



PUBLIC MEETING

August 22, 2024
MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Thursday, August 22, 2024, at 9:00 AM in Commission Chambers, Rm 330.

Roll Call

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

Commissioner Candace Payne and Commissioner Tom Rolfe were present. Others attending all or a portion of the meeting included Jenny Chambers, Nicho Hash, Dustin Noel, Dan Karlin, Connor Fitzpatrick, Phil Gonzalez, Greg McNally, Rachel Ward, Chris Couey, Gary Lesofski, Lawrence Lesofski, Ray LaFromboise, Donagene LaFromboise, Alton Williams, Dax Cetraro, and Brandi Spangler, Recording Secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone recited the pledge.

Consent Action Items

- a. Resolution 2024-93 Declaring County Property Surplus Property. (Amy Reeves)

[1:05] Jenny Chambers, Public Works Director, 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 Rolfe. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

Professional Services Contract Amendment No. 2 Between Lewis and Clark County and 3-V Distributing, Inc. (Dustin Noel)

[2:03] Dustin Noel, Public Works Shop Manager, presented a professional services contract amendment with 3-V Distributing, Inc. to extend the contract period of performance to November 1, 2024. Staff recommends approval of the amendment.

No public comment was received.

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

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program Landowner Agreement Between Lewis and Clark County, the Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. (Dan Karlin)

[9:02] Dan Karlin, County Engineer, presented the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program Landowner Agreement with the Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for the Stemple Pass Road Crossing Poorman Creek Project. The landowner agreement is a condition of the USFWS grant funding and requires the County give the USFWS authority to complete wildlife habitat improvements over the next 20 years totaling \$228,400. Staff recommends approval of the agreement.

No public comment was received.

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

Resolution 2024-92 Updating a Precinct Polling Place in Lewis and Clark County. (Connor Fitzpatrick)

[23:25] Connor Fitzpatrick, Elections Supervisor, presented a resolution updating a precinct polling place from Tri-Lakes Station #1 to the Helena Valley Community Center. Tri-Lakes Station #1 is too small for the needs of the 2024 Presidential General Election, and it does not have running water. Staff recommends approval of the resolution.

No public comment was received.

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

Preliminary Plat Application for Amended Parcels P1 & P2, Amending Lot P2k of Hahn Tracts Subdivision, SUBD2024-007. (Applicant: Lawrence & Alexis Lesofski) (Planner: Phil Gonzalez)

[35:43] Phil Gonzalez, Planner II, presented preliminary plat application for amended parcels P1 and P2, amending lot P2k of Hahn Tracts Subdivision. The amendment would reduce the "No Access" restriction by 50-feet giving the applicant additional access from Michelle Drive. Legal notice was sent to adjacent property owners, posted on site, and published in the Helena Independent Record. No public testimony was received. Staff recommends approval of the preliminary plat amendment.

[46:05] Greg McNally, Community Development and Planning Director, stated the reasons why restrictions are put in place and the process of eliminating this no access restriction. There is no record of why this restriction was put in place.

[48:12] Gary Lesofski, representative for Lawrence Lesofski, explained the reason they are asking for 50-feet. He has no issue with getting rid of the no access restriction all together.

[58:16] Nicho Hash, County Attorney, stated the request for the 50-foot request is appropriate. It would need to go through a whole new review to eliminate the no access restriction all together.

No public comment was received.

Commissioner Payne made a motion to consider public comment and come back for a decision on August 29, 2024. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rolfe. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

Preliminary Plat Application for Bitterroot Estates Subdivision, SUBD2023-011. (Applicant: Raymond & Donagene LaFromboise) (Planner: Rachel Ward)

[1:04:42] Rachel Ward, Planner I, presented a preliminary plat application for Bitterroot Estates Minor Subdivision and variance requests for extension of roads within road easements of the Subdivision Regulations. Six agency comments were received with no significant issues. Legal notice was sent to adjacent landowners, posted on site, and published in the Helena Independent Record. No public testimony was received. Staff recommends approval of the plat application and variance requests.

[1:25:06] Ray LaFromboise, 3731 Juniper Drive, stated the flow of the drain goes from Prickley Pear Creek to the Southeast. He has a good relationship with Grasslands Subdivision Homeowners Association.

[1:32:27] Dax Cetraro, President of Grasslands Estates, confirmed the board confirmed access to their fire suppression system and will be put in writing once the subdivision is approved.

No public comment was received.

Commissioner Rolfe made a motion to take public comment into consideration and come back on September 5, 2024. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Payne. 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.

[1:38:00] Chris Couey, Resident of Northstar Subdivision, brought up water utility issues that he feels needs attention. Rulings by Public Service Commission have been in process for over 8 years. Water has been completely cut off a number of times in the last decade. Residents are being blamed for overwatering their lawns. Utilities are supposed to be proposing a plan tomorrow. Watering restrictions were put in place in June and water has been off since July.

Adjourn


There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:40am.

Meeting minutes approved on 9-5-24

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Andy Huhthausen, Chair


Candace Payne, Vice Chair


Tom Rolfe, Member

ATTEST:


Amy Reeves, Clerk of the Board