



PUBLIC MEETING

February 22, 2022
MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Tuesday, February 22, 2022, at 9:00 AM in Commission Chambers, Room 330.

Roll Call

Chair Jim McCormick called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

Commissioner Tom Rolfe and Commissioner Andy Hunthausen were present. Others attending all or a portion of the meeting included Roger Baltz, Nicho Hash, Dan Karlin, Carrie Lutkehus, Ann McCauley, Greg McNally, Casey Hayes, A.C. Rothenbuecher, Leo Dutton, Bradley Bragg, Casey Hayes, Jess Hegstrom, Betsy Kirkeby, and Nadine McCarty, Recording Secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone recited the pledge.

Consent Action Items

There were no consent action items.

Contract Amendment Between Lewis and Clark County Public Health and Brandy Lidbeck. (A.C. Rothenbuecher)

A.C. Rothenbuecher, Community Health Promotion Division Administrator, presented the amendment to the current contract agreement with Brandy Lidbeck for creation, implementation, and organization of the Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors (LOSS) Team. The compensation increased from \$2,500 to \$5,625 and billable hours changed from 25 to 40 hours. The contract period remains the same from September 21, 2021 to June 30, 2022. Ms. Rothenbuecher explained the reason for increase in billable hours and compensation. Staff recommends approval of the amendment to the contract agreement with Brandy Lidbeck.

Jess Hegstrom, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, gave an overview of the LOSS Team, and the Lethal Means Program.

No public comment was received.

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

Helena Valley Flood Mitigation Master Plan Update. (Dan Karlin)

Dan Karlin, County Engineer, presented the update for the Helena Valley Flood Mitigation Master Plan and the request for direction to add the plan as an addendum to the Lewis and Clark County Pre-disaster Mitigation (PDM) plan. In 2017 the County submitted a Flood Management Assistance (FMA) grant application to the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) through Montana Disaster and Emergency Services (DES) to utilize the Helena Valley H&H study to identify impactful projects, outline a sequence of implementation, conduct a more detailed cost estimate of each potential project, and to design and conduct monitoring of specific reaches of Ten Mile Creek. The process is nearly complete. Addition of the update as an addendum to the PDM plan is the final step and as a FEMA grant requirement it must be adopted by the Commission. The total cost is \$54,050 with \$25,000 from FEMA grant and \$29,050 local match with funds to be paid from the Flood Mitigation Rural Improvement District.

The original plan was to have two public meetings; one to gather input and ideas from the community and the second to present those ideas and their feasibility to the public and the stakeholders. With the complication of COVID, the first meeting was held July 29, 2020, virtually. An online survey was conducted in January of 2021 that was advertised by mail to every parcel in the RID. Between then and December of 2021, the consultant, RESPEC, Inc, modeled proposed projects based on the input, produced cost estimates, and created exhibits for the final meeting that was held on January 6, 2022. The meeting was in a hybrid format to reach as many people as possible and was also noticed by mail to all parcels within the RID, as well as to community stakeholders. Less feedback was received at the final meeting than was received from the online survey, of which most has been very positive.

He presented slides that outlined the four primary areas that include the D2 Ditch, Silver Creek, Ten Mile overflow, and Tenmile Creek reviewed by RESPEC. These are also the primary RID areas. He showed and discussed the existing conditions maps and the post proposed project for the D2, Sliver Creek, Tenmile Creek areas. These are based on a 25-year flood event. There are four discreet alternatives for a couple of road and flood improvements that achieve the same result. It comes down to the big elements of cost, safety and public acceptance. Staff recommends adoption of the updated Helena Valley Flood Mitigation Master Plan.

Mr. Karlin stated future development is mostly guided by the 100-year floodplain. This plan will not have much affect on development as a whole because of the regulation by the floodplain ordinance. Where the County can assist is with sizing of pipes for cross drains, roads, ditch infrastructure.

He added the 25-year flood event was targeted as it seems to be more frequent for the valley. There will be some positive benefit on any flood event above the 25-year, up to 100-year event. But a flood of 100-year or 500-year will overwhelm everything. The RID generates about \$155,000 annually used to match grants, and the larger FEMA grants, the primary use of the funds. These projects are \$1.5 to \$5 million of the intended four and could be looking at \$20 million to accomplish the plan. Due to the time it takes for FEMA grants, one of the projects could take three to five years.

Discussion and an explanation occurred on Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) technology. A LIDAR flight is scheduled every five years in the area as development changes the contours and elevations of the valley.

No public comment was received.

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

Request for American Rescue Plan Act Funds Direct Allocation for County Detention Center. (Carrie Lutkehus)

Carrie Lutkehus, ARPA Program Specialist, presented the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) direct allocation request in the amount of up to \$175,000 from the Lewis and Clark County Sheriff's Office to complete purchase, installation, and staff training on use of a body scanner at the County Detention Center. The safety protocols during the intake process involves hands-on pat searches and temperature screening. The scanner would allow detention center personnel to keep a safe distance during the process while quickly identifying possession of contraband or signs of active infection. The period of performance is February 22, 2022 through January 31, 2023. Staff recommends approval of the ARPA direct allocation request.

Bradley Bragg, Detention Center Captain, explained the scanner would help with hands-off searches looking for any type of contraband and some models automatically takes temperatures. It would help limit the number of unclothed searches. It will decrease the detention center liability regarding having safety issues come into the jail. Any time contraband can be stopped from coming in that protects the officers and other inmates. Many of the companies that offer this equipment include training and tech support as part of the purchase price.

Discussion occurred on the up to \$175,000 request and it was noted that there could be potential for other funds to help with the purchase. The reason for the request of \$175,000 is from the original research on the different products. During invitation for bid it will be determined if all the extras that add to the cost are necessary. It is anticipated they may not all be necessary. Captain Bragg is looking into possible additional funding through the Board of Crime Control.

No public comment was received.

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

Request for American Rescue Plan Act Funds Direct Allocation for County Sheriff's Office. (Carrie Lutkehus)

Carrie Lutkehus, ARPA Program Specialist, presented the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) direct allocation request from the Lewis and Clark County Sheriff's Office in an amount up to \$640,000 to support the purchase of a command vehicle. The Sheriff's Office is seeking other funds and this request is contingent upon receipt of additional funding. The Sheriff's Office manages investigations, evidence management, emergency and terrorism response, and other necessary operations. Oftentimes the Sheriff's Office is called to respond in remote rural locations where access to support resources and communications maybe delayed. The command vehicle would be capable of managing on-site staffing and logistics. The project period is February 22, 2022 through December 31, 2023. Staff recommends approval of the ARPA direct allocation funds request.

Leo Dutton, Sheriff/Coroner, discussed one of the largest manhunts that had been in Montana occurred in Lewis and Clark County with 122 sworn officers onsite. That is the height of why this vehicle is needed. They are seeking another Montana Disaster and Emergency Services (DES) grant for \$682,313. He explained that grant process and what is requested. The hope is the grant will be half of this ask and the ARPA funds for the remaining amount.

The vehicle would also be deployed for fires and floods. He described the command vehicle, noting it meets the Sheriff's Office needs and would last for 20 to 30 years. The technology can be changed out easily if necessary. There is a satellite connection, allowing for voice over Internet Protocol (IP). The front part of the vehicle is for operations that can have division commanders

running their divisions, the middle has a sink with two jugs one for intake and one for drainage, the back is the command area where detectives, fire chiefs would work. He described the outside of the vehicle that has screens for outside briefings and radios. There is the ability to print maps received from GIS.

Currently they have to communicate via radio relay in the north part of the County such as Benchmark area, a heavily used recreation area. They have had to call Gallatin County to use their command vehicle in the past, if it is available.

Sheriff Dutton explained the current command post has no way of printing necessary evacuation maps during a fire situation. The maps save time when notifying homeowners in the line of a fire as many homes are not visible. They currently have to drive back to Helena for printing of the maps resulting in lost time.

Sheriff Dutton stated they looked at the type of incidents that have occurred the last 10 years or so. They knew they did not want something that would work for a short time. As more and more incidents occur the Gallatin County vehicle would not always be available. They looked at what is missing now and what is needed to make it last for 20 to 25 years. They looked at what is needed to adequately manage an incident. They are good neighbors and work with the neighboring counties.

Greg Holmlund, Sergeant, stated he met with other agencies with similar vehicles. He spent the most time meeting with Gallatin County, those in charge of the vehicle and those that deploy it and asked what they would do differently, what they liked and did not like. This truck and cab chassis is the lowest priced option, they invested the money in the technology part of the vehicle. There is not another vehicle in the state with voice over IP capability. The truck has computer monitors, but not computers as they will use their mobile data terminals (MDT) that their patrol vehicles currently have and are updated every four to five years when the vehicles are replaced. He explained how they will work. The MDTs could be used as a dispatch center should the center go down. The electronic wiring is set up for easy updates when necessary.

Sheriff Dutton stated this is contingent on the grant request of Montana DES. There are only two known large command vehicles in the state that may be available for use. Having the technology to handle everything does not exist.

No public comment was received.

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

Request for American Rescue Plan Act Funds Direct Allocation for County Public Health. (Carrie Lutkehus)

Carrie Lutkehus, ARPA Program Specialist, presented the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) direct allocation request of \$110,000 from Lewis and Clark Public Health. Of the requested funds \$50,000 will be for Community Outreach, \$50,000 for Technology and Operations, and the remaining \$10,000 for training. The funds are specific for community outreach, community response, technology operations, and training frontline staff. Staff recommends approval of the request.

No public comment was received.

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

Request for CARES Reserve Funds. (Ann McCauley)

Ann McCauley, Grants and Purchasing Department Director, presented the request for County CARES Reserve funds in the amount of \$275,000 to provide \$25,000 to eleven local nonprofit organizations. Eight organizations are part of the Human Services Task force and the other three provide human services in the community. Staff recommends approval of the request.

Ms. McCauley explained Community Organizations Active and Disaster (COAD). Each organization put together their own operations plan and continued their important work throughout Covid.

No public comment was received.

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

Request for American Rescue Plan Act Minimum Allocation and Direct Allocation Funds for Craig County Water and Sewer District. (Ann McCauley)

Ann McCauley, Grants and Purchasing Department Director, presented the request for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for minimum allocation and direct allocation funds from Craig County Water and Sewer District to complete a necessary wastewater improvement project for their treatment facility in Craig. The minimum allocation funds are for \$178,550 and direct allocation funds in the amount of \$158,550 for a total request of \$337,100. The anticipated period of performance is July 2022 through June 2024. Staff recommends approval of the request.

No public comment was received.

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

Resolution 2022-12 to Extend the Duration of the Helena Valley Planning Area - Blue Ribbon Panel. (Greg McNally)

Greg McNally, Planner III, presented the resolution to extend the duration of the Helena Valley Planning Area - Blue Ribbon Panel also known as the Zoning Advisory Panel. The Commission adopted Resolution 2022-7 on February 1, 2022, which extended the duration to February 23, 2022. Action was taken on February 19 but was not in compliance with bylaws. The resolution will extend the duration period to February 28, 2022, so the panel can meet on February 25, 2022. Staff recommends approval of the resolution.

No public comment was received.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Rolfe and seconded by Commissioner Hunthausen. 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 11:10 am.

Meeting minutes approved on January 24, 2023

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Tom Rolfe, Chair



Andy Hunthausen, Vice Chair



Candace Payne, Member

ATTEST:



Amy Reeves, Clerk of the Board