



PUBLIC MEETING

September 8, 2022

MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Thursday, September 8, 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, Nicho Hash, Katrina Chaney, Nancy Everson, Christal Ness, Ann McCauley, Greg McNally, Candace Payne, and Brandi Spangler, Recording Secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone recited the pledge.

Consent Action Items

- a. Letter of Support for Accessible Space, Inc. Housing Trust Fund Grant Application. (Ann McCauley)

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.

Presentation of School District Mill Levies for Fiscal Year 2023. (Katrina Chaney)

Katrina Chaney, Superintendent of Schools, presented the School District Mill Levies for fiscal year 2023 to supplement teacher retirement funds and transportation. Elementary retirement has increased to 26.27 mills, but high school retirement is included in that total. Total county wide levy is 98.28 mills, up from 95.57mills. School attendance increases by about 200 students per year.

Ms. Chaney stated the increases were all in the elementary fund, so it is about the same as last year overall.

Commissioner Hunthausen asked about the increase in enrollment in Canyon Creek. Ms. Chaney stated there are around 40 enrolled now and they are using the gym for the kindergarten/1st grade class. Augusta and Lincoln are holding steady.

Ms. Chaney stated that transportation had a good reserve. There was a decrease in bus routes being ran everyday. The nation is facing bus driver shortages and that effects the routes being driven. Training and obtaining proper licensing are a challenge to get done in a timely manner. For instance, there was a driver hired in June and couldn't get in for her CDL until February in Helena, so she had to go to Bozeman.

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 2022-94 Providing for the Annual Tax Levy in Mills for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. (Nancy Everson)

Nancy Everson, Chief Financial Officer, presented the resolution for the annual tax levy in mills for fiscal year 2023. This is the last step in the budget process. Total revenue assessed is \$1,289,509. Levies looked at include Special Millages, County Millage, School Millage, and Special District Fees and Millages. History of tax mills going back 5 years was discussed. There was significant new growth of about 6%. The inflationary factor was also included. There are increases in newly taxable property of \$1,287,306, inflationary factor of \$509,559, inside city mills of \$9.27 per \$100,000 market value, outside city mills of \$10.25 per \$100,000 market value, 30% Augusta Solid Waste, and \$10 Lincoln Solid Waste.

Ms. Everson explained the increase result in the Department of Revenue giving what the market value is and using a formula to get the increases. Expenses to operate local government is limited to one half of the inflation factor. Commissioner McCormick asked about schools being the majority of the tax bill. Ms. Everson stated that 60% in city and 65% outside the city. The property tax bill is Lewis and Clark County, City of Helena, City of East Helena, State of Montana with all sorts of assessments in each depending on where you live.

Commissioner Rolfe asked the difference between appraised value and taxable value of property. Ms. Everson explained the taxable value is 3.2% of the market value. Taxes paid are based on taxable value. People should not be alarmed in a change of taxes based on the appraisal value. Overall, if the appraisal values increase, there will be less mills needed. The more growth there is, the lower the mill amount. It fluctuates based on revenue and growth. If mill levies are not to the max, the county has the authority and right to increase it to the maximum in the future if needed.

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 and Encroachment Agreement Between Lewis and Clark County and Brian M. and Kristine M. Granville. (Christal Ness)

Christal Ness, Development Services Supervisor, presented a contract and encroachment agreement with Brian and Kristine Granville for a portion of a concrete driveway built in the utility easement. The easement was created upon the platting of the Glacier Point Subdivision. There was an encroachment agreement with the current owners, but that did not get passed along to the new owners. The easement does not serve any utilities. In order for the owners to fully enjoy the property, they have requested an encroachment agreement to encroach 4 feet into the utility easement for a concrete driveway.

Ms. Ness stated utility easements are no longer required on every side of a plat, only where utilities will be using the easement. There was a process that was followed to delete easements in this Subdivision. Everyone should be checking to be sure they are not building on an easement.

Commissioner McCormick asked about the encroachment agreement. Ms. Ness explained that the prior agreement was not inherent to the heirs and assigns. This transfers the easement from property owner to property owner. There were a number of lots that have been amended to remove the utility easements, and this property was not amended. This agreement allows the encroachment to be there but does not remove the easement. The easement is still there, but it is vacant.

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.

Board Appointments. (Roger Baltz)

Roger Baltz, Chief Administrative Officer, presented the board appointments for the Lewis and Clark County DUI Task Force and the Investment Committee.

Staff recommends the appointment of Chris Norris as the Sheriff's Office Representative to the Lewis and Clark County DUI Task Force to a term that expires December 31, 2024, and the appointment of William Madden to the Investment Committee to a term that expires December 31, 2023.

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.

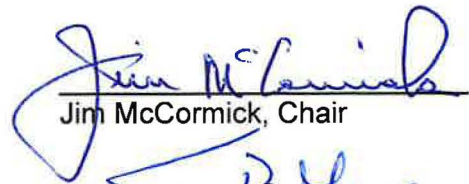
Public comment on any public matter within the jurisdiction of the Commission that is not on the agenda above.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

Meeting minutes approved on October 20, 2022

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS



Jim McCormick, Chair



Tom Rolfe, Vice Chair



Andy Hunthausen, Member

ATTEST:



Amy Reeves, Clerk of the Board