



PUBLIC MEETING

May 28, 2026
MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark Board of County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Thursday, May 28, 2026 at 9:00 AM in Commission Chambers, Rm 330.

Roll Call

Chair Tom Rolfe, Commissioner Andy Hunthausen and Commissioner Candace Payne were present. Those attending all or a portion of the meeting included Roger Batlz, TJ Murphy, Frank Cornwell, Kyle Sturgill-Simon, Leo Dutton, Jenny Chambers, Mac McCarley, Audra Zacherl, Ryan Wardell, Christian Lehnert, Bob Richards, Jesssica Makus, Kevin Horne, Clay Caudle, Dustin Noel, JD Foreman, Ryan Leland, Dan Karlin, Misty Edwards, Pete Anderson, Wendy Margera, Jakob Miles, Eric Gilbertson, Brent Colbert, Brian Robinson, Sherri Martin, Gretchen Ulichson, Troy Christensen, Bradley Bragg, Caleb Metzger, and Brandi Grande, Recording Secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone recited the pledge.

Consent Action Items

There were no consent action items.

Action Items

Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Presentations:

[2:31] Kyle Sturgill-Simon, Emergency Management Program Manager, gave an overview of significant activities and presented the budget which included increase to personnel for 2.7% COLA, step increases, and health plan contributions along with an increase of \$12,675 for on-call 24/7 policy. Increase in Operations and Maintenance of \$250 for gas, oil and \$5,000 for travel and training expenses; and an increase in fixed charges for rent.

No public comment was received.

[26:10] Leo Dutton, Sheriff, Brent Colbert, Undersheriff, presented the Fund 2300 budget with changes including increase in personnel for 2.7% COLA, step increases, and health plan contributions plus 17 additional Detention Officers; and decrease in O&M of \$126,000 due to reduction of equipment required for new vehicles.

Troy Christensen presented the 2302 Inmate Fund budget which includes increase in medical budget \$28,000; O&M increase by \$47,000 for rent and increase in software of \$46,600. Capital Improvement contribution of \$528,000.

Bradley Bragg, Captain, presented the Fund 2301 Radio budget O&M with no changes; Search and Rescue budget with no changes;

Brian Robinson, Captain, presented the Sheriff Capital Expenditures with a change of \$70,000 to replace outdated rifles and \$62,000 for a Coroner Division van.

Brent Colbert, Undersheriff, presented the Coroner Division budget with an increase for ongoing increases in unclaimed bodies, autopsies, cremation and burial.

Leo Dutton, Sheriff, shared some concerns of rising costs and mill levy income. Expenses surpass the revenue.

No public comment was received.

[1:28:25] Jenny Chambers, Public Works Director, and Audra Zacherl, Public Works Assistant Director, presented the following budget changes:

All budgets increase of personnel for 2.7% COLA, step increases, and health plan contributions.

Administration: decrease in .5 FTE; O&M decreased by 8%; increase in janitorial; CIP contribution remains at \$35,000.

Special Districts Administration: two percent increase of O&M for equipment, travel and training; CIP contribution remains at \$15,000.

Jessica Makus, Special Districts Coordinator, gave an overview of the Special Districts Program, alignment with Commission goals, and RID maintenance completed.

Noxious Weed Control: this budget was approved by the Noxious Weed Board; O&M increase of 17.3% for equipment, travel and training, community involvement, buildings and maintenance. CIP contribution increase of \$10,000 for a total of \$50,000.

Noxious Weed Trust Fund: Ms. Zacherl went over grants and timelines left for each grant. Christian Lehnert, Noxious Weed Supervisor, gave an overview of the department, alignment with Commission goals, and ongoing/completed biocontrol/spraying projects.

Mosquito Control Districts: Craig: decrease in mosquito spraying services; beginning CIP with a \$10,000 as recommended by the Craig/Wolf Creek Mosquito District Board.

Helena Valley: decrease in mosquito spraying services; beginning CIP with \$110,000. Christian Lehnert, Mosquito Control District Manager, gave an overview of the department and alignment with Commission goals.

Forestvale Cemetery: this budget was approved by the Forestvale Cemetery Board. Other than a proposed increase in services, there are no changes.

Bob Richards, Cemetery Manager, and Wendy Margera, Forestvale Cemetery Board Trustee, explained the cemetery expansion plan and phases along with other planned projects.

Solid Waste Division: budgets approved by the Scratch Gravel Solid Waste Board. All budgets include increase in personnel for 2.7% COLA, step increases, and health plan contributions.

County Landfill: increase in personnel by \$ 29,685; decrease in O&M; decrease in fixed cost; revenue increase in IV class tipping fee for a future new cell. Ms. Zacherl shared a landfill performance report, which showed how our landfill is above design standards.

Scratch Gravel Solid Waste District: increase of annual assessment to build a transfer site for residents to drop off their waste at the County landfill off Deihl Ln; increase of 1 FTE at \$77,207 for staffing County

landfill; increase of 12% of O&M for projected increase in solid waste, computer maintenance, postage, district assessment audit, and transfer site start-up costs.

Marysville Solid Waste District: decrease in assessment \$24,750. They are spending down money to dissolve the district assessment. All CIP will be transferred to O&M. They will be managed with Scratch Gravel.

Misty Edwards, Senior Finance Coordinator, presented the Augusta and Lincoln budgets.

Augusta Solid Waste District: approved by the Augusta Solid Waste District Board, including increase in personnel for hauling and transferring; increase in O&M; debt service payment of \$8,960. The CIP contribution of \$10,000.

Lincoln Solid Waste District: increase in personnel for hauling and transferring; decrease in O&M due to separation from Republic; cash reserves are being used for minor needs and construction of the Z-Wall. Pete Anderson, City Landfill Manager, gave examples on how the landfill aligns with Commission goals, shared projects going on throughout the integrated system including customers served in a year, and noxious weed control.

Buildings Division: All budgets include increase in personnel for 2.7% COLA, step increases, and health plan contributions. Increase in O&M for equipment and supplies; she shared cost per square feet of city and county buildings, all are increasing, which increases revenues.

Michael A. Murray Building: decrease of 2.5% in O&M. Contribution to CIP is \$100,000.

County Courthouse: increase of 25% in O&M due to security contract. Contribution to CIP is \$400,000 with the elevator project anticipated for \$100,000 for the elevator.

Detention Center: increase in O&M for equipment and supplies, shower repair, fire repair system, and wall coating. Contribution to CIP is \$109,500 with control system project anticipated at \$949,500.

Miscellaneous Buildings: increase in personnel for contracted janitorial expenses; increase in O&M for supplies; increase in fixed costs for mowing and electric. Contribution to CIP is \$75,000 with HVAC system project in Lincoln anticipated at \$89,980.

222 & 310 Broadway Buildings: increase in O&M for unanticipated power tools. Contribution to CIP from 222 Building is \$17,000 with a porch and fire alarm system project anticipated at \$62,600. Contribution to CIP from 310 Building is \$3,000 with a roof project anticipated at \$15,910.

Mac McCarley explained how the buildings budget aligns with the Commissioners goals.

Road and Bridge: All budgets include increase in personnel for 2.7% COLA, step increases, and health plan contributions. Changes in budgets include the following:

Bridge Operations: increase in O&M of 7% for supplies and equipment, professional services, technology support, and contracted services.

Bridge Infrastructure: Projects include Clemmons/Elk Creek Bridge; Horse Gulch Mitigation, Birdtail Replacement Design Engineering, Lake Helena Drainage Improvements, SB536 Nelson Road, Beaver Creek Road/Beaver Creek, and Partnership Opportunity Reserve.

Kevin Horne, Operations Manager, explained how the budget aligns with the Commission goals.

Shop Maintenance & Fleet: increase to O&M of just over 2% for supplies and equipment;

Dustin Noel, Shop Manager, explained how the budget aligns with the Commission goals.

Road Operations: increase in revenue; personnel increase in retirement payout; increase in O&M for supplies and equipment; professional services; and travel/training. Decrease of 3.5% in O&M in the sign expenditures.

Road Infrastructure: Projects include Country Club Design, Beartooth Erosion Realignment, Timber Sale Roads Dust Control, Crack Seal, Approach Paving, Chip Seal, Scrub Seal, Asphalt, Warren School Intersection Reconfigure, Gravel and Projects, and Bulk Road Stabilization and Projects.

Road Gas Tax: Projects include Tires, Cutting Edges, and Wear Parts, Paser Road Analysis, Waterborne Paint Striping, Pothole Patching Material, Winter Hot Sand, Sign Operations Contribution, Gas Tax Infrastructure Contribution, and Project Contingency.

Kevin Horne, Operations Manager, explained how the budget aligns with the Commission goals.

Metropolitan Planning Organization: recently created budget with contributions staying the same at \$150,000 (\$50,000 each from Road, Bridge, and Planning). Fuel Revolving: no changes.

No public comment was received.

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

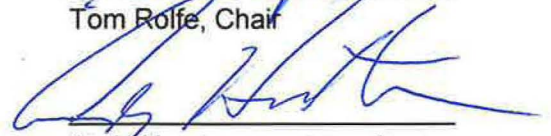
Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:44 pm.

Meeting minutes approved on 6/11/20

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Tom Rolfe, Chair


Andy Hunthausen, Vice Chair


Candace Payne, Member

ATTEST:


Amy Reeves, Clerk of the Board