



PUBLIC MEETING

August 25, 2022
MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Thursday, August 25, 2022, at 9:00 AM in Commission Chambers, Room 330.

Roll Call

Chair Jim McCormick called the meeting to order at 9am.

Commissioners Tom Rolfe and Andy Hunthausen were present. Others attending all or a portion of the meeting included Roger Baltz, Charles Lane, Christian Lehnert, A.C. Rothenbuecher, Nancy Everson, Jenny Chambers, Sarah Sandau, Candace Payne, Lori Peterson, Nathan Bilyeu, and Brandi Spangler, Recording Secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone recited the pledge.

Consent Action Items

- a. Resolution 2022-86 Request for Prosecutorial Service. (Leo Gallagher)

Roger Baltz, Chief Administrative Officer, reported on the consent action item 2a and recommended 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.

Contract Agreement Between Lewis and Clark County and Helena Weed Control, LLC. (Christian Lehnert)

Christian Lehnert, Noxious Weed Coordinator, presented a contract with Helena Weed Control, LLC to treat selected noxious weed infestations on public lands within Lewis and Clark County. The contract is not to exceed \$56,250 and will begin upon approval through August 31, 2025. The project includes 83 treatment acres in the North Hills Fire area and 83 treatment acres of roadside spraying for Bureau of Land Management land that has been coordinated with the County. The contractor will provide herbicide chemicals, follow appropriate guidelines, coordinate with the Lewis and Clark County Weed District at least a week before spraying, and place safety signage in areas that are managed. Final

spray records including GPS location information will be provided. The agreement was first brought forward in 2020. Staff recommends approval.

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.

Memorandum of Understanding Between Lewis and Clark County Public Health and Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. (A.C. Rothenbuecher)

A.C. Rothenbuecher, Community Health Promotion Administrator, presented a memorandum of understanding with Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) for the Montana Community VISTA Partnership Program that expresses responsibilities for the two parties. The agreement begins August 15, 2022 through August 14, 2023 and includes a payment of \$5,000. VISTA will work with the Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors Team (LOSS).

The Montana Community VISTA Partnership shall assist volunteers in developing work plans, provide in-service training, match volunteer interest and skill with assigned volunteer station, provide support and supervision, track volunteer leave, provide job advancement to low-income volunteers, retain full responsibility of management, and transfer volunteers consistent with project needs.

The volunteer station shall provide acceptable work plans, day-to-day supervision, transportation, materials and adequate workspace, assist in evaluations, reasonable job accommodations, and maintain programs and activities for persons with disabilities.

Ms. Rothenbuecher stated the suicide prevention program has expanded. Coalition work includes media; public outreach; working with the LOSS Team, pharmacies, arms dealers, medication storage; and education outreach helps with suicide prevention. There is currently only one staff member working on suicide prevention. The LOSS Team relies on volunteers of survivors and support professionals. This funding is supporting one person. It does not provide for any suicide profession personnel. All components must work together to be effective.

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 Amendment No. 2 Between Lewis and Clark Public Health and Brandy Lidbeck. (A.C. Rothenbuecher)

A.C. Rothenbuecher, Community Health Promotion Administrator, presented an amended contract with Brandy Lidbeck that extends the period of performance to June 30, 2023, and increases the funds eligible for reimbursement to \$10,329.

Contract was put into effect in 2020. Success for additional funding from Department of Health and Human Services (DPHHS) for the Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors Team (LOSS), provides the opportunity for further work with Ms. Lidbeck. The LOSS team responds to the scene of a suicide to provide support to family and other people present. Support includes installation of hope, connection to grief services, and 2 free sessions with a grief specialist. Ms. Lidbeck has been providing training and technical assistance and education for volunteers. The contract includes additional consultation, one on one in person volunteer training, and virtual training opportunities.

Commissioner McCormick stated there is a few changes to language in the amendment. Ms. Rothenbuecher confirmed.

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.

Contract Amendment No. 2 Between Lewis and Clark Public Health and PureView Health Center. (A.C. Rothenbuecher)

A.C. Rothenbuecher, Community Health Promotion Administrator, presented an amended contract with PureView Health Center to extend the period of performance to June 30, 2023, and changes the amount of funding eligible for reimbursement to \$13,606. This is to continue providing services for HIV positive community members and their families. There is also some language changes as well in this contract. 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.

Resolution 2022-87 Relating to \$3,000,000 Open Space General Obligation Bonds, Series 2022; Determining the Form and Details, Authorizing the Execution and Delivery and Levying Taxes for the Payment Thereof. (Nancy Everson)

Nancy Everson, Chief Financial Officer, presented the resolution relating to \$3,000,000 open space general obligation bonds, Series 2022.. The process started in May and the bonds will close on August 31, 2022. The bonds were sold with an interest rate of 4% and will be paid off in 2034.

Commissioner McCormick stated the process was lengthy going through work with bond counsel and bond broker, DA Davidson. There are various maturities with the last being paid off 2034, it is a 12-year bond. They will be paid off in increments. Once approved and signed off, the bond broker gets interested buyers and sells. Voters passed open space bonds in 2008 with \$10 million in authority. The open space funds leveraged conservation easement projects. Some projects include Falls Creek near Augusta.

Ms. Everson stated that the money the taxpayers pay goes down. They started levying for it in 2011 and fluctuations causes changes in tax bills. Twenty-four dollars per year for the average taxpayer on a \$300,000 home has come to \$10 million. She added that this has been a very successful program and there is about \$3 million left to spend.

Commissioner McCormick stated multigenerational ranchers and ranchlands have been conserved with contributions of over \$1 million from each owner. It is a long, expensive, grueling process for these landowners. Open lands projects have been very good projects and will benefit generations for years to come. The \$24 tax will keep decreasing until the bonds are all paid off in 2034.

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.

Resolution 2022-88 Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of Approximately \$11,472,000 Higher Education Revenue Refunding Bonds (Carroll College Issue), Consisting of \$6,785,116 Series

2022A Bonds and Approximately \$4,686,884 Taxable Series 2022B Bonds, Under Montana Code Annotated Title 90, Chapter 5, Part 1, As Amended, To Refund Certain Outstanding Bonds; Approving the Form of Documentation in Connection Therewith; and Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of the Series 2022 Bonds and Related Documentation. (Nancy Everson)

Nancy Everson, Chief Financial Officer, presented the resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of approximately \$11,472,000 higher education revenue refunding bonds. The bonds were Carroll College issued. Carroll College is refunding some revenue bonds. There is \$10 million per year allowed in conduit debt and it is now at \$6.8 million.

Commissioner Hunthausen asked for confirmation that there is no risk for the public. Ms. Everson explained that the County would face no recourse if any of these bonds were in default.

Ms. Everson stated that conduit is tax exempt status and was lent to Asarco, Students Higher Education Authority, among others in the past. Due diligence is done before the conduit application is done. Conduit debt is rare and was last done in 2013. Carroll College has the original debt and refunds old debt to this one and continues with this one. Carroll College, although being private, fits the statute by being an educational facility.

Ms. Everson stated that there is no other bond issuance plans in the near future and if it had been next year, they may have had \$10 million in tax exempt.

Lori Peterson, Carrol College Vice President for Finance Administration and Facilities Management, thanks the Commission for supporting the bond issue. They are always looking for more reasonable financial rates for their students.

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.

Management Agreement Between Lewis and Clark County and the City of Helena. (Roger Baltz)

Roger Baltz, Chief Administrative Officer, presented an agreement with the City of Helena in order to establish an Advisory Building Management Board. This is reflective of priority to build relationships and work with the city whenever possible. The board will consist of one City of Helena Commissioner, one Lewis and Clark County Commissioner, Helena City Manager and Lewis and Clark County Chief Administrative Officer. The buildings to be discussed is the City-County building and the Law and Justice Center, located at 406 Fuller Avenue.

Commissioner McCormick recalled that the past management agreement between the City and County was established because when the federal government moved out of the building, they essentially gave it to the City and County. Because it was given to both entities, it was dually managed. There was no longer a need for a board having just this one building. It was determined a few years ago that the function of this building along with the Law and Justice Center, which is 3 buildings, needs a partnership in management.

Mr. Baltz stated that when the Law and Justice center was purchased, they went into an agreement with the City to provide the staffing and are project managements for the buildings and they are jointly funded. It is a unique partnership. Other partnerships with the city include transfer stations, support services division for dispatch center and communication processes, combined Board of Health, a joint Parks Board, and a joint Information and Technology Services Department. The building management partnership was presented by Interim City Manager, Tim Burton.

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.

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 10:05 a.m.

Meeting minutes approved on 8-13-22

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Jim McCormick, Chair


Tom Rolfe, Vice Chair


Andy Hunthausen, Member

ATTEST:


Amy Reeves, Clerk of the Board