

**LEWIS AND CLARK CITY-COUNTY  
BOARD OF HEALTH –MINUTES  
1930 9<sup>th</sup> AVENUE, HELENA, MONTANA 59601  
Lower Level Conference Room  
June 25, 2015**

Members Present

Anne Weber, chair  
Dr. Maria Braman, vice-chair  
Mayor Jim Smith  
Commissioner Susan Good Geise  
Jennifer Lowell  
Kelly Parsley  
Scott St. Clair

Staff Present

Melanie Reynolds  
Jolene Helgerson  
Gayle Shirley  
Kathy Moore  
Frank Preskar

Members Absent

James Benish  
Kent Kultgen

Guests Present

Eric Merchant, MT DEQ

Anne Weber, chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. A quorum was established.

**REVIEW OF AGENDA**

No changes were made.

**MINUTES**

Ms. Weber asked if there were any corrections or additions to the April 23, 2015, minutes. The Board approved the minutes as written.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Board of Health Recommendation of the Fiscal Year 2016 Department Budget: Melanie Reynolds, Health Officer, presented the proposed FY2016 Lewis and Clark Public Health Budget for recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners for approval (see Attachment “A”). Ms. Reynolds gave an overview of the budget summary for each public health program along with revenues, expenditures, and FTEs. Kent Kultgen made a motion to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners that it approve the FY2016 Lewis and Clark Public Health budget. Kelly Parsley seconded the motion. The motion carried 8-0.

Hearing Officer Recommendation, Kale Schmidt: Kathy Moore, Administrator for the Environmental Services Division, gave a brief explanation of the Schmidt variance hearing held on May 20, 2015, along with the hearing officer’s recommendation for approval (page 7 of the board packet). Ms. Moore stated that the request met all of the state Department of Environmental Quality criteria for granting a variance. Dr. Maria Braman moved to ratify the hearing officer recommendation for approval. Commission Good Geise seconded the motion. The motion carried 8-0.

Letter of request to Montana DEQ: Ms. Moore requested approval of a letter to be sent to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) asking it to review and modify the air quality designation of the East Helena area for sulfur dioxide and lead (pages 9-10 of the board packet). In answer to a question from Ms. Weber, Eric Merchant with the MT DEQ Air Resources Management Bureau explained to the Board that the request is proper DEQ procedure. Ms. Parsley made a motion to approve the letter of request to the Montana DEQ to modify the air quality designation of East Helena area for sulfur dioxide and lead. Jennifer Lowell seconded the motion. The motion carried 8-0.

## **PRESENTATION**

Eric Bryson, County Chief Administrative Officer, gave a presentation on the Lewis and Clark County Public Safety Bond. Mr. Bryson highlighted the need for a public safety facility, the location of such a facility, the dollar amount needed to build and run a public safety facility, and the process the county has taken to get the initiative on the ballot in November 2015. In answer to a question from Dr. Braman, Mr. Bryson stated that the county averages 105 inmates a day. Only 80 of those inmates can be housed in the county's current public safety facility. The other inmates are housed in other facilities in neighboring counties, which costs about \$65.00 a day. That doesn't include medical care and transportation costs. When those are included, the cost of housing an inmate in another county is closer to the \$97.00 that Lewis and Clark County pays to house an inmate locally. In answer to questions from Ms. Parsley, Mr. Bryson stated that part of the bond package is the stability funding for the Journey Home. The county did not budget for future operation costs of the home. Mr. Bryson also added that a youth detention facility is not the best option for children and that using local resources in the community is the better option. In answer to a question from Mayor Smith, Mr. Bryson stated that the county hopes to have its growth policy adopted by the end of summer.

## **BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION**

Finance Report: Ms. Reynolds referenced the FY15 comparison to budget and cash flow for July 2014 through April 2015 (pages 13-14 of the board packet). Ms. Reynolds noted that the Department is 83% of the way through its fiscal year. Total revenue to date is \$1,400,877, or 75% of the amount budgeted; actual expenditures are \$860,255, or 82% of the amount budgeted. Revenues are under expenditures by \$138,458; total ending cash is \$555,408.

Public Health Accreditation Update: Accreditation Coordinator Gayle Shirley and Ms. Reynolds traveled to Alexandria VA May 19-20 for a mandatory training by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). They learned 1) how to use an online system to submit documentation for accreditation, 2) how to select documentation for submission, and 3) what to expect when PHAB site visitors come to Helena. As of May, 75 of more than 3,000 state, local and tribal health departments have been accredited nationally. Three are in Montana: Missoula Public Health, Riverstone Health in Billings, and, just last month, Gallatin City-County Health Department. Participation in the training sets the clock ticking: Lewis and Clark Public Health has 1 year to finish all the documents required to show it meets accreditation standards.

## **HEALTH OFFICER REPORT**

The remodeling of the Cooperative Health Center (CHC) and the Lewis and Clark Public Health building located at 1930 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue is complete. The Board will hold its June meeting at the clinic and will tour the newly constructed facility.

June 2015 marks the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the "Regulations Governing Soil Displacement and Disposal in the East Helena Superfund Area in Lewis and Clark County."

The Public Health Communicable Disease Control and Prevention staff is monitoring Lewis and Clark County for any signs of the avian influenza (HPAI) H5 that has been reported in the U.S. in domestic poultry, captive wild birds, and wild birds. To date Montana has had 2 incidents of confirmed avian influenza in wild and domestic birds.

There being no public comment, the meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

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Anne Weber, Chair

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Melanie Reynolds, Secretary