

LEWIS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BOCC)

Business Meeting minutes

April 18, 2023

Present: Commissioner Swope, Commissioner Brummer, Commissioner Pollock

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Commissioner Swope called the meeting to order at 10 a.m., determined a quorum and then proceeded with the flag salute.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kelsi Hamilton discussed concerns with how the Sheriff's Office conducted the investigation into Aron Christensen's death. She requested the commissioners require the Sheriff's Office to acquire Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) accreditation.

Patty Howard discussed Gather Church's work with the Recovery Navigator program. Patty outlined data detailing individuals helped through Gather Church.

Elizabeth Rohr urged the Prosecuting Attorney's Office to summon a grand jury regarding the death of Aron Christiansen. She expressed concerns about how the PA's Office has handled the investigation.

Lisa Striedinger expressed concerns with commissioner comments regarding the homeless community and comments regarding the creation of a citizens' committee to oversee the Sheriff's Office.

Sara Bumgardner invited the public to attend Drug Take-Back Day activities planned for April 22.

CONSENT ITEMS

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to approve minutes from the April 11, 2023, Business Meeting as well as Resolution 23-130. Commissioner Brummer seconded.

Resolution 23-130: Approval of warrants/claims against the various county departments.

Chief accountant Grace Jimenez said warrants 868,259 through 868,563 and direct disbursements 11380 through 11385 were issued in April for payments against the county totaling \$2,685,939.64. Grace said payroll/tax deposit 796,006 and Automatic Deposits 52,742 through 53,323 also were approved for payments totaling \$1,252,946.24. Grace noted a skip in sequence for warrants 868,221 through 868,258, which were issued on behalf of Special Purpose Districts.

Motion passed 3-0.

DELIBERATION ITEMS

Commissioner Brummer made a motion to approve Resolutions 23-131 through 23-136. Commissioner Pollock seconded.

Resolution 23-131: Approve Amendment #C01-0163-22-A between Compass Career Solutions and Lewis County.

Community Health Services & Contract Coordinator Sara Sons discussed the resolution. Sara said the amendment increases funding by \$45,970.

Resolution 23-132: Approve Amendment #M01-0164-22-A between Morningside and Lewis County.

Community Health Services & Contract Coordinator Sara Sons discussed the resolution. Sara said the amendment increases funding by \$118,200.

Resolution 23-133: Declaration of surplus vehicles and equipment.

Public Works Director Josh Metcalf discussed the resolution. Josh said the county has vehicles and equipment being declared surplus.

Resolution 23-134: The proposed acquisition of temporary easements for Burnett Road Slide and Spencer Road Slide.

Public Works Director Josh Metcalf discussed the resolution. Josh said the two projects are in response to staging and boring needs in response to slides.

Resolution 23-135: Reappoint Ron Averill, Tom Crowson and Bonnie Brown to the Public Facilities District (PFD) Board of Directors.

Clerk of the Board Rieva Lester discussed the resolution. Rieva said Ron Averill, Tom Crowson and Bonnie Brown have agreed to continue serving on the Public Facilities District Board of Directors.

Resolution 23-136: Reappoint Dennis Riebe to the East Lewis County Public Development Authority (ELCPDA) Board of Directors.

Clerk of the Board Rieva Lester discussed the resolution. Rieva said Dennis Riebe has agreed to continue serving on the East Lewis County Public Development Authority (ELCPDA) Board of Directors.

Motion passed 3-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

PRESS CONFERENCE

Chronicle reporter Isabel Vander Stoep discussed Commissioner Pollock's recent remarks about the potential creation of a Sheriff's Office oversight committee. She asked where constituents should go to express their concerns. Commissioner Brummer said concerned constituents can reach out to the Attorney General's Office, the U.S. Department of Justice and the Civil Service Commission.

The commissioners said they are not interested in "defunding the police." They also noted that the elected offices are equal said they are not against examining ways for citizens to address their concerns and for the Sheriff's Office to continue to better itself.

ADJOURNMENT

The BOCC Business Meeting adjourned at 10:24 a.m., with the next Business Meeting scheduled for 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 25, 2023, in the Commissioners' Hearing Room (Room 223).

Minutes from the BOCC Business Meeting are not verbatim. The weekly Business Meeting streams live on YouTube (search for "LewisCountyWa" on YouTube or go to <https://www.youtube.com/user/LewisCountyWa/featured>). Video footage also is available at no charge at <https://lewiscountywa.gov/offices/commissioners/bocc-meetings/>.



ATTEST:

Rieva Lester, Clerk of the Board

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEWIS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Sean D. Swope, Chair
Scott J. Brummer, Vice Chair
Lindsey R. Pollock, DVM, Commissioner