



PUBLIC MEETING

January 6, 2022
MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Thursday, January 6, 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, Marni Bentley, Phil Gonzalez, Charles Lane, Greg McNally, Mark Diehl, Dylan Osterhut, John Herrin, and Nadine McCarty, Recording Secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone recited the pledge.

Consent Action Items

a. Vendor Claims Report for Week Ending January 7, 2022. (Marni Bentley)

Roger Baltz reported on consent action item 2a and recommended approval.

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.

Resolution 2022-4 of Intention to Amend the Frontier Village Estates Fire System Rural Improvement District No. 2016-4. (Petitioner: Richard and Diane Klinski) (Planner: Phil Gonzalez)

Phil Gonzalez, Planner I, presented the resolution of intention to amend a fire rural improvement district (RID) that provides maintenance for an existing fire protection system within the Frontier Village Estates Subdivision, Buckboard Meadows Subdivision and Garden Valley Subdivision.

The amendment will modify the boundaries and the maintenance costs of the RID. If approved, a 30-day protest period will be initiated and if not protested out, a resolution to amend the RID will be presented to the County Commission following completion of the protest period. The RID is located in multiple areas north and south of John G. Mine Drive and east of North Montana Avenue. The amendment would add the preliminary approved subdivision of Mayville Manor Subdivision previously

approved by the Commission. The addition of 14 lots to decrease the cost to \$24.88 per year per property owner. Staff recommends approval of the resolution.

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.

Board Appointments. (Roger Baltz)

Roger Baltz, Chief Administrative Officer, presented the board appointments for the Lewis and Clark County DUI Task Force and recommended the appointment of Jacob Johnson to the Lewis and Clark County DUI Task Force as the County Attorney representative to a term that expires December 31, 2023.

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.

John Herrin, lives in the valley, stated he was able to meet with Roger Baltz, Commissioner McCormick and Nicho Hash on January 4, 2022, and got a better understanding of what is going on in the County. There has been a division in Lewis and Clark County for seventeen years. He discussed the 80-page report he gave to County staff in 2018 along with other documentation he compiled and sent to the Commissioners more recently. He stated there is no affordable housing. It is legally inappropriate for the County to proceed with zoning without a re-write of the growth policy.

As of 5:00 p.m. today he expected to see something in writing from the County Attorney's Office addressed to the County Commission. They have already filed a lawsuit regarding zoning and could file a lawsuit regarding the subdivision regulations.

Mark Diehl, PO Box 779 East Helena, stated he is frustrated over zoning. A couple of years ago he testified they have been paid the same amount for wheat for more than 40 years. The costs of farming equipment and fertilizer have increased. The Canyon Ridge Subdivision has 22 houses with each lot is bringing in \$100,000. If he was to sell his land, it would be \$350 per acre at best. The 10-acre limit does not safeguard agricultural ground. He discussed open space and the \$10 million that the County has to purchase open space. Zoning picks winners and losers. He feels like he has been forced into a corner with no options, other than sell out and leave. The issues need to be addressed.

Dillon Osterhout, lives in the County, he appreciates the comments and the work that has gone into the research. He owns a couple of real estate and property management companies. There is a lack of affordable housing and is snowballing. He hopes the County looks for new ways that people can acquire affordable housing that people can own and still be able to enjoy the recreation of the outdoors. We need to work to keep people in Helena and not move to any other city in Montana.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:06 am.

Meeting minutes approved on Jan 03, 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