

LEWIS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BOCC)

Business Meeting minutes

December 2, 2019

Present: Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Fund (by phone)

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Commissioner Jackson called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m., determined a quorum and then proceeded with the flag salute.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Scott Crossfield asked that the county add white noise backup alarms. He also asked that the county adopt the Department of Ecology's rules. He noted that he has endured noise problems as a neighbor of the Lemmie Rockford rock pit.

Robert Thode discussed the Department of Ecology's recent decision to consider delisting biosolids, with 5 percent coming from Kalama Chemical. He said the materials have been coming into Lewis County for 25 years. He said Lewis County – and Ecology – had reviewed and approved it prior to that. Robert said benzene is on the contents list but that it was never found in sample tests. In response to Commissioner Stamper's request for clarification, Robert said the materials were approved by the county and Ecology until 2014. He said Ecology then revoked its approval retroactively, marooning already-delivered materials in storage containers in Lewis County.

The commissioners thanked Bill Marshall, Bill Kassen, Frank Corbin, Paul Crouner, Bill Serrahn and Laura Berg for their participation on the Lewis County Citizens Budget Committee.

NOTICE ITEMS

Commissioner Stamper made a motion to approve Resolutions 19-347 through 19-349. Commissioner Fund seconded.

Resolution 19-347: Notice of hearing for the Lewis County 2019 budget emergency and supplemental appropriations to and transfers within current expense and various funds. The hearing will take place in the Commissioners' Hearing Room at or after 10 a.m. Dec. 16, 2019.

County Manager Erik Martin spoke to the resolution. He said the amendment reflects an expenditure increase totaling \$1,430,600 and a revenue increase totaling \$997,586, resulting in a decrease of fund balance totaling \$433,014.

Resolution 19-348: Notice of hearing for proposed Ordinance 1313, which would make technical amendments to Ch. 3.55 of the Lewis County Code Relating to the Administration of the County Noxious Weed Assessment. The hearing will take place in the Commissioners' Hearing Room at or after 10 a.m. Dec. 16, 2019.

Chief Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Eric Eisenberg spoke to the resolution. He said technical legal changes are needed. He said the changes do not increase or change the assessments.

Resolution 19-349: Call for bids for the 2020-2023 Debris Removal Project, County Project No. SW-CTS 20-23. Bids are due to the Clerk of the Board by 11 a.m. Dec. 17.

Solid Waste Services Manager Steve Skinner spoke to the resolution. He said the contract would be for grinding wood debris handled at the transfer station.

Motion passed 3-0.

CONSENT ITEMS

Commissioner Stamper made a motion to approve minutes from the November 25, 2019, meeting as well as Resolution 19-350. Commissioner Fund seconded.

Resolution 19-350: Approval of warrants/claims against the various county departments.

Chief accountant Suzette Smith, representing the Auditor's Office, said warrants 821,926-822,119 and direct disbursements numbered 1402-1403 were issued the week of Nov. 22-28, 2019, and were approved for payment against the county totaling \$566,729.94. She said payroll/tax deposit warrants numbered 795,725-795,730 and Automatic Deposits 4915-5501 dated Nov. 25, 2019, were approved for payments against the county totaling \$1,602,053.51.

She noted a skip in sequence for warrants 821,895-821,925, which were issued on behalf of Special Purpose Districts.

Motion passed 3-0.

DELIBERATION ITEMS

Commissioner Stamper made a motion to approve Resolutions 19-351 through 19-357. Commissioner Fund seconded.

Resolution 19-351: Adopt a Categorized Schedule of Fees effective January 1, 2020.

Lee Napier, Director of Community Development, spoke to the resolution. She said the annual adoption is for the category of fees that apply to Community Development, Public Works and Public Health and Social Services.

Resolution 19-352: Approve the Solid Waste Management Waste Reduction and Recycling Education agreement, Agreement No. SWMWRRED-1921-LeCSWU-00024, with the Washington State Department of Ecology.

Solid Waste Manager Steve Skinner spoke to the resolution. Steve said the county has submitted a grant to help reduce contamination of recycled items. He said the grant provides \$80,000, which includes \$60,000 from Ecology and \$20,000 in local matching funds.

Resolution 19-353: Approve a Criminal Justice Treatment Account Work Plan between Lewis County and the Health Care Authority.

Public Health and Social Services Director JP Anderson spoke to the resolution. He said the Health Care Authority (HCA) requires agencies and counties receiving State Criminal Justice Treatment Account (CJTA) funds to update their CJTA Work Plan every two years. He said the plan is drafted by the local CJTA panel in accordance with RCW 71.24.580 and must be approved by the county legislative authority before being submitted to the HCA.

Resolution 19-354: Ratify a consultant supplement over \$40,000 for an active Public Works project.

Josh Metcalf, Director of Public Works, spoke to the resolution. He said the resolution approves an amendment to the county's contract with SCJ Alliance for the North Lewis County Industrial Access project.

Resolution 19-355: Initiate county road construction projects and assign County Road Project (CRP) numbers.

Josh Metcalf, Director of Public Works, spoke to the resolution. He said approval of the resolution will allow Public Works to establish official CRP numbers and authorize the preliminary engineering, right of way and construction improvements for the 2020 Countywide 3R Program, 2020 Miscellaneous Safety and Guardrail, and 2019 County Safety Program projects.

Resolution 19-356: Notice of Lewis County's intent to accept surplus property from the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission.

County Manager Erik Martin spoke to the resolution. He said the resolution states the county's intent to accept the state's surplus property. Erik said State Parks likely will hold a workshop in January then take action in March.

Resolution 19-357: Approve an agreement between Lewis County and Washington State Office of Public Defense for Public Defense Improvement Funds.

Administrative Assistant Candace Hallom spoke to the resolution. She said the agreement provides \$100,900 to cover "Defender of the Day" costs from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2020.

Motion passed 3-0.

HEARINGS

Ordinance 1310: Ordinance 1310, which amends county code relating to Emergency Management and declares the Board of County Commissioners as the political subdivision in charge of Emergency Management, authorized to create a Division of Emergency Management and appoint its Director.

Commissioner Jackson introduced the hearing.

Amber Smith, joined by Andy Caldwell, gave the staff report.

Amber said Ordinance 1239 assigned responsibilities of Emergency Management to the Lewis County Sheriff. She said Resolution 15-177 transferred the responsibilities to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). She said that since it originally was done as an ordinance, the changes outlined in Resolution 15-177 should have been done via ordinance instead of via resolution.

Commissioner Jackson asked if there were any questions.

Centralia resident Ron Averill discussed the history of the responsibilities.

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

Amber Smith asked that her previous comments be adopted into the record.

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

No one spoke.

Commissioner Jackson closed the hearing.

Commissioner Stamper made a motion to approve Ordinance 1310. Commissioner Fund seconded.

Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution 19-359: Adopt the Annual Budget of Lewis County for calendar year 2020.

Commissioner Jackson introduced the hearing.

County Manager Erik Martin, joined by Budget Services Manager Becky Butler, gave the staff report.

Erik outlined the budget timeline and noted that the commissioners held more than 20 individual budget meetings, all open to the public, with each elected office and department.

He noted that Lewis County employs more than 560 individuals – a figure that doesn't include the numerous casual positions for Roads, summer parks maintenance and Fair week workers. He also noted that employments costs account for roughly 40 percent of the budget.

Erik outlined budgetary challenges the county faces, such as limited resource options as well as unfunded mandates linked to PERS, PSERS and LEOFF II, inmate medical care, indigent defense costs, employee health insurance and election costs, among others.

Erik discussed an upcoming community survey the county is planning in conjunction with its Strategic Planning efforts.

Erik noted that notice of the hearing was published on Nov. 19 and 26, 2019, in the Chronicle and Nov. 20 and 27, 2019, in the East County Journal.

Erik provided details about the budget, noting that the final budget sets the General Fund (Current Expense) revenue at \$38,497,938 and expenditures at \$41,141,955. He said the budget for the General Fund is balanced using \$2,644,017 in fund balance. He said the revenue total for all funds is budgeted at \$119,828,329, while the expenditures are budgeted at \$127,315,242.

Erik said the resolution includes a couple of other notable items with regard to capital facilities needs:

- Adopts of a Capital Facilities Ten Year Project List as recommended by the CFP Committee
- Directs the County Treasurer to allocate and transfer 3.5 percent of the monthly sales and use tax distributed by the state in 2020 to the Capital Fund No. 3010 for capital projects.

Commissioner Jackson asked if there were any questions.

There were no questions.

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

Erik Martin asked that his previous comments be adopted into the record.

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

Centralia resident Ron Averill said he's pleased to see a budget that is in the black, rather than in the red. He also praised efforts to revamp the county's strategic plan. He urged the county to work to beef up its reserves. He also noted a need to focus on infrastructure.

Citizens Budget Committee member Laura Berg read a note to the commissioners into the record. She praised the county and staff for its professionalism and fiscal responsibility.

Commissioner Jackson praised county staff's creative efforts to find savings for the county. He also praised the Citizens Budget Committee's contributions.

Commissioner Fund echoed those sentiments and urged the public to reach out to state legislators regarding unfunded mandates.

Commissioner Jackson closed the hearing.

Commissioner Stamper made a motion to approve Resolution 19-359. Commissioner Fund seconded.

Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution 19-358: Property Tax Budget and Levy for both Current Expense and the Road Fund for 2020.

Commissioner Jackson introduced the hearing.

County Manager Erik Martin, joined by Budget Services Manager Becky Butler, gave the staff report.

By law, Erik said, the rate can only be increased by 1 percent over the previous year or the Implicit Price Deflator (IPD), whichever is less. He said the IPD is 1.396 percent, so 1 percent is the limit.

Erik said the Board of County Commissioners has determined there is a need for a 1 percent increase in both the General and the Road levy rates. He said the estimated General property tax levy is an increase over the actual levy amount from the previous year in the amount of \$126,761.44, which is a percentage increase of 1 percent from the previous year.

He said the estimated Road property tax levy is an increase over the actual levy amount from the previous year of \$138,133.46, which is a percentage increase of 1 percent from the previous year.

Erik said the increases are exclusive of additional revenue resulting from new construction, improvements to property, newly constructed wind turbines, solar, biomass, geothermal facilities, any increases in the value of state-assessed property, and any annexations that have occurred or refunds made.

Erik said the resolution sets the budget for the County's General levy at \$13,700,000 and the County Road levy at \$12,700,000.

Commissioner Jackson asked if there were any questions.

There were no questions.

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

Erik Martin asked that his previous comments be adopted into the record.

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

No one spoke.

Commissioner Jackson closed the hearing.

Commissioner Stamper made a motion to approve Resolution 19-358. Commissioner Fund seconded.

Motion passed 3-0.

Commissioner Fund left at 11:02 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Stamper discussed recent high school football playoffs.

Commissioner Jackson his family's Thanksgiving as well as the death of a sports figure, Pat Sullivan, over the weekend. He also discussed the creation and success of the Citizens' Budget Committee.

PRESS CONFERENCE

There were no questions from the press.

ADJOURNMENT

The BOCC Business Meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m., with the next Business Meeting scheduled for 10 a.m. Monday, December 9, 2019, in the Commissioners' Hearing Room (Room 223).

Please note that minutes from the BOCC Business Meeting are not verbatim. A recording of the meeting may be purchased at the BOCC office, or video footage can be viewed at no charge at LewisCountyWa.gov/bocc-meetings. Video footage of BOCC meetings also is aired on Comcast Channel 3 at 10 a.m., 2 p.m., 6 p.m., and 10 p.m. daily. Video footage also can be found on the Lewis County Commissioners' Facebook page.



ATTEST:

Rieva Lester, Clerk of the Board

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEWIS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Robert C. Jackson, Chair

Gary Stamper, Vice Chair

Edna J. Fund, Commissioner