

LEWIS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BOCC)

Business Meeting minutes

January 14, 2025

Present: Commissioner Brummer, Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope

Recorder: Rieva Lester

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

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

The commissioners honored the county employees for reaching five-year employment milestones:

35 years of service: Larry Grove, Helen Buda and Lisa Brockmueller.

30 years: Christy Fay, Kristen Buckman, Sean Heppe and Luke Brooks.

25 years: Anthony Kinswa, Ruth Allison and Elizabeth Casteel.

20 years: Bradley Meagher and Judge RW Buzzard.

10 years: Elizabeth Palmateer, Skylar Eastman, Paul Wirkkala, Nathan Kunishige and Scott Ferguson.

Five years: Natalie Dunlap, Blaine Copenhefer, Matthew Wallace, Bradley Holmgren, Susie Eck, Tammy Martin, Jasmine Lopez, Gwen McGear, Roberto Patraca, Trevor Yungdahl, David Dieball, Jared Larson, Wyatt Volk and Kelsey Piper.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Johnson of Castle Rock discussed concerns regarding a local lawyer and a case involving his granddaughter.

Debbie Reiser of Packwood shared concerns regarding the property values related to her 7-plus-acre home in Packwood. She noted that the property value has increased more than 350 percent over the past five years.

Bob Russell provided updates regarding the "rewilding" of Coal Creek Road and woody biomass ratings.

Julie Balmelli Powe discussed concerns regarding the sale of tax title property off of Airport Road in Chehalis (Resolution 25-017). She said she feels the selling price is too low, and she requested the commissioners delay approval of the resolution to allow her to consider placing a bid.

Though she didn't announce it for the record, Clerk of the Board Rieva Lester included written public testimony from Kyle Wheeler in the packet for the day's meeting.

NOTICE ITEM

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to approve Resolution 25-015. Commissioner Swope seconded.

Resolution 25-015: Issue call for bids for up to four new pickup trucks.

Public Works Director Josh Metcalf discussed the resolution. Josh noted that bids are due by 12:15 p.m. Jan. 29, 2025.

Motion passed 3-0.

CONSENT ITEMS

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to approve minutes from the January 7, 2025, Business Meeting as well as Resolution 25-016. Commissioner Swope seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

DELIBERATION ITEM

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to approve Resolution 25-017. Commissioner Brummer seconded.

Resolution 25-017: Accept a bid on tax title property off of Airport Road in Chehalis.

Public Works Director Josh Metcalf discussed the resolution. Josh said the county received a \$11,000 offer on the property. He noted that the property is impractical to build upon due to physical characteristics and legal restrictions. Josh said the parcel and the one to its south are nuisance properties.

Motion failed, with all three commissioners voting against approval.

HEARINGS

Vacation 25-001 (Roppert Rd.): The vacation of a portion of undeveloped Roppert Road.

Commissioner Brummer introduced the hearing.

Public Works Right of Way Agent II Kimberly Edminster gave the staff report. Kimberly said the property has been found useless to the need of the county.

Commissioner Brummer asked if there were any questions. There were no questions.

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

Kimberly asked that her previous comments be adopted into the record.

Commissioner Brummer asked if anyone wanted to speak for or against the resolution. No one chose to speak.

Commissioner Brummer closed the hearing.

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to approve Vacation 25-001 (Roppert Rd.). Commissioner Swope seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Ordinance 1360: Add Chapter 3.80 to Lewis County Code to establish Sales and Use Tax for Emergency 911 Communications Systems and Facilities.

Commissioner Brummer introduced the hearing.

County Manager Ryan Barrett gave the staff report. Ryan noted that the ordinance was in response to a sales and use tax voters approved in November.

Commissioner Brummer asked if there were any questions. There were no questions.

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

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

Commissioner Brummer asked if anyone wanted to speak for or against the resolution. No one chose to speak.

Commissioner Brummer closed the hearing.

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to approve Ordinance 1360. Commissioner Swope seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Swope directed staff to add a follow-up discussion regarding Resolution 25-017 to the agenda for the Jan. 15 Directors' Update.

PRESS CONFERENCE

No questions.

ADJOURNMENT

The BOCC Business Meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m., with the next Business Meeting scheduled for 10 a.m. Tuesday, January 21, 2025, 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

Scott J. Brummer, Chair

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