation is a decrease to 45 MPH. Staff recommends approval of the ordinance.

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 Agreement Between Lewis and Clark Public Health and RiverStone Health. (Drenda Niemann)**

Drenda Niemann, Community Health Promotion Division Administrator, presented the agreement with RiverStone Health in Yellowstone County in the amount of \$2,400 for 80 hours of technical assistance to adopt and implement the CONNECT Referral System in their community. Lewis and Clark Public Health will assist RiverStone Health with training agencies and managing the referral system. RiverStone in Billings is now the seventh community that has adopted the referral system joining Helena, Great Falls, Havre, Kalispell, Butte and Browning. The system is a confidentiality compliant online tool that more easily connects individuals and families to the services. It also improves collaboration and care coordination between agencies. The agreement period is upon signature with work to be completed by July 1, 2018. Staff recommends approval of the agreement.

Ms. Niemann stated Browning is on the front-end of the implementation and will start to use the system within the next few months. For every community that adopts the system it takes time to implement as it is a different way of doing business. Ms. Niemann gave an overview of how the referral system works. Prior to using this system in the community there was about a 13 percent connection rate for referrals and that was specifically school to community. Through this system the referrals are at 78 percent making the connection.

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.

**Task Order Amendment 17-07-5-21-012-0 Between Lewis and Clark County and the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. (Drenda Niemann)**

Drenda Niemann, Community Health Promotion Division Administrator presented the task order amendment with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services to administer the Women, Infant, and Children supplemental nutrition program (WIC). The program provides nutrition education and food benefits to low income pregnant women and families with children ages 0-5. The Health Department serves on average 900 participants monthly. The Federal Fiscal Year 2017 contract has been amended to include another \$15,000 to assist with a budget

shortfall in personnel services and to help implement additional outreach efforts to help improve participation in the program for a total grant award of \$228,913. The task order expires September 30, 2017. Staff recommends approval of the task order.

Ms Niemann stated with the WIC Program the state, at end of their federal fiscal year determines if there are additional funds available. Once notified of the availability the Health Department applies with a proposal stating why the funds are needed and what will be done with the outreach funds.

Ms. Niemann stated most of the 900 participants are infants receiving formula. Pregnant women and children the age of 2-5 year olds are a smaller number of participants. Ms. Niemann gave an overview of what types of foods are available to families with 2-5 year olds, which also includes Farmers' Market benefits.

Ms. Niemann explained that the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and WIC programs are complimentary. SNAP benefits are for any age or any item without the restrictions that WIC has on benefits. The SNAP guidelines are at the 100% poverty level with WIC at 200% poverty level. The hope is EWIC, a card version of the benefits will possibly increase the participation.

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 Budget Fiscal Year 2018. (Nancy Everson)**

Nancy Everson, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Lewis and Clark County proposed fiscal year 2018 budget and gave an overview on the budget process that begins in March with adoption of the final budget in mid to late July.

The Commission goals are to: develop and maintain a culture of customer service; engage in effective long range planning; improve communication between departments, community partners and the public; efficiently and effectively manage public resources. Ms. Everson presented a graph listing the expenditures by classification.

The overall FY18 expenditures amount to \$81,748,455, an increase of about \$107,000 or about 0.1 % over the FY17 budget with a breakdown of personnel 29.1%, operations and maintenance 35.2%, capital 14.7%, debt service 1.9%. The revenue is \$68,663,443 with the biggest category being taxes and special assessments at 41.2%. The net decrease in County reserves proposed is \$13,085,012. The long-range planning built into the annual budget comes in here. A lot savings every year and this year the savings are being proposed. Total revenue decreased by \$3,398,000 or 4.7% compared to FY17. Total all purpose expenditures are \$12,554,836 which is an increase of \$183,317 or 1.4% compared to FY17 with the largest category being personnel at 52.7%. The total revenue for the all purpose fund is \$11,463,309 with the biggest portion taxes 56.8%. The net decrease in the all purpose fund reserves is \$1,091,327 which is savings that are being appropriated this year. The inflationary increase tax levy is \$136,218 or .59%. The \$333.94 increase is due to new growth-tax. The year end operating and capital reserves: county-wide reserves 32% of budgeted expenditures, all purpose fund reserves 26% of budgeted expenditures, and the capital reserves are at \$10,419,286.

Ms. Everson gave an overview of why the difference of the intergovernment category between the revenue classification and the general fund revenue.

In compliance with the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) the budget is maintained in fund types. The all purpose fund is at \$12,554,636 which includes the following departments: Commission, Administration, Treasurer/Clerk & Recorder, County Attorney, Justice Court, Superintendent of Schools, Public Works and Bridges, Coroner, Weed, Senior Citizens and Human Services. Special revenue funds includes 19 special tax levies at \$27,065,414, 25 grant or restricted funds at \$6,120,665, 23 health department grants at \$2,587,825 and 90 plus RID (maintenance districts) at \$5,001,176. The debt service funds are at \$1,202,174 and include open space bonds, search and rescue building and RID debt (18 funds). The capital project funds include the capital improvement fund and other capital funds such as RID projects, federal projects, and road and bridge infrastructure. The enterprise funds are business type funds generating their own revenue and include the fairgrounds and solid waste. The internal service funds are at \$10,894,405 and include information services and technology, building and equipment maintenance, liability and health insurance. Personnel changes includes a 1.3% cost of living increase and several new positions. Operations and maintenance includes three initiatives: public safety facility, court system funding, capital and contingency funding. The budget maintains a low debt ratio of 1.9% of budgeted expenditures and the department's commitment to saving for capital purchases and projects. A public hearing is scheduled for July 18, 2017.

No public comment was received.

Commissioner Good Geise stated that there is no necessary action to be taken.

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

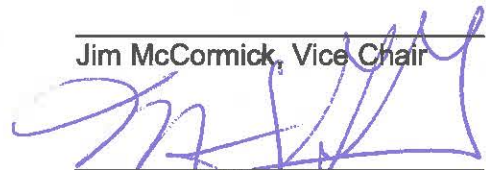
**Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:27 am.

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

  
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Andy Hunthausen, Chair

Jim McCormick, Vice Chair

  
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Susan Good Geise, Member

ATTEST:

  
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Paulette DeHart, Clerk of the Board

