

LEWIS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BOCC)

Business Meeting minutes

September 19, 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

Rieva Lester noted that the county had received several written comments that were being included in the record. They included comments from Kyle Wheeler, Ray Chapman-Wilson, Don Haerling, Richard Easter, "A concerned Washingtonian," Rhonda Uhrich, Kristy Walworth, and Jim and Debbie Aust.

Erin Volz spoke against vaccine and mask mandates and urged the commissioners to pass proposed Resolution 23-304.

Ray Chapman-Wilson spoke about the protections provided by masks and discussed health and safety mandates.

NOTICE ITEMS

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to approve Resolutions 23-298 and 23-299. Commissioner Brummer seconded.

Resolution 23-298: Notice of Public Hearing for the proposed amendment to the 2023 Annual Construction Program (ACP) and 2023-2028 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The hearing will take place in the Commissioners' Hearing Room at or after 10 a.m. Oct. 3, 2023.

Public Works Director Josh Metcalf discussed the resolution. Josh said the hearing will take place in October.

Resolution 23-299: Notice of hearing regarding a franchise renewal to Glen & Kathleen Hedrick to construct, operate and maintain water facilities in Lewis County Road rights-of-way. The hearing will take place in the Commissioners' Hearing Room at or after 10 a.m. Oct. 10, 2023.

Public Works Director Josh Metcalf discussed the resolution. Josh said the franchise request will go before the commissioners in October.

Motion passed 3-0.

CONSENT ITEMS

Commissioner Brummer made a motion to approve minutes from the September 19, 2023, Business Meeting as well as Resolution 23-300. Commissioner Pollock seconded.

Resolution 23-300: Approval of warrants/claims against the various county departments.

Deputy Auditor Graham Gowing said warrants 874,600 through 874,674 and 874,706 through 874,934 as well as direct disbursements numbered 11872, 11878, 11890, 11910-11912, 11918, 11932, 11937, 11939 and 11945 through 11946 were issued in September for payments against the county totaling \$3,524,846. Graham said payroll/tax deposit warrants 796,068 through 796,103 and Automatic Deposits 58,736 through 59,382 also were approved for payments totaling \$1,363,578. Graham noted a skip in sequence for warrants 874,586 through 874,599 and 874,675 through 874,705, which were issued on behalf of Special Purpose Districts.

Motion passed 3-0.

DELIBERATION ITEMS

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to approve Resolutions 23-301 through 23-304. Commissioner Brummer seconded.

Resolution 23-301: Authorize the Chair to sign the Community Rating System annual recertification document.

Community Development Director Lee Napier discussed the resolution. Lee said the resolution authorizes the signing of the Community Rating System (CRS) recertification. She noted that for the county to remain in the CRS Program as a Class 5, which provides reduced costs for flood insurance within our community, the county must annually certify that it is continuing to implement the activities noted in the annual recertification document as credited under the CRS Program. Lee said the flood insurance savings vary by class and that the Class 5 savings are estimated at approximately 25 percent.

Lee said the annual Program for Public Information (PPI) committee met August 18, 2023, to evaluate the PPI Plan and that the committee did not have any recommended updates to the PPI Plan for this annual recertification. She said a copy of the PPI annual evaluation report has provided to the Board of

County Commissioners (BOCC) and that a copy of the annual evaluation, the progress report for the currently adopted floodplain management plan and the PPI were available online.

Resolution 23-302: Appoint an Acting County Road Engineer pursuant to RCW 36.80 and WAC 136-12.

Public Works Director Josh Metcalf discussed the resolution. Josh said Geoff Soderquist will succeed Tim Fife as the Acting County Road Engineer.

Resolution 23-303: Adopt a revised Equipment Rental and Revolving (ER&R) Fund Policy.

Public Works Director Josh Metcalf discussed the resolution. Josh said the new policy will go into effect Sept. 20, 2023.

Resolution 23-304: Establish the right to personal choice regarding the use of masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses.

Commissioner Swope, Commissioner Brummer and Commissioner Pollock discussed the resolution and noted they favor championing the individual rights of county employees.

Motion passed 3-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

PRESS CONFERENCE

In response to questions from Chronicle reporter Mitchell Roland, the commissioners discussed the preemptive action they are taking with the passage of the mask resolution and the negative aspects of the state's mask and vaccine mandates.

ADJOURNMENT

The BOCC Business Meeting adjourned at 10:24 a.m., with the next Business Meeting scheduled for 10 a.m. Tuesday, September 26, 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