



PUBLIC MEETING

June 18, 2026
MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark Board of County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Thursday, June 18, 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 Baltz, Nicho Hash, Misty Edwards, Jeromy Ashcraft, Kyle Sturgill-Simon, Jenny Chambers, Drenda Niemann, Frank Cornwell, Ashley Post, Paula Sephenson, Michelle Marten, and Brandi Grande, Recording Secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone recited the pledge.

Consent Action Items

- a. Vendor Claims Report for Week Ending June 19, 2026. (Misty Edwards)
- b. Public Meeting Minutes for May 19; June 2, 4, 2026. (Brandi Grande)

[1:53] Roger Baltz, Chief Administrative Officer, reported on consent action items 2a-b 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

Grant Award to Lewis and Clark County from the Montana Disaster and Emergency Services Division. (Kyle Sturgill-Simon)

[3:40] Kyle Sturgill-Simon, Emergency Services Director, presented a grant award in the amount of \$44,620 from the Montana Disaster Emergency Services Division for the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) with a match of \$44,620 and a performance period from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. Staff recommend approval of the grant award.

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.

Board Appointment. (Roger Baltz)

[10:47] Roger Baltz, Chief Administrative Officer, presented a board appointment to the Lincoln Solid Waste District Board and recommended the Commissioners consider the only applicant to a term that will expire June 30, 2028.

No public comment was received.

Commissioner Hunthausen made a motion to appoint Sarah Tams to the Lincoln Solid Waste District Board to a partial term that will expire June 30, 2028. Commissioner Payne seconded the motion. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

Discussion and Direction Regarding the Murray Building. (Roger Baltz)

[12:20] Roger Baltz, Chief Administrative Officer, led a discussion regarding the Murray Building, a County owned building, and recommended the Commissioners provide direction of the building usage, current status, uses, and possible future actions and options. The discussion included interest in the purchase of the building, though the building is not for sale at this time. Millions of dollars have gone into renovations for the building to be used for healthcare.

[16:53] Commissioner Hunthausen stated another question is space needs for Public Health and feels research should be done to look at needs, current use of the building, future services, and investment into the building. The building is healthcare specific with specialized setup and funded by the local taxpayers. How will we meet the community's needs in the future?

[21:48] Commissioner Payne toured the building and asked if there are time frames to comply with and put out for others who may be interested in buying the building.

[23:33] Nicho Hash, Deputy County Attorney, explained that grant funds have specific directives on how the building can be used and the Murray building is considered real property. Though a study is not needed to move forward with a sale, the Commissioners can request a study to help them decide on how to move forward.

[26:43] Roger Baltz, Chief Administrative Officer, talked about PureView's separation from the County and gave examples of other real estate deals, work study groups for changes to locations, and the importance of what is best for the community and taxpayers. Due diligence takes time and the key issue now is that the building is not for sale, though there is an option for it to be up for sale in the future. There is a separation and lease agreement with PureView and the lease renewal is for another 5 years.

[32:09] Drenda Niemann, Public Health Officer, shared her thoughts on the building including space issues and facility needs listed in the strategic plans. A preliminary architect report was completed and Public Health needs 15,000-17,000 square feet to operate adequately. They are running on just over 11,000 square feet. She would like to see a study with possibilities with fiscally responsible options while focusing on serving the community and keeping them in the center of the decision. She would like to see a study on the opportunity that has presented itself and see if it is feasible financially while meeting the needs of the community or if another investment would be more fiscally responsible.

[39:32] Jenny Chambers, Planning and Public Works Director, stated Public Works can look at other buildings to see what kind of work needs to be done or additional costs with a new asset. The Murray building may come with long-term risks as well. Buildings always needing maintenance. Restrictions need to be considered, including the parking lot being leased from the Department of Transportation.

[55:45] Roger Baltz, Chief Administrative Officer, stated he doesn't think a formal study or hiring a consultant is necessary. Staff will be devoted to working together in partnership to conduct research and then making a recommendation.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

[58:49] Michelle Marten, PureView CEO, thanked the Commissioners for coming to tour the facility and for the discussion. PureView is a vital presence in the community, and the conversation is important for the community.

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

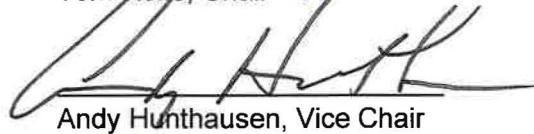
Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 am

Meeting minutes approved on 7-16-26

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Tom Rolfe, Chair


Andy Hunthausen, Vice Chair


Candace Payne, Member

ATTEST:


Amy Reeves, Clerk of the Board