



PUBLIC MEETING

December 22, 2022
MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Thursday, December 22, 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, Jenny Chambers, Mat Walter, A.C. Rothenbuecher, Ann McCauley, Theresa Ortega, and Brandi Spangler, Recording Secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone recited the pledge.

Consent Action Items

- a. Vendor Claims Report for Week Ending December 23, 2022. (Marni Bentley)

Roger Baltz, Chief Administrative Officer, reported on 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.

Resolution 2022-112. Establishing the Lewis and Clark County Augusta Solid Waste District Rates Beginning January 1, 2023. (Jenny Chambers)

Jenny Chambers, Public Works Director, presented the resolution to establish the Augusta Solid Waste District rates beginning January 1, 2023. On November 10, 2022, the Augusta Solid Waste Board of Directors voted to increase the rate from \$12.50 to \$15.00 per cubic yard for construction, demolition, or excess waste. On December 8, 2022, a resolution of intention was passed. Public comment period was opened and was posted in the Independent Record. The public comment period closed December 21, 2022. Staff recommends approval of the resolution.

Ms. Chambers explained that the reason for the rate increase is due to Republic Services in Great Falls increasing their rates, on top of inflation.

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.

Agreement Between Lewis and Clark County and Montana State University Extension. (Mat Walter)

Mat Walter, Agricultural Extension Agent, presented an agreement with Montana State University Extension for fiscal year 2023 Extension Services in the amount of \$426,852.80. The agreement period is July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Extension programs include agriculture, 4H, natural resources, family consumer science, and community development. Funds have been previously approved and provides funding for 50% of agent salaries and operating expenses. Staff recommends approval of the agreement.

Mr. Walter stated the MSU extension site is www.montana.edu/extension and people can go find answers and solutions to different topics including 4H, agriculture, consumer science, estate planning portfolio, and many other resources.

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.

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

A.C. Rothenbuecher, Community Health Promotion Division Administrator, presented the grant award amendment from the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. The amendment is to add \$65,783 of additional funding to the fiscal year 2022 Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Supplemental Nutritional program to make a total contract of \$335,417.60. There is a two-year contract for the WIC program. At the end of the federal fiscal year, the funding is re-evaluated. The funding did not cover what was needed for fiscal year 2022, and there is a request in for further funding for fiscal year 2023. Due to inflation, increased salaries, and Medicaid reimbursement rate changes, funding is being spent more quickly even though they are conservative in spending. These funds are to keep the programs running and does not include a change in scope of service or number of staff. Staff recommends approval of the grant award amendment.

Ms. Rothenbuecher explained the infant formula crisis is not over. Not all formulas are accessible. There is some support from the state, but in a lot of cases, it can take weeks or months for the formula to arrive after being ordered. Changing formulas adds another layer of challenges for families with added insurance requirements and stress to the child.

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.

Amendment to Subrecipient Agreement Between Lewis and Clark County and Good Samaritan Ministries. (Ann McCauley)

Ann McCauley, Grants and Purchasing Director, presented an amendment to the subrecipient agreement with Good Samaritan Ministries. On November 10, 2022, the Commission accepted an amendment for an additional \$150,000 to support the roof project at Good Samaritan Thrift Store. The amendment is to increase the award amount to \$600,000 and the minimum match amount to \$508,869 from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Services. There is no change to the scope of work or grant period. Staff recommends approval of the agreement amendment.

Theresa Ortega, Good Samaritan Ministries Executive Director, explained that with these funds, it keeps Good Samaritan out of debt, and they are happy with the progress. She gave an overview of services provided by Good Samaritan Ministries and their partners. One program included is Our Place

that help homeless with treatment and follow up after treatment with continued care. There is a team approach to helping people getting what they need including Peer Support Specialists. She gives credit for success to the staff.

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 2022-116 to Authorize the Lewis and Clark County Attorney as a Contract Signatory. (Nicho Hash)

Nicho Hash, Deputy County Attorney, presented the resolution to authorize Lewis and Clark County Attorney as a contract signatory for contracts less than or equal to \$24,999 for legal services necessary for court proceedings. Expert witnesses are sometimes needed in specialized cases that need hired in a timely manner. For court proceedings to move forward, they are required to have professional legal services, including expert witnesses. County policy currently exempts legal services, including expert witnesses, but does not exclude legal services from final County Commission contract approval. Staff recommends approval of the resolution.

Roger Baltz, Chief Administrative Officer, explained examples of County departments that have the provision of approving contracts and explained the process. Contracts under the purchasing policy can only be approved by the County Commissioners.

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 9:53 a.m.

Meeting minutes approved on Jan. 12, 2023

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Tom Rolfe, Chair


Andy Hunthausen, Vice Chair


Candace Payne, Member

ATTEST:


Amy Reeves, Clerk of the Board