



PUBLIC MEETING

July 28, 2022
MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Thursday, July 28, 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, Charles Lane, Greg McNally, Jessica Makus, Jenny Chambers, Jason Kreth, Kari DesRosier, Brian Obert, Keith Ouzts, and Brandi Spangler, Recording Secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone recited the pledge.

Consent Action Items

There were no consent action items.

Resolution 2022-54 Relating to \$16,121.66 Bond for the Lewis and Clark County (Wild Wind Road and Half Fast Lane) Rural Improvement District No. 2021-1; Fixing the Form and Details and Providing for the Execution and Delivery Thereof and Security Therefor. (Jessica Makus)

Jessica Makus, Special Districts Coordinator, presented the resolution to authorize participation in the Board of Investments of the State of Montana INTERCAP Loan Program and related closing documents. The Commission authorized financing of improvements for the Wild Wind Road and Half Fast Drive Rural Improvement District on June 29, 2021. Improvements include surface preparation with a crusher, addition of crushed top surfacing, application of magnesium chloride, culvert installation and drainage remediation. Final project cost came to \$16,121.66.

On June 15, 2021, a resolution to levy and assess \$147.89 per property for a period of 15 years was passed. Construction costs came in less than estimated and assessment is intended to be lowered to \$85 per year per property for the term of the loan, estimated to be paid off in 2037. Staff recommends approval of the resolution.

Citizens initiate RIDs then go through the process of receiving a loan to get the work done, it then gets paid off through the assessment over time so the work can get done in a timely manner instead of waiting years to save up the money for needed road maintenance.

Jenny Chambers, Public Works Director, gave an overview of the process from start to completion of projects through Public Works.

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.

Resolution 2022-55 to Increase the Fire Service Area Fee within the York Fire Service Area. (Jessica Makus)

Jessica Makus, Special Districts Coordinator, presented the resolution to increase the Fire Service Area Fee within the York Fire Service Area (YFSA). The last fee increase was in 2017. On March 1, 2022, the YFSA Board proposed a fee increase of \$50 per tax lot in the service area, bringing the fee to \$250. Notices were sent to all property owners notifying them of proposal and public hearing. Staff recommends approval of the resolution.

Jason Kreth, York Fire Service Area Board Trustee, discussed the increase of activity, population and rising costs of fuel and other operational costs.

Keith Ouzts, York Fire and Rescue Chief stated that four fire calls in the month of July cost \$1,000, which is typically what 4 months of fuel costs. York Community meeting was held July 27, 2022, and no one attending disagreed with the proposal. A new fire station built in El Dorado Heights for faster response to far end of service area, which makes 3 stations. One in York, one at American Bar, and the newest station at El Dorado Heights. Medical, structure fires, and wildland fires are the main calls received. Training for fire volunteers account for about 60 hours per year.

No public comment was received.

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

Presentation of the Montana Business Assistance Connection Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. (Brian Obert)

Brian Obert, Executive Director of Montana Business Assistance Connection (MBAC) and Gateway Economic Development District, gave a presentation on the MBAC Comprehensive Economics Development Strategy. Montana Business Assistance Connection is an economic development agency that is federally and state certified. The agency covers Broadwater, Lewis and Clark, Meagher counties and does collaborative work in Jefferson County. Funding sources are the Economic Development Administration, State of Montana through the Certified Regional Development Corporation (CRDC), membership from the City, County, and businesses, and gap loan financing within the region. Comprehensive Economic Strategy needs to be reassessed every 5 years and is in the process of being updated.

MBAC will be incorporating surveys from the public and having discussions with employees to determine needs and what actions need to be taken to make a difference in the community. Moving forward, for the next 6 months, there will be direct requests from the community, surveying, and continuing dialogue with employees. There are additional opportunities for GAP insurance to help businesses expand with the growing demands. There is a strong collaboration between banks and businesses. Some projects being continually worked on are Invest in Helena and Skill Bridge Program that assists active-duty soldiers coming back from the military into civilian life with education and other opportunities to help them succeed.

No public comment was received.

Contract Between Lewis and Clark County and Western Staff Services. (Kari DesRosier)

Kari DesRosier, Human Resources Director, presented a contract with Western Staff Services for conducting workplace investigations. There are times it is best that a third-party conduct investigations. Having this contract in place adds a second option of human resource consulting firms that conduct workplace investigations. Services provided also include training, policy review, and rewriting and management support. The contract is for 12 months for a term not to exceed 7 years, starting the day of approval for the amount of \$189 per hour. Staff recommends approval.

No public comment was received.

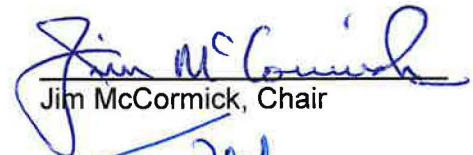
A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Rolfe and seconded by Commissioner Hunthausen. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

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

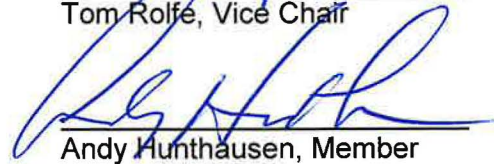
Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:51 am.

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Jim McCormick, Chair


Tom Rolfe, Vice Chair


Andy Hunthausen, Member

ATTEST:



Amy Reeves, Clerk of the Board