

**LEWIS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BOCC)**

**Business Meeting minutes**

**October 10, 2023**

Present: Commissioner Swope, Commissioner Brummer, Commissioner Pollock

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Commissioner Swope called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m., determined a quorum and then proceeded with the flag salute.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Commissioner Swope said he has walked back his recent call for a book-rating system for Timberland Regional Library (TRL) and instead is proposing adopt a policy for its book that mirrors the policy is uses for internet access.

Rieva Lester noted that several individuals had shared written public comment. Those submitting written comment included:

- C. Angove (also written as Cynder Teal)
- Deter and Kennedy Voetberg
- Debbie Aust
- Jennifer Reeber
- Luke Angove
- Jeremy Meinking
- Rick Bazin
- Paula Voetberg
- Ben and Brice Hansen
- Kraig and Hannah Perry
- Chris Rust
- Hallie Ralls
- Shae Simpson
- Helen Nowlin
- Robin (no last name provided)
- Gary Odegaard
- Jonathan Goddard
- Rosemarie Downey-McCarthy
- Shirley Fazzari

- Hillary Fazzari
- Jan Leth
- Gina Owen
- Dennis Blake
- Cathy Cavness
- Kathryn Halsan
- Jill Jeffries
- Jo Martens
- Kerry Serl
- Monique Farland
- Don Watt
- Paul Jeffries
- Mark Obtinario
- Amanda Johnson
- Jim Lowery
- Stuart Halsan
- David Eatwell
- Mysteriis (also listed as Angelic Fey)

April Jones expressed concerns with fraudulent elections.

The following individuals spoke in favor Commissioner Swope's proposed library changes

- Elizabeth Rohr
- Gregg Rohr
- Chris Granger (with additional time donated by Bev Granger)
- Traci Dutton
- Kyle Pratt
- Kyle Rasmussen
- Harvey Bamford
- Linda Johnson
- Christina Riley
- Andrew Dutton
- Julie Balmeli-Powe
- Kevin Saul
- Jim Swanner

The following individuals spoke in opposition of Commissioner Swope's proposed library changes

- Usha Sahadeva-Brooks
- Mark Stevens
- Rebecca Staebler

- Marilyn Chintella
- Ray Chapman-Wilson
- Mistina Williamsen
- Sonja McCully
- Wayne Van Weerthuisen
- Ginger Ayers
- Carol Goble
- Judy Bell
- Lori Lawson
- Mary Harris
- Denise Mathews

Commissioner Swope said he is not asking for a book ban and is no longer suggesting a book-rating system but that he'd like TRL to adopt a policy that mirrors its internet policy. He said he wants to ensure reading material is age appropriate and that it is housed accordingly.

Commissioner Brummer echoed concerns about making sure reading material is age appropriate.

Commissioner Pollock said the library system already has checks and balances in place. She expressed the need to leave guidance up to parents and guardians.

At 11:36 a.m., Commissioner Swope announced a 3-minute recess, with the meeting set to resume at 11:39 a.m. The meeting resumed at 11:43 a.m.

#### NOTICE ITEM

*Commissioner Pollock made a motion to approve Resolution 23-320. Commissioner Brummer seconded.*

**Resolution 23-320:** Notice regarding the extended closure of Ferrier Road to all through traffic at MP 3.49. The roadway will be closed from Oct. 19, 2023, to Nov. 30, 2023.

Public Works Real Estate Services Manager Shawn Kyes discussed the resolution. Shawn said the closure is needed for repairs to the bridge.

*Motion passed 3-0.*

#### CONSENT ITEMS

*Commissioner Brummer made a motion to approve minutes from the October 3, 2023, Business Meeting as well as Resolution 23-231. Commissioner Pollock seconded.*

**Resolution 23-231:** Approval of warrants/claims against the various county departments.



Chief accountant Grace Jimenez, representing the Auditor's Office, said warrants 875,464 through 875,515 and 875,531 through 875,703, as well as direct disbursements numbered 11980, 11994 through 11998, 12006 through 12017, 12024 through 12027, 12030 through 12034, 12050, 12052 and 12055 were issued in September and October for payments against the county totaling \$1,672,420.34. Grace noted a skip in sequence for warrants 875,516 through 875,530 and 875,704 through 875,731, which were issued on behalf of Special Purpose Districts.

***Motion passed 3-0.***

#### **DELIBERATION ITEMS**

***Commissioner Pollock made a motion to approve Resolutions 23-322 through 23-331. Commissioner Brummer seconded.***

**Resolution 23-322:** Establish a new Capital Projects fund: Homeless Shelter Capital Fund No. 3500.

Chief accountant Grace Jimenez discussed the resolution. Grace said the resolution will create a fund that can be used to track costs associated with the temporary and permanent homeless shelters.

**Resolution 23-323:** Authorize temporary interfund loan from the Real Estate Excise Tax (REET II) Fund No. 3120 to the Homeless Shelter Capital Fund No. 3500.

Chief accountant Grace Jimenez discussed the resolution. Grace said the loan will allow for expenditures to be paid as the county awaits its grant funding for the shelter project.

**Resolution 23-324:** Approve an interlocal agreement between Lewis County and the City of Morton for support of radio communications equipment and systems.

911 Director Jenn Libby-Jones discussed the resolution. Jenn said the interlocal agreement addresses the county's support of Morton equipment and systems that interface with the county's 911 equipment and systems.

**Resolution 23-325:** List the bid received and contractor selected for the purchase of two folding gooseneck lowboy trailers.

Public Works Director Josh Metcalf discussed the resolution. Josh said the lone bidder was Load King, which issued a bid of \$285,894.22.

**Resolution 23-326:** List the bids received and contractor selected for the purchase of two truck chassis.

**Public Works Director Josh Metcalf** discussed the resolution. Josh said the county received bids from two entities, with I-5 Dodge of Chehalis providing the low bid of \$130,063.53.

**Resolution 23-327:** Approve an interlocal agreement between the Washington State Patrol and Lewis County.

**Public Health and Social Services Deputy Director John Abplanalp** discussed the resolution. John said the agreement allows the state patrol to bring the animal shelter any stray cats and dogs it collects within unincorporated Lewis County.

**Resolution 23-328:** Approve Consolidated Contract #CLH31017 Amendment #14 between the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) and Lewis County.

**Public Health and Social Services Deputy Director John Abplanalp** discussed the resolution. John said the amendment increases funding and adds and amends statements of work.

**Resolution 23-329:** Accept Formal Amendments 1, 2, and 3 with Washington State Conservation Commission for the purpose of increased funding to the County for the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP).

**Community Development Long-Range Planner Mindy Brooks** discussed the resolution. Mindy said the amendments increase funding for the Voluntary Stewardship Program.

**Resolution 23-330:** Approve Director of Community Development to amend the Interlocal Agreement between Lewis Conservation District and Lewis County for technical assistance to implement the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP), and authorize the Director of Community Development to sign on behalf of Lewis County.

**Community Development Long-Range Planner Mindy Brooks** discussed the resolution. Mindy said the agreement allows for technical assistance related to implementation of the VSP.

**Resolution 23-331:** Modify restrictions on outdoor burning to allow permitted burning throughout lands regulated by Lewis County.

**Clerk of the Board Rieva Lester** discussed the resolution. Rieva said the resolution eases burn restrictions the commissioners set earlier in the year and allows burning by those who've secured permits. She noted that the burning of garbage is never allowed.

***Motion passed 3-0.***



## HEARING

**Resolution 23-332:** Approve a franchise renewal to Glenn & Kathleen Hedrick for the installation, construction, operation and maintenance of water facilities lines within the Chilvers Road right-of-way of unincorporated Lewis County.

Commissioner Swope introduced the hearing.

**Public Works Real Estate Services Manager Shawn Kyes** gave the staff report. Shawn noted that notice regarding the 10-year, non-exclusive franchise was noticed via Resolution 23-299, dated Sept. 19.

Commissioner Swope asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Commissioner Swope then closed the question-and-answer portion of the hearing.

Shawn asked that his previous comments be adopted into the record.

Commissioner Swope asked if anyone wanted to speak for or against the resolution.

No one chose to speak.

Commissioner Swope closed the hearing.

**Commissioner Brummer made a motion to approve Resolution 23-332. Commissioner Swope seconded. Motion passed 3-0.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

## PRESS CONFERENCE

Commissioner Swope responded to questions from Chronicle reporter Mitchell Roland regarding his proposed policy for the Timberland Regional Library. He noted that taxpayers from the five partner counties – Lewis, Grays Harbor, Mason, Pacific and Thurston – pay for the library system and that the county commissioners elect representatives for TRL’s governing board.

## ADJOURNMENT

The BOCC Business Meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m., with the next Business Meeting scheduled for 10 a.m. Tuesday, October 17, 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/>.*

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
LEWIS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

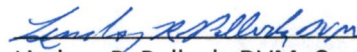


ATTEST:

  
Sean D. Swope, Chair

  
Scott J. Brummer, Vice Chair

  
Rieva Lester, Clerk of the Board

  
Lindsey R. Pollock, DVM, Commissioner