



PUBLIC MEETING

May 21, 2026
MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark Board of County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 9:00 AM in Commission Chambers, Rm 330.

Roll Call

Chair Tom Rolfe, Commissioner Andy Hunthausen and Commissioner Candace Payne were present. Others attending all or a portion of the meeting included Roger Batlz, TJ Murphy, Marni Bentley, Lt Col John Mayer, Jayson Zander, Tracie Kiesel, Audra Zacherl, Jessica Makus, Jenny Chambers, Kyle Sturgill-Simon, Christal Ness, Leo Dutton, Angela Mendoza, David Keene, and Brandi Grande, Recording Secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone recited the pledge.

Consent Action Items

- a. Vendor Claims Report for Week Ending May 22, 2026. (Marni Bentley)
- b. Resolution 2026-37 to Authorize the County Attorney to Employ Special Counsel to Assist in Prosecution of CR-515-2026-267. (Nicho Hash)

[2:27] Roger Baltz, Chief Administrative Officer, reported on consent action items 3a-3b and recommended approval.

No public comment was received.

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

Action Items

Presentation of Sentinel Project Information. (Lt Col Mayer)

[6:50] Lt Col John Mayer gave a presentation of the Sentinel Project including new silos, new missiles, new vehicles, construction, land surveys and land accrual. An environmental impact study will be done this summer and will be available to the public. Letters have been sent to landowners adjacent to a silo in Lewis and Clark County requesting access for construction workers and surveyors to easily access the silo. Roads funded as Defense Access Roads (DAR) will be

maintained by each construction contractor through the duration of the construction. Once construction is complete, the road will again be maintained by DAR.

No public comment was received.

Youth SnowSchool Program Presentation. (Ellie Fitzpatrick)

This item was rescheduled.

No public comment was received.

Commissioner Payne made a motion to move the item to June 2, 2026. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunthausen. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

Elected Officials Update.

[34:43] Amy Reeves, Treasurer/Clerk, Recorder and Elections Administrator, gave an update including school election and primary mid term election. Same day registration is available, but it is encouraged to get registered before Election Day. Test day May 29 -30, 2026 if anyone wants to come observe. Please get absentee ballots in as soon as possible; if being mailed back, please get them in the mail by Saturday, May 23, 2026. voterportal.mt.gov to check voter status. Property taxes are due June 1, 2026. Personal property tax bills will be mailed out soon. Property tax assistance is available for eligible people through the Department of Revenue. Homestead exemption should be applied for now for the 2027 tax year.

[49:57] Leo Dutton, Sheriff, did not have anything to report but is available for questions.

No public comment was received.

Lewis and Clark County DUI Task Force Annual Plan and Budget. (Tracie Kiesel)

[1:03:42] Jayson Zander, Lewis and Clark County DUI Task Force chair, and Tracie Kiesel, Treasurer, presented updated bylaws, meeting calendar, member contact list, budget and annual plan for FY27. The DUI Task Force continues to support any legislation that enforces DUI charges and seatbelt/safety laws. Staff recommend approval.

No public comment was received.

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

Bid Opening. Benchmark Road Gravel Load & Haul Project. (Audra Zacherl)

[1:17:01] Jenny Chambers, Public Works and Planning Director, opened bids for the Benchmark Road Gravel Load and Haul Project. Two bids were received. The first bid was from Valley Sand and Gravel of Helena, Montana in the amount of \$ 105,000. The second bid was from TDS Enterprises, LLC of Cascade, Montana in the amount of \$124,500. Staff recommend taking the bids under advisement and returning to the Commission with a recommendation on June 4, 2026.

No public comment was received.

Commissioner Payne made a motion for staff to take the bids under advisement and come back with a recommendation on June 4, 2026. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunthausen. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

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

[1:22:18] Jessica Makus, Special District Coordinator, presented a contract with Gruber Excavating in an amount not to exceed \$29,875.20 for road grading and maintenance in the American Bar Rural Improvement District (RID) with work to be completed by July 1, 2026. Staff recommend approval of the contract.

No public comment was received.

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

Resolution 2026- 36 to Adopt an Alternative Project Delivery Contract Method Pursuant to MCA 18-2-502. (Jenny Chambers)

[1:24:47] Jenny Chambers, Public Works and Planning Director, presented a resolution to adopt an alternative project delivery contract method, Design-Build, rather than the Design-Bid -Build process pursuant to 18-2-502 MCA, which will reduce disruption during the elevator project at the County Courthouse and does not diminish the competitive process in the project. This resolution would replace resolution 2026-10 in its entirety. Staff recommend approval of the resolution.

No public comment was received.

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

Agreement Between Lewis and Clark County and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. (Kyle Sturgill-Simon)

[51:32] Kyle Sturgill-Simon, Emergency Services Director, presented an updated agreement with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) for cooperative fire protection between local fire response and DNRC, which was last signed by the Commission in 2011. Staff recommend approval of the agreement.

[53:43] Leo Dutton, Sheriff/Fire Warden, listed his duties for fire activity and cannot delegate any authority as Sheriff.

No public comment was received.

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

Amendment No. 2 to Task Order No. 3 Between Lewis and Clark County and Tri-County FireSafe Working Group. (Kyle Sturgill-Simon)

[1:00:35] Kyle Sturgill-Simon, Emergency Services Director, presented an amendment to a task order with Tri-County FireSafe Working Group to extend the performance of wildfire mitigation to December 31, 2026. Staff recommend approval of the amendment.

No public comment was received.

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

Request for Comments on a Proposed Court Ordered Division. (Attorney: Scott Svee) (Planner: Christal Ness)

[1:32:55] Christal Ness, Development Services Supervisor, presented a request for comments on a court ordered division. Staff recommend submitting comments.

No public comment was received.

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

Board Appointments. (Roger Baltz)

[1:42:30] Roger Baltz, Chief Administrative Officer, presented board appointments for the Consolidated Land Use Board and recommended the Commissioners take the applicants into consideration for terms to be staggered and expire June 30, 2027 and June 30, 2028.

No public comment was received.

Commissioner Payne made a motion to appoint Shar Berensten to a partial term that will expire June 30, 2027. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunthausen. The motion Passed on a 2-0 vote.

No public comment was received.

Commissioner Payne made a motion to appoint Timothy Shankland to a partial term that will expire June 30, 2027. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunthausen. The motion Passed on a 2-0 vote.

No public comment was received.

Commissioner Payne made a motion to appoint Adrienne Cotton to a term that will expire June 30, 2028. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunthausen. The motion Passed on a 2-0 vote.

No public comment was received.

Commissioner Payne made a motion to appoint Tony Quirini to a term that will expire June 30, 2028. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunthausen. The motion Passed on a 2-0 vote.

No public comment was received.

Commissioner Payne made a motion to appoint Lori Young to a term that will expire June 30, 2028. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunthausen. The motion Passed on a 2-0 vote.

No public comment was received.

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

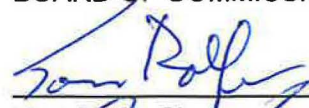
Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:48 am.

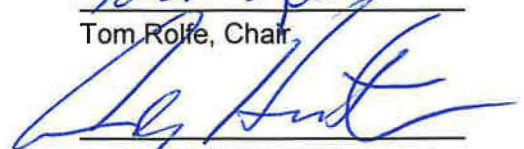
Meeting minutes approved on

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