

**PUBLIC MEETING
NOVEMBER 21, 2013
MINUTES**

The Lewis and Clark County Commissioners Public Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 21, 2013, at 10 a.m. in Commission Chambers Room 330 of the City-County Building, 316 North Park Avenue, Helena, Montana.

Chairman Mike Murray called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

Commissioner Andy Hunthausen and Commissioner Susan Good Geise were present. Others attending all or a portion of the meeting included Eric Bryson, Jeremy Gersovitz, Marni Bentley, Carrie Severson, Karen Lane, Laura Erikson, Steve Larson, Lisa Ballard, Lindsay Morgan, Phil Porrini, Bobb Allen, Jaymie Sheldahl, Patricia Sorenson, Les Clark, Brian Persons, Paul Olsen, Vivian Crabtree, John Horne, Jim Horne, Matthew Cramer, Elizabeth Andrews, Ben Brouwer and Rita Cortright, Recording Secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance. Everyone recited the Pledge.

Consent Action Items. (Eric Bryson)

- a. Vendor Claims Report for the Week of November 18, 2013. (Marni Bentley)
- b. Resolution 2013-108 Declaring County Property Surplus Property (Amy Reeves)
- c. Resolve or Order the Chief Administrative Officer to Act Upon a Letter of Credit Set to Expire 11/30/13, by Mountain West Bank for the Glacier Point Subdivision. (George Thebarge)

Eric Bryson reported on the consent action items and recommended approval.

No public comment was received.

Commissioner Hunthausen moved approval of Consent Action Items 2.a, b. and c. and authorized the Chair to sign. Commissioner Good Geise seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Helena Area Transit Service Inclusive Coalition Building – Project Summary and Next Steps.
(Laura Erikson) The Commissioners will receive a presentation on the project.

Laura Erikson, Grants Coordinator, provided background on the Helena Area Transit Service Inclusive Planning Project, funded by the U.S. Administration for Community Living. The project's intent was to empower people with mobility limitations to be actively involved in designing and implementing coordinated transportation services. The consultant, Current Transportation Solutions, had been contracted to do a study that included interviewing many Helena area residents who met that criteria.

Lisa Ballard, consultant with Current Transportation Solutions, was introduced. Ms. Ballard noted Lewis & Clark County was one of 17 communities nationwide awarded a Transit Planning 4 All grant, a 3-month grant with the opportunity to apply for the second round of grant funding, probably narrowed to 5-8 communities. The project, focused on the North Valley, would build on the 5-Year Transit Development Plan recently adopted by the City of Helena. The stated mission, vision and goals were: to empower the community stakeholders to be actively involved in planning and implementing transportation services that were essential to their independence, community engagement and quality of life. The consultant was asked to look at funding and public participation; hold 3 working group meetings and conduct 10 interviews; hold 5 meetings



with seniors and those with disabilities, and conduct 2 wrap-up meetings. Each of these was reviewed in detail. HATS provides three types of core transportation services: checkpoint; curb-to-curb and East Helena Valley, in addition to the RMDC Senior Transportation, the Head Start and the Inter-City agents. The total budget for FY2012 was \$1.46 million, with checkpoint at about \$200,000; curb-to-curb at about \$600,000, and East Valley at about \$174,000. The Helena community was compared to 43 others of similar size. Helena's budget was smaller than the average among its peers; the funding distribution was not as diversified, and most of the funding came from the City of Helena. Four recommended actions were presented: 1) Strengthen the role of the TAC for coordination and mobility management activities; 2) Form a local Consumer Council; 3) Form a "Transportation for All" Advocacy Coalition; and 4) Develop a Strategic Marketing Plan; each with specific "next step" recommendations that were reviewed in detail.

Public Comment --

Ben Brouwer, Health Educator, City-County Health Dept. explained the focus of his work was on the Built Environment. His testimony focused on the link between Public Health and the Transit Service, and how transit service had been shown to lead to increased rates of physical activity and improved access to health services. Statistics were cited relative to over-weight children and adults in Montana; underlying the statistics was an epidemic of inactivity. Statistically, people who utilized public transit walked more than people who relied on their own personal vehicles. Mr. Brouwer was supportive of the Community Health Improvement Plan finalized this year, under the coordination of St. Peter's Hospital and the Health Dept. Priority 5, Access to Health Care, was a goal to be accomplished by 2016, through increased HATS routes and checkpoints at health care facilities.

Jaymie Sheldahl, 375 Hope Road, Helena, spoke about her work with Head Start and the need for public transportation alternatives for low-income families, single mothers, mothers of young children, people with disabilities and families in the North Valley.

Vivian Crabtree, current chair of the TAC, encouraged the formation of a transportation district in an effort to bring together the work of the various groups and enhance funding opportunities.

Patricia Sorenson, 215 E. 6th Ave., Helena, began utilizing HATS 6 years ago to access health care, and in that time has witnessed the population grow to the point where HATS was no longer able to provide adequate service to mothers of young children, women unable to travel to therapy meetings, people unable to afford vehicles and insurance, and the disabled.

Paul Olson, Helena, a frequent user of HATS program, cited examples of unsafe street conditions for people with disabilities and those pushing children in strollers. He supported HATS, but desired more flexibility, and recommended expanding service on the West Side.

Bobb Allen, 8665 Buffalo Horn Drive, Helena, cited his 28 years' experience with the transit industry; 5 as a driver for HATS and the last 4 as a senior schedule planner. His concern was that when the City experienced budget shortfalls, the HATS service suffered. He urged Commission support for the program, citing the community need, and complimented Lisa Ballard on her presentation.

Brian Persons, 813 N. Rodney, a past resident in the East Valley who had utilized HATS service, stated the service's importance to area residents, in particular those who were no longer able to drive. He supported raising the price of the bus tokens and passes to fund increased services, including evening hours and Saturday service.

Public comment closed.

Discussion –

Commissioner Hunthausen thanked everyone for their input and participation and looked forward to continued involvement with the project. He was excused from the remainder of the meeting.

Break – 5 minutes; reconvened at 10:57 a.m.

Resolution 2013-104 Relating to \$94,655.60 Bond for the Lewis & Clark County (Crestwood Green Estates) Rural Improvement District No. 2012-2; Fixing the Form and Details and Providing for the Execution and Delivery Thereof and Security Therefor. (Carrie Severson)

Carrie Severson, Special Districts Coordinator, presented Resolution 2013-104, Relating to \$94,000 Bond for the Crestwood Green RID No. 2012-2. The County planned to borrow funds from the Board of Investments, InterCap Loan Program on behalf of the RID. The original loan approval was for \$130,000; the actual draw down was \$94,655.60.

No public comment was received.

Commissioner Good Geise moved adoption of Resolution 2013-104 Relating to \$94,655.60 Bond for the Lewis & Clark County (Crestwood Green Estates) Rural Improvement District No. 2012-2; Fixing the Form and Details and Providing for the Execution and Delivery Thereof and Security Therefor, as outlined by Staff. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. The motion carried 2-0.

Resolution 2013-105 Relating to \$194,737.00 Bond for the Lewis & Clark County (Big Sky) Rural Improvement District No. 2012-3; Fixing the Form and Details and Providing for the Execution and Delivery Thereof and Security Therefor. (Carrie Severson)

Carrie Severson, Special Districts Coordinator, presented Resolution 2013-105, Relating to \$194,737.00 Bond for the Lewis & Clark County (Big Sky) RID No. 2012-3. The County planned to borrow funds from the Board of Investments, InterCap Loan Program on behalf of the RID, and was taking a partial draw down for work completed this summer. The remainder would be drawn next summer to cover road chip-sealing work.

No public comment was received.

Commissioner Good Geise moved adoption of Resolution 2013-105 Relating to \$194,737.00 Bond for the Lewis & Clark County (Big Sky) Rural Improvement District No. 2012-3; Fixing the Form and Details and providing for the Execution and Delivery Thereof and the Security Therefor, as recommended by Staff. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. The motion carried 2-0.

Public Meeting. Final Plat for Preliminarily Approved Subdivision to be known as the Amended Plat of Lot B-1A-2A – Pate Subdivision. (Applicants: John and Jean Horn) (Planner Lindsay A. Morgan) The Commissioners will consider the request for final plat for a Subdivision located approx. ½ mile north of York Road, west of and adjacent to Helberg Drive. Preliminary plat approval was granted 9/12/13. In addition, the Commissioners will receive any associated public comment related to the final plat request.

Lindsay Morgan, Planner, presented the application by John and Jean Horne for Final Plat for the Preliminarily Approved Subdivision to be known as the Amended Plat of Lot B-1A-2A – Pate Subdivision. The subdivision would create two parcels; one 5.01-acre parcel for a single-family residential use; the remainder was a 46.80-acre parcel for the existing development on the property which included 3 single-family residences, numerous agricultural outbuildings and structures. Preliminary approval was granted Sept. 12, 2013, subject to 13 Conditions. Staff's memo of Nov. 18, 2013, listed the Conditions and a description of compliance for each requirement. The Plat was found by Staff to be in substantial compliance with County Subdivision Regulations, with the exception of establishment of an RID for the off-site water supply source for fire protection. The Applicants had submitted a letter from Fire Chief for the East Helena Valley Fire District stating that the preliminarily approved subdivision could use the Fire District's water supply source located at the junction of Lisa Road and York Road as the subdivision's required water supply for fire protection.

Discussion –

Commissioner Good Geise stated concern that the Commission was deviating from normal procedure, but due to the fact the Fire District had given its approval for use of the off-site water supply source, and that maintenance would be provided by the Fire District, she was comfortable moving forward.

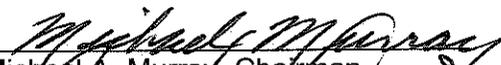
Commissioner Murray concurred with her comments.

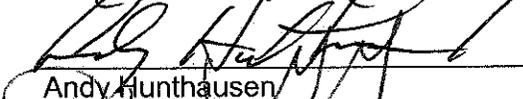
Commissioner Good Geise moved adoption of the Final Plat for Preliminarily Approved Subdivision to be known as the Amended Plat of Lot B-1-1A-2A- Pate Subdivision, as outlined by Staff. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. The motion carried 2-0.

Public comment on any public matter within the jurisdiction of the Commission that is not on the agenda above. None.

There was no other business and the meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Michael A. Murray, Chairman


Andy Hunthausen


Susan Good Geise

ATTEST:


Paulette DeHart, Clerk of the Board