



PUBLIC MEETING

May 16, 2024
MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Thursday, May 16, 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, Nicho Hash, Keegan Shea, Jessica Makus, Ann McCauley, Greg McNally, Christal Ness, Laurel Riek, Kevin Wright, Pam Attardo, Kathy Macefield, Angie Hubbard, Rachel Ward, Dan Karlin, Connor Fitzpatrick, Ruth Rater, Connie Jerome, Carson Milligan, Denise Feller, Mary Tapper, Barbara Rush, Phillip Johnson, Matthew Cooper, Jill Guthrie, Gina Reilly, Anna Madsen, Lisa Hoffa, Rachel Burrig, Robert McCamey Jr., Linda McCamey, Cyndy Hammond, Robert Hammond, Terri Barney, Aaron Herriges, Donna Ford, Heather Lanning, Gail Briese Zimmer, Pam VonBergen, Loy Chvilicek, Marilyn Hudson, Shaun Fyfe, Chiko Olson, Kimberly Daniel, Paul McElroy, Joe Dosen, Diane Anders, Barbara Goldiron, Dustin Scott, Ana Scott, Darin Gaub, Bonnie Parrett, Tom O'Comell, Dona Dobler, Pameley Raney, Phyllis Lamping, Sylvia Vargo, Stacey Gasta, Pam Swalve, Elizabeth Hale, and Nadine McCarty, Recording Secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone recited the pledge.

Proclaiming the Month of May as Historic Preservation Month.

[1:48] Pam Attardo, Heritage Preservation Officer, read the proclamation proclaiming the month of May 2024 to be Historic Preservation Month.

Consent Action Items

There were no consent action items.

Approval of Invoice Payment. (Kevin Wright)

[10:15] Kevin Wright, Captain, presented the invoice from Gruber Excavating, Inc. in the amount of \$9,574 for accessibility to the mobile morgue. The project did not go through the procurement process and work was completed in March 2024. Staff recommends approval of the invoice.

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 Task Order for Public Health Emergency Preparedness (Laurel Riek)

[12:56] Laurel Riek, Environmental Health Disease Control and Prevention Division Administrator, presented the grant award task order with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services in the amount of \$111,541 to enhance local public health emergency preparedness. The task order begins July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. Staff recommends approval of the task order.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Diane Anders, Helena resident, feels there is a lack of citizen choice.

Teri Barney, Helena resident, stated a poor job is done on the accountability of grant funds received. Where is the money going, how is it being spent, and is it viable? Money spent on studies that don't work is not tangible.

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

Grant Award to Lewis and Clark County from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. (Ann McCauley)

[21:29] Ann McCauley, Grants and Purchasing Director, presented the grant award from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation for an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Minimum Allocation award in the amount of \$88,500. The funds are for improvements to a County-owned storm and wastewater effluent pipe in Wolf Creek, Montana in partnership with the Montana Department of Transportation. The required match funds of \$88,500 are provided through the County ARPA Direct Allocation award. The period of performance is February 1, 2022 through September 30, 2025. Staff recommends approval of the grant award.

Dan Karlin, Engineer, discussed and explained the pipe project.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Donna Dobler, citizen, is requesting the Commissioners speak louder.

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

Resolution 2024-28. To Levy and Assess the Bridge Creek Rural Improvement District No. 2015-4. (Jessica Makus)

[34:45] Jessica Makus, Special Districts Program Coordinator, presented the resolutions to levy and assess the Bridge Creek Rural Improvement District (RID) an annual assessment of \$300 upon the 81 benefiting properties, a total of \$24,300 annually to fund maintenance. A meeting was held on February 7, 2024 with three attendees. Legal notice was sent to property owners and published in the Independent Record. As of May 15, one written testimony was received. Staff recommends approval of the resolution.

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 2024-29. To Levy and Assess the Hillview Rural Improvement District No. 2015-3. (Jessica Makus)

[48:50] Jessica Makus, Special Districts Program Coordinator, presented the resolution to levy and assess the Hillview Rural Improvement District an annual assessment of \$300 upon the 42 benefiting properties, a total of \$12,600 annually for maintenance of the RID. A meeting was held on January 10, 2024 with six attendees. Legal notice was sent to property owners and published in the Independent Record. As of May 15, no written testimony was received. Staff recommends approval.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Gail Briese Zimmer, district resident, as a board member who voted to create the district, feels that although painful, funds need to be ensured to maintain the road.

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

Resolution 2024-30. Intention to Create the Lucky Strike Rural Improvement District No. 2024-1. (Jessica Makus)

[58:00] Jessica Makus, Special Districts Program Coordinator, presented the resolution of intention to create the Lucky Strike Rural Improvement District, petitioned for by 55.6% of the nine property owners. The estimated cost of improvement is \$78,079. A 15-year debt service assessment is \$894 annually with additional \$320 annually for maintenance. Staff recommends approval of the resolution.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Marvin Wallchuck, Hillview Drive, thanked everyone for the work and recognition of the hard times everyone is financially going through.

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

Resolution 2024-31 to Abandon a Portion of Circle Place, a County Road Right-of-Way. (Christal Ness)

[1:08:15] Christal Ness, Development Services Supervisor, presented the resolution to finalize the abandonment of a portion of Circle Place right-of-way in the Bellevue Addition. Preliminary approval for the abandonment was granted on January 30, 2024, subject to four conditions. The four conditions to be satisfactorily met upon execution of the presented documents. Staff recommends approval of the resolution.

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.

Elections Update. (Connor Fitzpatrick)

[1:16:10] Connor Fitzpatrick, Elections Supervisor, gave an update on the school districts election and the election canvass.

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

[1:37:00] Darin Gaub, 524 8th Avenue, spoke about election systems and processes. There is a lack of transparency, lack of desire to adhere to law, which has created a lack of trust. Being transparent and following the law will help citizens regain trust.

Mary Tapper, resident of Lewis and Clark County, licensed attorney, discussed the public records request submitted on May 1, 2024 for all Cast Vote Records (CVR) and Summary Digital files for the June 4, 2024 Primary Election and the November 5, 2024 General Election. A response stated CVRs are not created.

Gina Reilly, believes that a CVR can and should be created. She wants to conduct a citizen's audit. Stated someone had to manually turn the CVR function on the machine off. Why? The information is required to be saved.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:56 am.

Meeting minutes approved on 7-9-24

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Andy Hunthausen, Chair



Candace Payne, Vice Chair



Tom Rolfe, Member

ATTEST:



Amy Reeves, Clerk of the Board