



PUBLIC MEETING

September 16, 2021
MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Thursday, September 16, 2021, at 9:00 AM in Commission Chambers, Room 330.

Roll Call

Chair Andy Hunthausen called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

Commissioner Jim McCormick and Commissioner Tom Rolfe were present. Others attending all or a portion of the meeting included Roger Baltz, Marni Bentley, Kari DesRosier, Dan Karlin, Charles Lane, Chris Weiss, Susan Anderson, Jacob Michel, William Fuehrer, and Nadine McCarty, Recording Secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone recited the pledge.

Consent Action Items

a. Vendor Claims Report for Week Ending September 17, 2021. (Marni Bentley)

Roger Baltz reported on consent action item 2 a and recommended approval.

No public comment was received.

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

Grant Award to Lewis and Clark County from the Montana Department of Transportation. (Chris Weiss)

Chris Weiss, Sheriff's Office Sergeant, presented the grant award from the Montana Department of Transportation - Highway Traffic Safety program for \$15,000 to implement the Lewis and Clark Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP). The funds will support officer overtime shifts concentrating on highway traffic safety. The shifts are usually 3 to 4 hour shifts focusing strictly on traffic safety. The grant begins October 1 2021 through September 30, 2022. Staff recommends acceptance of the grant award from the Montana Department of Transportation.

No public comment was received.

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

Task Order No. 1 to the Contract Between Lewis and Clark County and RESPEC Engineering. (Dan Karlin)

Dan Karlin, County Engineer, presented the task order to the five-year contract with RESPEC Engineering to develop a Hydrologic and Hydraulic (H&H) study for Elk Creek in the Augusta area. Work will include field survey, reconnaissance, hydrologic analysis, hydraulic analysis and public engagement. The final deliverable of the task order will be to provide a Flood Mitigation Recommendations Report.

The task order will be funded through a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) grant, which requires a 25% match. Matching funds will be paid for from the grants account. The total project cost per the grant award is \$75,150. Task Order No. 1 is for \$74,985, with a required match of \$18,746.25. The federal share will be \$56,238.75. Staff recommends approval of Task Order No. 1 with RESPEC Engineering.

Mr. Karlin gave an overview of the light, detection and ranging (LidDAR) technology used to develop the H&H study and to determine flood mitigation projects. Once it is complete the public would also have access to the model, should they choose to use it on their personal property. This all started about November of 2019 with an application submitted and did not hear back of its acceptance for about a year. Once accepted the notice of award was another six or seven months, then a couple of months to get a consultant contract. The expected end date for this project is approximately mid-June 2022. Once the pathway is determined, another grant application submittal will occur to do any major project. It could be another three years before dirt moving occurred.

PUBLIC COMMENT -

Jacob Michel, 1067 Helena Ave., asked if there is any type of research element to look into as conditions change and how it will affect the floodplains and the riparian areas.

Mr. Karlin stated they do research backward quite a lot. Lewis and Clark County in conjunction with the City of Helena, have a LiDAR flight and aerial photography done about every five years. The model in the Helena Valley is updated as new data is received and new projects are added.

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

Amendment of Contract Between Lewis and Clark County and Life and Legacy Group, LLC. (Kari DesRosier)

Kari DesRosier, Human Resources Director, presented the contract amendment with Life and Legacy, LLC. for the extension of financial wellness services through December 31, 2021 and an increase for total services by \$5,500.

Lewis and Clark County received a \$25,000 grant through the International Public Management Association for Human Resources and its State & Local Government Financial Wellness partners for implementation of a financial wellness program in 2021. Certified financial wellness services provided include trainings, coaching, counseling, online courses, and program reporting as part of the financial wellness program. The instructor provided some of the other classes at no charge; therefore, unspent funds were available from the grant. That amount originally programmed through the other provider has been put toward the contract with Life and Legacy. They were willing to develop additional classes and extend their service period from October 31, 2021 to December 31, 2021. Staff recommends approval of the contract amendment with Life and Legacy, LLC.

Ms. DesRosier gave an overview of the financial wellness program.

No public comment was received.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner McCormick 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.

Will Fuehrer, 1731 5th Avenue, asked about the Commission's view on the possibility of the County joining the Big Sky Passenger Rail Association.

Commissioner Hunthausen noted there have been multiple public meetings with that topic on the agenda.

Commissioner McCormick stated there are a couple of issues regarding the resolution and they have not been answered satisfactorily. The Commission has not said no, they approved up to \$10,000 for a study on a southern route. The County remains engaged in the discussion, but have not signed the resolution to join.


Commissioner Rolfe stated there seems to be a disparity between what the County Attorney's Office feels are the ramifications of the resolution and those that drafted the document for the Big Sky Rail Authority feel. Currently at a bit of an impasse.

Commissioner Hunthausen stated this phase of the Authority's work is to determine if opening the southern route is a viable option, if there will be federal funding, and if there will be impacts to the local parties.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:37 am.

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Andy Hunthausen, Chair


Jim McCormick, Vice Chair


Tom Rolfe, Member

ATTEST:


Amy Reeves, Clerk of the Board