

LEWIS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BOCC)

Business Meeting minutes

March 11, 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.

HONORING W.F. WEST STUDENT ATHLETES

The commissioners honored the W.F. West Cheer squad for its state championship title, Tucker Land for his state wrestling title, Kaylee Lehman for her state wrestling title and the high school girls' wrestling team for the team's state academic championship win.

FAMILY EDUCATION & SUPPORT SERVICES

Family Education & Support Services (FESS) Executive Director Shelly Willis provided an overview of FESS's services.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Proffit of Glenoma shared concerns regarding her property values and property taxes.

Laura Parker shared concerns regarding the assessed value of her Chehalis home, which is used as a short-term rental.

Debbie Reisert of Packwood shared concerns regarding her property values and property taxes.

Kimberly Anderson of Packwood shared concerns regarding the value of her home, which is used as a short-term rental.

Rob Maricle of Packwood shared concerns regarding the value of his home, which is used as a short-term rental. He noted that businesses are seeing little to no assessment increases while short-term rental properties have seen large increases.

Mike Minahan shared concerns regarding the value of his Ashford-area home, which is used as a short-term rental.

Nick Neville shared concerns regarding the value of his Ashford-area home, which is used as a short-term rental.

Mayoore Jaiswal shared concerns regarding the value of her home, which is used as a short-term rental.

Kimberly McKenney shared concerns regarding the value of her High Valley home, which is used as a short-term rental.

Jessey Allen of Yakima shared concerns regarding the value of her Packwood home, which is used as a short-term rental.

Myles Pappas of Pierce County shared concerns regarding the value of his Lewis County home, which is used as a short-term rental.

Erika Chapman of Oregon shared concerns regarding the value of her two Ashford homes, which are used as short-term rentals.

Commissioner Swope noted that the assessments are made by the Assessor's Office, which is an independent elected office. Commissioner Swope expressed dismay that homeowners could be taxed out of their homes. He said the method must be fixed.

Joe Loeffler of Seattle shared concerns regarding the value of his three Packwood homes, which are used as short-term rentals.

Carol Kirsten shared concerns regarding the value of her home, from which she runs her business.

Commissioner Brummer noted that the assessments are made by an independent elected office.

Assessor Ross Nielson said he will address Commissioner Swope's concerns privately.

NOTICE ITEM

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to approve Resolution 25-074. Commissioner Swope seconded.

Resolution 25-074: Declaration of Surplus Vehicles & Equipment.

Interim Public Works Director Geoff Soderquist and Tim Mixer discussed the resolution. Geoff said a dump truck may be available in the future for use at the fairgrounds.

Motion passed 3-0.

CONSENT ITEMS

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to approve minutes from the February 25, 2025, Business Meeting as well as Resolution 25-066. Commissioner Swope seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

DELIBERATION ITEMS

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to recess Resolution 25-069 until at or after 10 a.m. March 25, 2025. Commissioner Swope seconded. Motion passed 3-0. Commissioner Pollock made a motion to approve Resolutions 25-067 and 25-068, Resolutions 25-070 through 25-073 as well as Resolution 25-075. Commissioner Swope seconded.

Resolution 25-067: Granting permission to terminate agreement for ReEntry Demonstration Initiative Project.

Chief Chris Sweet discussed the resolution. Chief Sweet said delays at the state have made the project cost prohibitive. Commissioner Pollock expressed frustration with the state regarding inmate care costs.

Resolution 25-068: Approve Consolidated Contract #CLH32057 Amendment #2 between the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) and Lewis County.

Public Health & Social Services Director Meja Handlen discussed the resolution. Meja said the contract adds funding to address high nitrate levels in the Mayberry area and provides additional WIC funding.

Resolution 25-070: Ratify signature for the Toledo Senior Center Roof replacement Change Order No. 2, Project 31-2417.

County Manager Ryan Barrett discussed the resolution. Ryan said the change order covers roof sheeting, fascia and gutter work and increases the contract by \$15,929.28.

Resolution 25-071: Ratify the County Manager's signature on Change Orders 1, 2 and 3 for the Twin Cities Senior Center Roof replacement project, 31-2418.

County Manager Ryan Barrett discussed the resolution. Ryan said the change orders cover insulation, gutter work and fascia work, adding \$26,426.15 plus tax to the contract.

Resolution 25-072: Approve 2025 Public Defender contracts for Superior, Juvenile and District Courts.

Budget Administrator / Risk Director Becky Butler discussed the resolution. Becky said the resolution approves 2025 Public Defender contracts for Superior, Juvenile and District courts for indigent defense.

Resolution 25-073: Ratify a contract between Lewis County Public Works and Sage Geotechnical, LLC, to provide geotechnical and geological design services for public works facilities.

Interim Public Works Director Geoff Soderquist discussed the resolution. Geoff said the resolution approves a \$350,000 contract with Sage Geotechnical.

Resolution 25-075: The proposed acquisition of additional right of way for Evans Road Culvert Replacement at MP 5.371.

Interim Public Works Director Geoff Soderquist discussed the resolution. Geoff said the resolution authorizes staff to acquire right of way on Evans Road for a culvert replacement project.

The motion to approve Resolutions 25-067, 25-068, 25-070 to 25-073, and 25-075 passed 3-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

PRESS CONFERENCE

None.

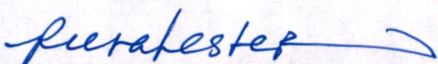
ADJOURNMENT

The BOCC Business Meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m., with the next Business Meeting scheduled for 10 a.m. Tuesday, February 25, 2025, in the Commissioners' Hearing Room (Room 223).

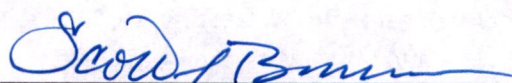
Minutes from the BOCC Business Meeting are not verbatim. The weekly Business Meeting streams live on YouTube (search for "LewisCountyWa" on YouTube or go to <https://www.youtube.com/user/LewisCountyWa/featured>). Video footage also is available at no charge at <https://lewiscountywa.gov/offices/commissioners/bocc-meetings/>.

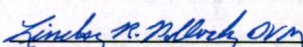



ATTEST:


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