



PUBLIC MEETING

May 28, 2025
MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark Board of County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Wednesday, May 28, 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, Nicho Hash, Audra Zacherl, Jessica Makus, Christian Lehnert, Wendell Richards, Greg McNally, Mac McCarley, Kevin Horne, Jenny Chambers, Dan Karlin, David Burch, Jacki Pierson, Ryan Wardell, Dustin Noel, Pete Anderson, Misty Edwards, Frank Cornwell, Lori Ladas, Kathy Marks, Tammy Heigh, and Brandi Spangler Recording Secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone recited the pledge.

Consent Action Items

There were no consent action items.

Action Items

Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Presentations.

[2:18] [1 of 2] Jenny Chambers, Public Works Director, and Audra Zacherl, Public Works Assistant Director, presented the FY 26 budget. Significant differences for all include 2.13% COLA, step increases, longevity, and insurance increases.

Administration: Reallocated .25 FTE to create a full-time position.

Special Districts: Staff development increase to General Fund with 1.5 FTE currently vacant.

Noxious Weed: Increase Weed Manager position to a full-time position. Increases include training and travel and vehicle maintenance, and vehicle purchases. Mosquito Districts: No significant changes.

Forestvale Cemetery: Increase for office supplies and furniture and cost of utilities. Increase to Capital Purchases to begin saving for cemetery expansion, replacing back hoe, columbarium, irrigation improvements. Wendell Richards, Forestvale Supervisor, explained the cemetery expansion plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

David Burch, Weed Board Chair, gave some board updates which included support of the budget, especially the proposal of Weed Manager position increase to full time.

[49:23] [1 of 2] Jenny Chambers, Public Works Director, and Audra Zacherl, Public Works Assistant Director, presented the Solid Waste operations FY 26 budget. Significant differences for all include 2.13% COLA, step increases, longevity, and insurance increases.
County Landfill: Increase FTE by .2. Tipping fees decrease by \$2. Increase in personnel due to classification change for an equipment operator. Repair and maintenance increase for equipment; grounds maintenance increase.
Scratchgravel Solid Waste: Increase to operations and management due to City of Helena tipping fee increase.
Marysville Solid Waste: Decrease to operations and management by 30%.

[1:13:00] [1 of 2] Misty Edwards, Finance Coordinator, presented the Lincoln/Augusta solid waste FY 26 budgets.
Augusta Solid Waste: Decrease to operations and maintenance due to purchases being made last year. Tipping fee decrease.
Lincoln Solid Waste: Increase .6 FTE, decrease to operations and maintenance due to cancellation of contract with Republic Services.

[1:29:13] [1 of 2] Greg McNally, Community Development and Planning Department Director, presented FY 26 budget. Decreases due to travel/training and contracted services along with rent decrease. One time increase to Capital Improvements for software upgrade.

[0:16] [2 of 2] Jenny Chambers, Public Works Director, and Audra Zacherl, Public Works Assistant Director, presented the Buildings Division FY 26 budget. Significant differences for all include 2.13% COLA, step increases, longevity, and insurance increases.
Mics. buildings 19% rent decrease, 222 building 14% rent decrease and 310 buildings 28% decrease Michael Murray Building: increase in utilities, adding heat mat, landscaping, painting, travel and training. Savings in elevator maintenance due to contract changes. Capital Improvements include heat mats, heat and AC ventilation system, camera system.

[6:31] [2 of 2] Mac McCarley, Building Supervisor, explained costs regarding filters.
Courthouse: Increase in janitorial supplies, decrease in utilities. Capital Improvements include a new camera system, roof replacement, sidewalk replacement, and custom gutter system.
Detention Center: Increase in janitorial supplies, increase in utilities.
Miscellaneous buildings: Increases include public water remote system, maintenance cost to system, front window replacement, bathroom flooring.
222 Building: Shared costs decreased. Increases include security system.
310 Building: Shared costs decreased. Increases include furnace filters and UV bulbs, improvements to rear entry and landscaping and security camera system.

[45:39] [2 of 2] Jenny Chambers, Public Works Director, and Audra Zacherl, Public Works Assistant Director, presented the Road/Bridge/Shop/Infrastructure/Gas Tax FY 26 budget. Significant differences for all include 2.13% COLA, step increases, longevity, and insurance increases.
Bridge Division: Increases in travel and training.
Bridge Infrastructure: Capital Improvements include bridge replacement plans totaling \$1,461,172. Road Division: 5% increase in revenue, increases in operations and management including training and travel. Capital Improvements include fleet improvement.
Sign Division: same revenue as Road Division. Operations and management have decreased with fixed costs increasing.

[1:07:40] [2 of 2] Kevin Horne, Public Works Operations Manager, explained sign protocol.

Road Infrastructure: Projects include Country Club, Chip Seal projects, gravel crushing, magnesium chloride application and supply.

Gas Tax: Purchases include tires, snowplow and grader cutting edges, winter sand mix, pothole patch asphalt and tires.

Shop Maintenance Division: Fleet, associated costs, and repair and maintenance are now part of this budget so increased operations and maintenance. Fleet Capital purchases include dump truck and pup trailer replacements, grader replacements, V-plows, Mag Chloride tank relocation.

[2:03:24] [2 of 2] Lori Ladas, Executive Director of Rocky Mountain Development Council and Kathy Marks, RMDC, presented their FY 26 budget. Funding comes from Federal, State and County mill funds. County mill funds are used for senior programs that include, meals on wheels, and foster grandparent programs. Due to inflation, they project spending \$200,000 more than what they will make and what they have in their "carry over" due to spending CARES act fund money down.

[2:36:22] [2 of 2] Tammy Heigh, CASA Executive Director, presented the CASA FY 26 budget. The only change in the budget is a cut to the Victims of Crime grant from the Board of Crime Control and will be \$81,964 for 2026.


No public comment was received.

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 4:31pm.

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Candace Payne, Chair


Tom Rolfe, Vice Chair


Andy Hunthausen, Member

ATTEST:


Amy Reeves, Clerk of the Board