



PUBLIC MEETING

December 31, 2024
MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Tuesday, December 31, 2024, at 9:00 AM in Commission Chambers, Rm 330.

Roll Call

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

Commissioners Candace Payne and Commissioner Tom Rolfe were present. Others attending all or a portion of the meeting included Roger Baltz, Keegan Shea, Nicho Hash, Kevin Horne, Jenny Chambers, Casey Hayes, Troy Christiansen, Kyle Sturgill-Simon, Sarah Sandau, Lindsay Morgan, Karyn Good, Connor Fitzpatrick, Judge Abbott, Mark Piskolich, Lisa Kallio, Jim McCormick, Kelly Harris, Sherri Martin, Brent Colbert, Keni Grose, Troy Christiansen, Alyx Montiel, Tim Burton, Betsy Kirkeby, Amy Reeves, Brett Petty, Mike Swingley, Kevin Downs, James Thomas, Pam Hunthausen, Pam Piskolich, Tom Bremer, Mike Murray, Jennifer Garber, Keith Kallio, Dave Buey, Jackson Roberson, Katie Manion, Oliver Roberson, Kathleen Hunthausen, George Olsen, Ashton Loomis, Ross Morgan, Katrina Chaney, Michael O'Neil, Gary Petersen, Bruce Haler, Jack Marks, John Marks, Judith Anne Vincent, Duane McGregor, John Gleich, Cody Bahny, Scott Burhm, Dale Williams, Chris Bahny, Stacey Baertsch, Steve Eller, Casey Fitsimmons, Carol Hughes, W Allen Kallio, Rachel Dunn, Rob Bird, Lindsay Slead, Phyllis McCullar, Butch McCullar, Anja Kallio, Gretchen Ulrichsen, and Brandi Spangler, Recording Secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone recited the pledge.

Consent Action Items

- a. Resolution 2024-123 Declaring County Property Surplus Property. (Amy Reeves)

[1:28] [1 of 2] 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.

Elected Officials Swearing-In Ceremony.

[3:46] Judge Christopher Abbott swore in Andy Hunthausen as County Commissioner, Lisa Kallio as Clerk of Court, and Mark Piskolich as Justice of the Peace.

No public comment was received.

Bid Award. Head Lane Bridge Beams. (Kevin Horne)

[11:23] [1 of 2] Kevin Horne, Public Works Operation Manager, presented a bid award for the Head Lane Bridge Beams to the low bidder, Rinker Materials of Helena, Montana for a total of \$117,638.50. He read the bid award letter to Rinker Materials into the record. Staff recommends approval of the bid award.

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.

Bid Award. Fueling and Magnesium-Chloride Systems. (Jenny Chambers)

[4:48] [2 of 2] Jenny Chambers, Public Works Director, presented a bid award for the Fueling and Magnesium Chloride Systems to Dick Anderson Construction, Inc. of Helena, Montana not to exceed \$966,808.36. Staff recommends approval of the bid award.

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 2024-120 to Transfer Property Between Certain Governmental Entities. (Jenny Chambers)

[8:15] [2 of 2] Jenny Chambers, Public Works Director, presented a resolution to transfer property between certain governmental entities for the sale of a 1999 International snowplow to the City of East Helena for the market value of \$25,000. Legal notice was published in the Helena Independent Record and written public comment was accepted until 4pm on Monday, December 30, 2024. No public testimony was received. Staff recommends approval of the resolution.

[10:39] [2 of 2] Kelly Harris, East Helena Mayor, stated this snowplow is a big deal and is grateful for the partnership with Lewis and Clark County.

Commissioner Hunthausen closed the public hearing.

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.

Amendment No. 1 to Interagency Memorandum of Understanding with County Public Works Department. (Casey Hayes)

[12:57] [2 of 2] Casey Hayes, Purchasing Officer, presented an amendment to an interagency Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) with Lewis and Clark Public Works to remove the Heavy Equipment Wash Bay Project and re-obligate the funds of \$68,360.72 to the Magnesium Chloride and Fuel Tank Replacement Project for a total obligation of \$468,360.72. Staff recommends approval of the amendment.

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 2024-121 Amendment to Resolution 2023-89 Establishing Daily Rates for Incarceration in the Detention Facility. (Troy Christensen)

[18:42] [2 of 2] Troy Christensen, Detention Center Commander, presented a resolution establishing daily rates for incarceration in the detention facility of \$121.99 per inmate per day. 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.

Interlocal Agreement Between Lewis and Clark County and the City of Helena. (Kyle Sturgill-Simon)

[26:45] [2 of 2] Kyle Sturgill-Simon, Disaster and Emergency Services Director, presented an interlocal agreement with the City of Helena for supporting wildfire mitigation done within city limits. The agreement begins upon approval for seven years. Staff recommends the 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.

Amendment One to Interlocal Agreement Between Lewis and Clark County and the City of Helena. (Kyle Sturgill-Simon)

[32:12] [2 of 2] Kyle Sturgill-Simon, Disaster and Emergency Services Director, presented an amendment to the Interlocal Agreement for wildfire mitigation with the City of Helena to allow for Title III funds to be reimbursed to the City of Helena for work done within the Mount Helena City Park for an amount of \$22,475. 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.

Contract Between Lewis and Clark Public Health and Brandy Lidbeck. (Sarah Sandau)

[36:13] [2 of 2] Sarah Sandau, Community Health Promotion Division Administrator, presented a contract with Brandy Lidbeck to assist with the LOSS Team of Lewis and Clark County Area in the amount of \$1,500 with work to be completed by June 30, 2025. Staff recommends approval contingent on approval of item 13 on the agenda, the grant award from Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services.

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.

Grant Award Amendment to Lewis and Clark Public Health from the Montana Public Health Institute. (Sarah Sandau)

[40:54] [2 of 2] Sarah Sandau, Community Health Promotion Division Administrator, presented a grant award from the Montana Health Institute for the Regional State Opioid Education and Naloxone Distribution Program Grant in the amount of \$9,876.25., The grant period begins on approval through February 28, 2025. Staff recommends approval of the grant award.

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.

Grant Award to Lewis and Clark Public Health from the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. (Sarah Sandau)

[44:03] [2 of 2] Sarah Sandau, Community Health Promotion Division Administrator, presented a grant award from the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services for Suicide Prevention Services for work relating to Safer Communities of Montana and LOSS Teams in the amount of \$81,283. The grant period is July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. Staff recommends approval of the grant award.

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.

Contract Between Lewis and Clark County and Orion Planning + Design. (Lindsay A. Morgan)

[53:45] [2 of 2] Lindsay Morgan, Planner III, presented a contract amendment with Orion Planning + Design for rewriting the Subdivision Regulations to extend the completion date to August 31, 2025. 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.

Resolution 2024-122 Providing for Additional Support of the Lincoln Valley Collaborative Public Lands Management Proposal. (Karyn Good/Commissioner Hunthausen)

[56:47] [2 of 2] Commissioner Hunthausen presented a resolution providing additional support of the Lincoln Valley Collaborative Public Lands Management Proposal by writing a letter of support urging the Montana Delegation to work together to enact it via Federal Legislation. He gave a background of the proposal, read documentation of a draft agreement that has occurred over the last five years, and gave a summary of goals and phases. He read a list of supporters who signed on in support. Staff recommends approval of the resolution to update support effort.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

[1:03:40] [2 of 2] Casey Fitsimmons, Canyon Creek Rancher, asks for the Commission not to support this effort. He feels Canyon Creek residents have not been informed on this issue. He stated

his concerns and asked that the Commissioners speak to all constituents that will be affected.

[1:12:35] [2 of 2] George Olsen, resident, found out about the proposal last night and is lacking information. He is not in favor of a letter of support. He stated his concerns and asked the Commission to delay decision until they get more information.

[1:15:43] [2 of 2] Ashton Loomis, Helena Valley resident, does not support this and asks the Commission to reconsider their support. He questioned the conservation designation areas that would prevent future use of recreational activities.

[1:18:19] [2 of 2] Steve Eller, Helena Valley resident, is not in support of this agreement and asks the Commissioners to not support it.

[1:18:55] [2 of 2] Ross Morgan, Ranch Foreman and board member of Rocky Mountain Stockgrowers Association, stated his concerns and is not in support of this proposal. The proposal needs to be revisited as this hinders fire mitigation with the conservation areas.

[1:21:41] [2 of 2] Jack Marks, resident, is opposed of support of this proposal. Any support by the Commission is biased. He listed his concerns and negative impacts this proposal would have.

[1:23:38] [2 of 2] Stacey Baertsch opposes this proposal and urges the Commission to oppose it. He is also concerned about fire and noxious weed mitigation.

[1:25:53] [2 of 2] Gary Pedersen, resident and President of the Capital Trail Vehicle Association, did not find out about this meeting until yesterday and does not support this proposal. He listed his concerns about how restrictive this management area will be. He would like time to research if the Capital Trail Vehicle Association has ever officially supported this proposal.

[1:30:29] [2 of 2] Judith Anne Vincent, Lost Horse Creek resident, wrote a letter this morning because she did not find out about this until very late and is not in support. She entered the letter into the record. She does not believe the area should expand to Canyon Creek. She is offended the Commissioners didn't let her know about this proposal and that it may be misnamed on the agenda. She asks the Commissioners to delay the support letter so people can get educated. She wants a copy of the proposal.

[1:39:53] [2 of 2] Peter Tormey, Helena resident, uses the area for recreation and uses ATV's. He is not in support and sees no reason to turn it into a wilderness designation, as it is already open to multi-use recreation.

Commissioner Hunthausen closed public comment.

Commissioner Rolfe would like to see the proposal revisited to keep public access to lands as it seems that's the desire of the public. He feels that maybe it needs to be rewritten to play to the incoming administration. He does not think the answer today is to add wilderness, but he is open to helping the Lincoln community with a plan to increase tourism and bring in more support of their businesses. He opposes the proposal in the belief that public access needs to be accessible to as many people as possible.

Commissioner Hunthausen pointed out this is not the Commissioners proposal; they are being asked to renew their support. He explained the collaborative efforts and recognized people today feel they have not had a seat at the table. He urges everyone to read the proposal, so it is understood. He suggests taking more time.

Commissioner Payne also agrees that more time is needed in this decision and is continuously concerned about mitigation and wildfires.

Commissioner Payne made a motion to table the decision to a future time. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rolfe. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

Support Letter to the Montana Congressional Delegation. (Karyn Good/Commissioner Hunthausen)

[2:08:17] [2 of 2] Commissioner Hunthausen presented a letter to the Montana Congressional Delegation in support of the Lincoln Valley Collaborative Public Lands Management Proposal. They recommend approval of the letter of support.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

[2:09:07] [2 of 2] Casey Fitsimmons, is disappointed the last item is tabled and not denied.

[2:10:04] [2 of 2] Ross Morgan, wants to add that the constituents have changed and Montana is a red state and traditionally has been blue.

[2:12:30] [2 of 2] Judith Anne Vincent, Canyon Creek resident, believes understanding of the proposal is important.

[2:14:00] [2 of 2] Gary Petersen, resident and President of the Capital Trail Vehicle Association, stated next year's Forest Service budget is going to cut out all temporary fire help and has asked the Capital Trail Vehicle Association to take first aid and chainsaw training.

Commissioner Hunthausen closed public comment.

Commissioner Payne made a motion to table the decision to a future time. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunthausen. The motion Passed on a 2-1 vote. Commissioner Rolfe opposed.

Board Appointments - La Casa Grande Water/Sewer District. (Connor Fitzpatrick)

[2:20:45] [2 of 2] Connor Fitzpatrick, Elections Supervisor, presented board appointments to the La Casa Grande Water/Sewer District and recommends the Commissioners consider appointing Jacob Charles and Edward Sivils to four-year terms to the open positions on the board.

No public comment was received.

Commissioner Rolfe made a motion to reappointment of Jacob Charles and Edward Sivils to four-year terms to the La Casa Grande Water/Sewer District. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Payne. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

Board of County Commission Chair and Vice Chair Designation for Calendar Year 2025.

[2:22:30] [2 of 2] Commissioners designated Chair and Vice Chair for calendar year 2025.

Commissioner Rolfe nominated Commissioner Payne for Chair for the 2025 calendar year and was seconded by Commissioner Hunthausen. Commissioner Hunthausen closed nominations. The motion Passed on a 2-0 vote.

Commissioner Payne nominated Tom Rolfe for Vice Chair for the 2025 calendar year and was seconded by Commissioner Hunthausen. Commissioner Hunthausen closed nominations. 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 12:13 pm.

Meeting minutes approved on 1-14-25

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Candace Payne, Chair


Tom Rolfe, Vice Chair


Andy Hunthausen, Member

ATTEST:


Amy Reeves, Clerk of the Board