



PUBLIC MEETING

August 24, 2023
MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Thursday, August 24, 2023, at 9:00 AM in Commission Chambers, Room 330.

Roll Call

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

Commissioner Candace Payne was present and Commissioner Rolfe came in after the meeting began. Others attending all or a portion of the meeting included Roger Baltz, Frank Cornwell, Nicho Hash, Jessica Makus, Jenny Chambers, Jade Wills, Kal Njos, Tami Njos, Mark Langdorf, and Nadine McCarty, Recording Secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone recited the pledge.

Consent Action Items

a. Public Meeting Minutes for August 1, 3, 10, 15, 2023. (Nadine McCarty)

[1:14] 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 Payne and seconded by Commissioner Hunthausen. The motion Passed on a 2-0 vote.

Resolution 2023-78 to Levy and Assess The Riddock Rural Improvement District No. 1985-1. (Jessica Makus)

[02:21] Jessica Makus, Special Districts Program Coordinator, presented the resolution to levy and assess the Riddock Rural Improvement District (RID) for an annual special assessment of \$170 per benefited property, an increase of \$130 per property. The assessment has been \$40 per property annually since 1994 and is not sustainable for the maintenance of the RID. The RID is projected to have a shortfall of \$11,000 for the next chip seal cycle, anticipated for 2028. On August 7, 2023, an evening meeting was held with residents to discuss the increase and one person attended. Legal notice was sent to the 19 benefiting properties and published in the Helena Independent Record on August 12 and August 19 with no written comment received. Staff recommends approval of the resolution.

No public comment was received.

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

Resolution 2023-79 to Levy and Assess the Evergreen Estates Rural Improvement District No. 1994-4. (Jessica Makus)

[09:13] Jessica Makus, Special Districts Program Coordinator, presented the resolution to levy and assess the Evergreen Estates Rural Improvement District (RID) for an annual special assessment of \$210 per developed benefited properties, an increase of \$50 per property, and an annual assessment of \$42 per undeveloped properties, an increase of \$10 per property. The assessment has been \$160 per developed property and \$32 per undeveloped property since 2014 and is not sustainable for the maintenance of the RID. On August 7, 2023, an evening meeting was held with residents to discuss the increase and 19 people attended. Legal notice was sent to the 59 benefiting properties and published in the Helena Independent Record on August 12 and August 19 with no written comment received. Staff recommends approval of the resolution.

PUBLIC COMMENT -

Mark Langdorf, 9011 Douglas Circle, stated they are delighted with the cooperation and openness they share with the RID Coordinator and Construction Coordinator. He is a proponent of the resolution, but thinks it may not be enough of an increase.

Ms. Makus added a future meeting could be necessary to reevaluate the fees.

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

Resolution 2023-80 Amending Resolution 2023-64 Adopting the Final Operating Budget and Setting Appropriation Authority for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2023 and Ending June 30, 2024. (Frank Cornwell)

[20:17] Frank Cornwell, Chief Financial Officer, presented the resolution to amend Resolution 2023-64, approved on July 20, 2023, adopting the final budget for fiscal year 2024. Due to Senate Bill 332, that resolution included Section 6 that required the County show any estimated increases in property taxes and the amount they will increase on homes valued at \$100,000, \$300,000 and \$600,000. The increases were calculated using the prior year's mills because certified values had not been received from the Montana Department of Revenue at the time of final budget adoption. Certified values were received on August 8, after the Commission approved the final budget. Due to a significant rise in taxable values from the reappraisal cycle, the mill rates are now calculated to decrease. Section 6 is no longer required in the resolution. All other terms remain the same as the original resolution. Staff recommends approval of the resolution.

Mr. Cornwell gave an overview of the millage process, the increase in home values in the county of about 30%, and the total County budget at about 4 to 4.5%.

No public comment was received.

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

Board Appointment. (Roger Baltz)

[32:51] Roger Baltz, Chief Administrative Officer, presented the board appointment for the Forestvale Cemetery Board and recommended the reappointment of Peter Schaefer to the Forestvale Cemetery Board at the pleasure of the Commission until a replacement has been appointed.

No public comment was received.

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

Roger Baltz, Chief Administrative Officer, presented the board appointment for the Forestvale Cemetery Board and recommended the reappointment of Peter Schaefer to the Forestvale Cemetery Board at the pleasure of the Commission.

No public comment was received.

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 9:35 am.

Meeting minutes approved on 9/19/2023

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Tom Rolfe, Chair



Andy Hunthausen, Vice Chair



Candace Payne, Member

ATTEST:



Amy Reeves, Clerk of the Board