



PUBLIC MEETING

December 12, 2024
MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Thursday, December 12, 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 Roger Baltz, Frank Cornwell, Nicho Hash, Keegan Shea, Leo Dutton, Kevin Wright, Shawn Wittmer, Brent Colbert, Dan Karlin, Audra Zacherl, Jenny Chambers, Mimi Wolok, Ann McCauley, Kendra Piedalue, Lindsay Morgan, Angie Hubbard, Brittany Hogan, Brian Robinson, Greg McNally, Keni Grose, Sherryl Martin, Kari DesRosier, Nadine McCarthy, Casey Hayes, Doug Habermann, Daniel Osborne, Jess Patrick, Matt Kultgen, Michel O'Neil, Gloria Soja, Betsy Kirkeby, Hayden Wright, Ian Wright, Katie Wright, and Brandi Spangler, Recording Secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone recited the pledge.

Announcement

a. Employee Recognition. (Leo Dutton)

[2:03] Leo Dutton, Sheriff, recognized Kevin Wright, Shawn Wittmer, and Matt Boudreau on years of service and retirement. The Commissioners each gave thanks for years of service and each retiree said a few words.

No public comment was received.

[24:17] Brent Colbert recognized Eric Gilbertson for graduating from Quantico.

Consent Action Items

a. Resolution 2024-119 Declaring County Property Surplus Property. (Audra Zacherl)

[25:50] 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 Rolfe. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

Bid Opening. Fueling and Mg/Cl Systems. (Dan Karlin)

[26:50] Audra Zacherl, Public Works Assistant Director, opened bids for the Fueling and Magnesium Chloride System. Two bids were received. The first bid was from Dick Anderson Construction of Helena, Montana in the amount of \$962,353 with additive alternate #1 for \$69,000, additive #2 for \$59,000, and alternate #3 for \$6,000. The second bid was from Karnath Contracting, Inc. of Cardwell, Montana in the amount of \$955,740 with additive alternate #1 for \$16,000, additive #2 for \$ 62,258, and additive #3 for \$40,000. Staff recommends taking the bids into consideration and coming back to the Commission with a recommendation on December 31, 2024.

No public comment was received.

Commissioner Rolfe made a motion for staff to take the bids under advisement and come back with a recommendation on December 31, 2024. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Payne. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

Bid Opening. Head Lane Bridge Beams. (Audra Zacherl).

[32:49] Audra Zacherl, Public Works Assistant Director, opened bids for the Head Lane Bridge Beam Supply. The first bid was from Rinker Materials of Helena, Montana in the amount of \$117,638.50. Staff recommends taking the bids into consideration and coming back to the Commission with a recommendation on December 31, 2024.

No public comment was received.

Commissioner Payne made a motion for staff to take the bids under advisement and come back with a recommendation on December 31, 2024. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rolfe. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

Resolution 2024-118 Intent to Transfer Property Between Certain Governmental Entities. (Jenny Chambers)

[35:29] Jenny Chambers, Public Works Director, presented a resolution of intent to transfer property between certain governmental entities. This intent is to transfer one of four snowplows that the road division is replacing, to the City of East Helena for a market value of \$25,000. Legal notice of intent will be published in the Helena Independent Record. A public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, December 31, 2024. 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.

Department of Defense Grant to Cooperatively Assess Community/Military Disaster Resiliency Planning and Wildfire Risk in Lewis and Clark and Broadwater Counties. (Mimi Wolok, Montana Department of Military Affairs at Ft. Harrison)

[41:03] Mimi Wolok, Montana Department of Military Affairs, gave a presentation about a grant awarded to the Montana Department of Military Affairs and gave an overview of a disaster vulnerability study for mutual community and installation benefit in Broadwater and Lewis and Clark

Counties. The grant funds a consultant for a disaster vulnerability study and a wildfire risk assessment. She is asking for leadership encouragement for participation and cooperation.

No public comment was received.

[55:13] Greg McNally, Community Development and Planning Director, looks forward to working with Ms. Wolok.

No action needed.

Subrecipient Agreement Between Lewis and Clark County and Helena Housing Authority. (Ann McCauley)

[55:52] Ann McCauley, Grants and Purchasing Director, presented a subrecipient agreement with the Helena Housing Authority to complete planning activities for the redevelopment and expansion of the Stuart Homes Campus through implementation of an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) direct allocation award. The amount of the award is \$25,000 with a period of performance from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026. Staff recommends approval of the agreement.

[57:10] Michael O'Neill, Helena Housing Authority, thanked the Commissioners for support in providing affordable homes in the community and gave an overview and history of Stuart Homes. Preliminary plans are needed to seek funding for the repositioning plan and new construction.

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.

Interagency Memorandum of Understanding Between Lewis and Clark County and Lewis and Clark County Public Works Department. (Ann McCauley)

[1:06:48] Ann McCauley, Grants and Purchasing Director, presented a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Lewis and Clark Public Works Department for implementation of three American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) projects through December 31, 2026. The projects include the Courthouse and Murray Building Improvements Project, Magnesium Chloride Tank Replacement and Fuel Storage Project, and the Planning and Construction of Heavy Equipment Wash Bay. Staff recommends approval of the MOU.

[1:10:16] Jenny Chambers, Public Works Director, the scope change for the Magnesium Chloride Tank Replacement and Fuel Storage Project included some savings that will be put with the ARPA funds. Staff will evaluate the bids to see if the project can be afforded from those bids.

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.

Northstar Park Final Master Plan (Consultant: Kendra Piedalue w/ Sanbell) (Planners: Lindsay A. Morgan and Angie Hubbard)

[1:18:35] Lindsay Morgan, Planner III, introduced Kendra Piedalue with Sanbell Consulting to give an update and presentation on the Northstar Park Final Master Plan. No funding is being requested with consideration to this plan. She gave an overview of the location of the proposed park. Staff and the City-County Parks Board recommends approval of the plan.

[1:20:23] Kendra Piedalue, Sanbell Architect, gave an overview of the Northstar Park Final Master Plan along with history, completed study results, and community feedback. The preferred option was the nature focused plan, and she shared low and high end cost to get an idea of what fundraising is needed to move forward.

[1:42:52] Ms. Morgan and Angie Hubbard, Planner II, have met with DNRC, DEQ, and legal staff about water issues and existing wells status. They have been considering alternatives to move forward with the park without creating more water issues. It will continue to be evaluated while moving through each phase.

[1:52:57] Ms. Morgan stated that there is no obligation to spend any money on this park. The plan needs to be approved to apply for grants and other funding options. Since it is a regional park, more funding is available.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

[1:45:16] Doug Habermann, Chair of City-County Parks Board, appreciates the transparent public process of plan approval and is in support. There is no surplus of water anywhere in the valley, but it is important to provide opportunities for the community to get out of the house and provide places for people, families, and sports groups to gather and enjoy being active. He encourages a Regional Parks District be formed.

Commissioner Rolfe made a motion to approve the master plan without funding from general fund. 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.

[1:59:00] Daniel Osborne, Montana resident, spoke on First United Nation, a non-profit organization, and is looking for guidance on homeless mitigation. He is impressed by the Helena Community and empathizes with the lack of resources for the homeless community. He is asking for permission to bring some handouts for the Commission and move forward with a plan to assist the homeless community.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:04 am.

Meeting minutes approved on 1-2-25

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Candace Payne, Chair


Tom Rolfe, Vice Chair


Andy Hunthausen, Member

ATTEST:



Amy Reeves, Clerk of the Board