



PUBLIC MEETING

May 14, 2026
MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark Board of County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Thursday, May 14, 2026 at 9:00 AM in Commission Chambers, Rm 330.

Roll Call

Chair Tom Rolfe and Commissioner Candace Payne were present. Others attending all or a portion of the meeting included Roger Baltz, Nicho Hash, TJ Murphy, Kellie McBride, Fred Sargeson, Jessica Makus, Jenny Chambers, Roy Caldwell, Ali Mandell, Lindsey Weisner, Jeff Salisbury, John Grier, Karl Olsen, Roger Johnson, Doug Petersen, Candice Petersen, Bruce Ryerson, Rachel Christian Smith, Vanessa Toquero, and Brandi Grande, Recording Secretary. Absent: Commissioner Andy Hunthausen.

Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone recited the pledge.

Consent Action Items

There were no consent action items.

Action Items

Professional Services Contract Between Lewis and Clark County and MadAve Communications, LLC. (Kellie Goodwin McBride)

[2:21] Kellie McBride, Criminal Justice Services Director, presented a contract with MadAve Communications, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$72,000 for communications, public relations, and strategic engagement supporting Criminal Justice programs, projects, and initiatives with a contract period through April 20, 2029. Staff recommend approval of the contract.

No public comment was received.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Payne and seconded by Chair Rolfe. The motion Passed on a 2- 0 vote.

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

[6:56] Fred Sargeson, Public Health Operations Manager, presented a grant award from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality in the amount of \$42,454 for the Air Pollution Control Program with a grant period from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2028. Staff recommend approval of the grant award.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Doug Peterson, 840 Raptor Road, doesn't agree we need to spend money to tell people there is smoke in the air.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Payne and seconded by Chair Rolfe. The motion Passed on a 2- 0 vote.

Grant Task Order Between Lewis and Clark Public Health and Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. (Fred Sargeson)

[17:21] Fred Sargeson, Public Health Operations Manager, presented a grant task order with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services in the amount of \$100,000 to fund the epidemiologist position for Lewis and Clark Public Health with a grant period from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027. Staff recommend approval of the grant task order.

No public comment was received.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Payne and seconded by Chair Rolfe. The motion Passed on a 2- 0 vote.

Resolution 2026-34 to Create the O'Reilly Drive Rural Improvement District No. 2026-2. (Jessica Makus)

[20:10] Jessica Makus, Special Districts Coordinator, presented a resolution to create the O'Reilly Drive Rural Improvement District (RID) to improve and maintain O'Reilly Drive. Each 49 benefitting property is proposed to be levied a 15-year debt service assessment of \$320.83 until the loan is repaid with a maintenance assessment of \$290 annually for a total proposed assessment of \$610.83. Notice was mailed to the property owners and published in the Helena Independent Record. Staff recommend approval of the resolution.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

[31:45] Rachel Christian Smith, Erickson Rd resident, is wondering who will be doing the work and did the County get quotes?

[32:44] Vanessa Toquero, O'Reilly Dr., states there was no petition shown to at least 10 people and would also like the boundary to be reconsidered.

[34:21] Roger Johnson, resident, initially signed and supported the RID but is now against it due to the cost and neighbors with undeveloped lots are being billed for each lot. He also has an issue with family members on one lot living in campers and are benefitting but not being charged. He does not believe the road work will be completed even if the RID is created.

[38:55] John Geier, Terrance Road, is concerned about how often the road will be maintained. Prairie Road gets done about three times in the summer and people speed up it and create potholes. Is there going to be a speed limit set for O'Reilly Drive?

[40:39] Bruce Ryerson, resident, has spent his own money for a grader. Dust and potholes are terrible; safety is an issue with speeding and drivers dodging potholes. He is in support of the RID. He believes it will help the environment, though he does believe the cost should be pro-rated.

[42:59] Jeff Lutzgraph, 910 Erickson Road, lives on lower end and does not agree he should pay the full cost. He believes the horse trailers contribute to the condition of the road and are from a "commercial enterprise" and should be paying more. There are more properties that should have been included.

[45:02] Jeff Salisbury, Raptor Road, appreciates County staff's courtesy and informative conversations. Dirt roads destroy themselves without maintenance. He is in favor of the RID and did research on how much it should cost for improvements and maintenance and feels the County Engineer did not make the correct choice for gravel or the amount of gravel to be used. He believes the East/West roads should also be maintained.

[53:54] Wes Kertcher, resident, claims the letter stated \$300 per month and now is being told \$600 a month. He is not in favor of the RID.

[55:18] Candace Peterson, 840 Raptor Road, recent traffic has seen the road deteriorate and is not in support of the RID. She doesn't believe anything will change.

[56:53] Carl Olsen, resident, is against the RID. The road has been in the same condition for thirty years and serves it's purpose perfectly. There is no reason to improve the road.

[59:44] Doug Petersen, 840 Raptor Road, is concerned about particulates including dust. A lot of residents thought the cost would be a lot less. Thinks they can maintain it better themselves. He feels the government is overstepping.

[1:02:09] Roger Johnson, resident, is scared for his grandchildren on the road with the horse trailers going through so fast. You can hear the trailers coming down from the top of the road. The potholes slow people down.

[1:04:38] Ms. Makus addressed questions from the public including taking bids for improvements, Requests for Qualifications (RFQs) for maintenance, cost and assessment, laws regarding RIDs, speeding, duration and dissolving RIDs.

[1:23:48] Patty Kertcher, Erickson Road, stated no one has ever asked them to get together to ask about road improvements. There was an HOA in the past that states you can't have a commercial business. If it can be discussed between property owners to do the work themselves.

[1:26:39] Carl Olsen, covenants expired and were not renewed.

[1:27:00] Roger Johnson, snow removal won't be an issue on O'Reilly and should not be part of the maintenance.

[1:29:28] Jeff Lutzgraff, there is an increase of horse trailers and semis on O'Reilly.

[1:31:03] Bruce Ryerson, resident, thinks the east/west roads should be improved.

[1:32:47] Jeff Salisbury, resident, said everyone speeds and people can be more courteous to their neighbors. Even 25 mph seems too fast. The RID process is the cart before the horse.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Payne and seconded by Chair Rolfe. The motion Failed on a 0- 2 vote.

Resolution 2026-35 to Amend the Maynard Subdivision Rural Improvement District No. 2005-1. (Jessica Makus)

[1:58:22] Jessica Makus, Special Districts Coordinator, presented a resolution to amend the Maynard Subdivision Rural Improvement District (RID) to re-create the district to include an additional benefiting property and levy each 19 benefiting properties \$190 annually for ongoing maintenance. Notice was mailed to each property owner and publishes in the Independent Record. Staff recommend approval of the resolution.

[2:04:20] Jenny Chambers, Public Works and Planning Director, stated the conditional use does include that it is a commercial lot and is mostly equipment being stored there and there will be a slight increase in the traffic due to the lot.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Payne and seconded by Chair Rolfe. The motion Passed on a 2- 0 vote.

Public comment on any public matter within the jurisdiction of the Commission that is not on the agenda above.

Adjourn

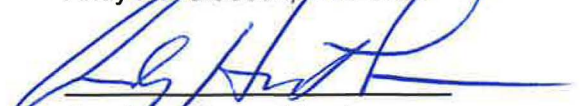
There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:06 am.

Meeting minutes approved on 6/11/26

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Tom Rolfe, Chair


Andy Hunthausen, Vice Chair


Candace Payne, Member

ATTEST:


Amy Reeves, Clerk of the Board