



PUBLIC MEETING

November 28, 2023
MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Tuesday, November 28, 2023, at 9:00 AM in Commission Chambers, Room 330.

Roll Call

Chair Tom Rolfe called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

Commissioner Andy Hunthausen was present. Commissioner Candace Payne was out of the office. Others attending all or a portion of the meeting included Roger Baltz, Nicho Hash, Mat Walter, Keegan Shea, Randy Adams, Tim Ravndal, and Nadine McCarty, Recording Secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone recited the pledge.

Consent Action Items

- a. Resolution 2023-101 Declaring County Property Surplus Property. (Amy Reeves)
- b. Resolution 2023-102 Declaring County Property Surplus Property. (Amy Reeves)

[0:01:24] Roger Baltz, Chief Administrative Officer, reported on consent action items 2a-b and recommended 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 2-0 vote.

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

[0:02:44] Mat Walter, Agricultural & Natural Resources Extension Agent, presented the annual agreement with Montana State University Extension for fiscal year 2024 extension services in the amount of \$400,925. He gave an overview of the many services that the three fulltime extension agents provide. They also have a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) instructor that oversees the SNAP program. They work with multiple local entities. The funds provide a portion of the agent salaries and an operational budget. The agreement period is July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. Staff recommends approval of the agreement.

Mr. Walter gave an overview of the 4-H clubs, the number of adult volunteers and youth participation. He added the office is now fully staffed. Their group classes and individual consultations reaches about 5,000 people.

No public comment was received.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Hunthausen and seconded by Commissioner Rolfe. The motion Passed on a 2-0 vote.

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

[0:12:59] Randy Adams, property owner, expressed his concerns regarding Lyons Creek Road and the evidence that he found, proving that Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP), Sieben Ranch Company and the O’Connell Ranch Company acknowledged the public’s right of easement on Lyons Creek Road. In 1996 this was presented to the County Commissioners and other agencies. A conservation easement must have access. He further discussed the public being deceived by the action of this transaction. It was noted that no publication or hearing of abandonment of Lyons Creek Road was held. He added it was the responsibility of the County Commission to protect the road easement, the public and the landowner’s rights; they failed. He continued to read from the multiple pages of information that he presented to the Commission for further reading and referenced the map of the 1888 survey as well as the 1903, 1905 and 1923 surveys. Mr. Adams added it is the responsibility of the County Commission to provide documentation showing the proper abandonment of Lyons Creek Road and if not instruct the County Attorney to have the Sheriff enforce the opening of Lyons Creek Road and send a letter to Sieben Ranch Company/Baucus informing them of the decision. He requested the Commission’s decision and findings back in writing.


Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:23 am.

Meeting minutes approved on 12/28/2023

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY


Tom Rolfe, Chair


Andy Hunthausen, Vice Chair


Candace Payne, Member

ATTEST:


Amy Reeves, Clerk of the Board