



PUBLIC MEETING

October 16, 2025

MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark Board of County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Thursday, October 16, 2025 at 9:00 AM in Commission Chambers, Rm 330.

Roll Call

Chair Candace Payne, Commissioner Andy Hunthausen and Commissioner Tom Rolfe were present. Those attending all or a portion of the meeting included Roger Baltz, TJ Murphy, Nicho Hash, Keni Grose, Matt Kultgen, Ann McCauley, Fred Sargeson, Jessica Makus, Christal Ness, Jillian Danesi, Mikael Lindquist, Brian Robinson, Greg Holmlund, Corey Popp, Kevin Tenney, Sherri Martin, Eric Gilbertson, Jenny Chambers, Jeff Norman, Josh Hooper, Jessica Wilson, Keith Cummins, Mia Clark, Gary Peterson, and Brandi Grande, Recording Secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone recited the pledge.

Consent Action Items

There were no consent action items.

Action Items

Presentation of the Great ShakeOut - Earthquake Drill. (Keni Grose, Brandi Grande)

[3:05] Keni Grose, HR Generalist, and Brandi Grande, Administrative Assistant, announced and presented on the Great ShakeOut.

Grant Award to Lewis and Clark County from the State of Montana Board of Crime Control. (Matt Kultgen)

[8:09] Matt Kultgen, Detective, presented a grant award from the State of Montana Board of Crime Control in the amount of \$83,786 with a match of \$ 27,929 for the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) for costs associated with the detective assigned to work under the grant. The grant period is October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026. Staff recommends approval of the grant award.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

[12:12] Jeff Norman, was confused about the funding timing.

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

Budget Amendment and Request for County National Opioid Settlement Funds by the Sheriff's Office. (Ann McCauley)

[13:50] Ann McCauley, Grants and Procurement Director, presented a budget amendment and request from the Sheriff's Office for County National Opioid Settlement Funds to support opioid use disorder medication for incarcerated individuals of the County Detention Center in the amount of \$80,000. The support period for enrolled participants is October 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. Staff recommends approval of the amendment and request.

[17:11] Jillian Danesi and Mikael Lindquist, Criminal Justice Services, gave an overview of services provided that would benefit from these funds including the MAT program in the Detention Center.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

[21:23] Jeff Norman, resident, asked why are they not requesting more to allow for funding further than June 30, 2025.

[29:59] Brent Colbert, Undersheriff, spoke about programs from this funding and how it is helping our community.

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 2025-108 Authorizing Application for Land & Water Conservation Fund Assistance. (Ann McCauley)

[24:56] Ann McCauley, Grants and Procurement Director, presented a resolution authorizing application to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Land and Water Conservation Fund Assistance grant program in the amount of \$175,000 with a 1:1 match required. This funding is for a new playground at the Fairgrounds. The anticipated grant period is May 2026 through December 2026. Staff recommends approval of the resolution.

[26:36] Kevin Tenney, Fairgrounds Manager, gave an overview of improvements completed at the Fairgrounds and the desire to attract more families to visit the Fairgrounds by upgrading the playground along with ADA accommodations. He noted they are applying for further grants for the 1:1 match.

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.

Grant Award to Lewis and Clark Public Health from the Montana Department of Health and Human Services. (Fred Sargeson)

[32:49] Fred Sargeson, Public Health Operations Manager, presented a grant award from the Montana Department of Health and Human Services in the amount of \$113,698.50 for Chronic Disease Prevention programs including Montana Cancer Control, Montana Asthma Control, Montana Tobacco Use Prevention, Montana Healthy Living, and the Montana CONNECT Referral System. The grant period is through December 31, 2025. Staff recommends approval of the grant award.

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.

**Subrecipient Agreement Between Lewis and Clark Public Health and Jefferson County.
(Fred Sargeson)**

[38:20] Fred Sargeson, Public Health Operations Manager, presented a subrecipient agreement with Jefferson County to conduct tobacco use prevention work in the amount of \$18,725. The agreement runs through December 21, 2025. Staff recommends approval of the agreement.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

[40:53] Jeff Norman, Jefferson County resident, why won't it include the other programs listed under the funding?

[43:08] Mr. Sargeson explained that there are other grants for more services that are provided by the state to fill the gaps. They are collaborating to not leave people without the services. Those other services are likely provided by other entities in Jefferson County.

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

**Contract Between Lewis and Clark County and American Hauling and Snow Plowing,
LLC. (Jessica Makus)**

[46:51] Jessica Makus, Special Districts Coordinator, presented a contract with American Hauling and Snow Plowing, LLC for 2025/2026 winter snow removal and related services for Rural Improvement Districts. Staff recommends approval of the contract.

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.

Contract Between Lewis and Clark County and Gruber Excavating, Inc. (Jessica Makus)

[49:57] Jessica Makus, Special Districts Coordinator, presented a contract with Gruber Excavating, Inc. for 2025/2026 winter snow removal and related services for Rural Improvement Districts. Staff recommends approval of the contract.

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.

Contract Between Lewis and Clark County and Gary Heggset. (Jessica Makus)

[53:05] Jessica Makus, Special Districts Coordinator, presented a contract with American Hauling and Gary Heggeset for 2025/2026 winter snow removal and related services for Rural Improvement districts. Staff recommends approval of the contract.

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.

**Contract Between Lewis and Clark County and High Country Lawn and Landscape, LLC.
(Jessica Makus)**

[54:39] Jessica Makus, Special Districts Coordinator, presented a contract with High Country Lawn and Landscape for 2025/2026 winter snow removal and related services for Rural Improvement Districts. Staff recommends approval of the contract.

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.

Contract Between Lewis and Clark County and Hightop Construction, LLC. (Jessica Makus)

[56:35] Jessica Makus, Special Districts Coordinator, presented a contract with Hightop Construction, LLC for 2025/2026 winter snow removal and related services for Rural Improvement Districts. Staff recommends approval of the contract.

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.

Contract Between Lewis and Clark County and MJC Property Maintenance. (Jessica Makus)

[58:29] Jessica Makus, Special Districts Coordinator, presented a contract with American Hauling and MJC Property Maintenance for 2025/2026 winter snow removal and related services for Rural Improvement Districts. Staff recommends approval of the contract.

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.

**Contract Between Lewis and Clark County and Rocky Mountain Operations, LLC.
(Jessica Makus)**

[1:00:15] Jessica Makus, Special Districts Coordinator, presented a contract with Rocky Mountain Operations, LLC for 2025/2026 winter snow removal and related services for Rural Improvement Districts. Staff recommends approval of the contract.

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.

Abandon the Alley in Block 2 of the Hotel Addition. (Christal Ness)

[1:03:40] Christal Ness, Development Services Supervisor, presented an abandonment of alley in Block 2 of the Hotel Addition, previously declared a County Road. Staff recommends approval of the abandonment.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

[1:12:45] Jason Mergenthaler, 1507 Green Street, stated he did not sign the petition and did not have any indication of the abandonment and is not in favor of the abandonment. Ms. Ness did state that every property owner did receive notice of the project and the notice of today's meeting. The property owners don't need to sign petition. If they do not agree, they don't sign the surveys or the deed. She is more than happy to speak with all the neighbors.

Commissioner Hunthausen stated that with the County owning the alley, there is a risk that everything that is built in that alleyway would need to come down if the County ever needed the alley. If it is abandoned, the properties would be extended so the structures would be protected.

[1:28:32] Keith Cummins, resident, pointed out all the structures that where there was already there when he bought the house 11 years ago. He did add a privacy fence on his side of the chain link fence that existed when he moved in.

[1:34:31] Josh Hooper, 3409 Minnesota Ave, did not know there was an alleyway when he bought his house 11 years ago, fences were already established and took that as face value. One of his structures extends across the whole alley. If it is abandoned and split up the middle, he would need to move the structure. He is concerned why it wasn't an issue in the past.

[1:40:00] Jessica Wilson, 3409 Minnesota Ave, is more concerned about Keith Cummins and the neighbor that brought the petition forward would not be able to come to an agreement. There is lack of peace between the comradery that once existed in the neighborhood.

[1:42:11] Nicho Hash, County Attorney, stated there is no specific time frame that action needs to be taken. Based on public comment today, he feels it could be postponed for a week.

[1:44:36] Josh Hooper, 3409 Minnesota Ave, stated that when he bought his house, there wasn't a housing crisis, so they did not get an encroachment survey. The encroachment wasn't a concern like it would be today.

[1:47:09] Keith Cummins, resident, asked what can he do if there is another altercation if he cuts down more trees in his yard?

Commissioner Hunthausen made a motion to take the public comment under advisement and postpone the decision until October 30, 2025. The motion was seconded by Commission Rolfe. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

Abandon the Alley in Block 16 of Seymer Park. (Christal Ness)

[1:56:56:14] Christal Ness, Development Services Supervisor, presented an abandonment of alley in Block 16 of Seymer Park, previously declared a County Road. Staff recommends approval of the abandonment.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

[1:58:16] Jason Mergenthaler, 1507 Green Street, is not in support of this abandonment.

Commissioner Rolfe made a motion to take the public comment under advisement and postpone the decision until October 30, 2025. The motion was seconded by Commission Hunthausen. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

Declare Morello Road and Applebee Court as County Roads. (Christal Ness)

[2:00:35] Christal Ness, Development Services Supervisor, presented declaring Morello Road and Applebee Court as County Roads and give authority to set speed limits. Staff recommends approval. Two written comments and one verbal comment were received. Dan Karlin, County Engineer, scored a 15 on the road priority scale, which is the lowest priority.

[2:05:52] Jenny Chambers, Public Works and Planning Director, explained the matrix for road priorities. There is over 1500 miles of roads within the County, and it is impossible to maintain all those roads. The County does maintain 520 miles of roads currently. A road prioritization plan was implemented to decide which roads would be maintained. Criteria include daily average traffic, bus routes, emergency access, and main corridors. This tool will establish which road need to be adopted as County roads.

[2:11:18] Brent Colbert, Undersheriff, stated that traffic enforcement is limited to DUI or wreckless because it is treated at this time as a private road

[2:12:04] Brian Robinson, Patrol Captain, read the MCA statute regarding traffic enforcement. The authority through the Sheriff's Office can be enforced on highways and County roads.

[2:15:30] Jenny Chambers, Public Works and Planning Director, explained what constitutes as a publicly maintained road. If it was adopted as a County Road, there is no responsibility to maintain it physically.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

[2:22:30] Steve Martin, York Rd., brought videos of people speeding in vehicles and motorbikes on Applebee Court.

[2:26:40] Gary Peterson, property owner, people don't care about the neighborhood these days. The motorcycles are racing side by side, and jumping an old railroad bed on his property. He told them they were not allowed on his property anymore. Sheriff's Office were called out several times due to trespassing. Who's liable if someone gets hurt? They need help with the speeding problem.

[2:31:40] Jeff Norman, 2480 Applebee Ct., wants explanation between the disconnect of Sheriff's Office and County property. The law needs to be enforced on public property.

Commissioner Hunthausen made a motion to take the public comment under advisement and postpone the decision until October 30, 2025. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Payne. 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 11:45 am.

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Candace Payne, Chair


Tom Rolfe, Vice Chair


Andy Hunthausen, Member

ATTEST:


Amy Reeves, Clerk of the Board