

LEWIS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BOCC)

Business Meeting minutes

November 4, 2025

Present: Commissioner Brummer, Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope

Recorder: Rieva Lester

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

HONORING OUR VETERANS

The commissioners honored Lewis County employees who have served – or currently are serving – in the armed forces.

HALLOWEEN 2025 AWARDS

The commissioners presented awards for the 2025 Halloween costume contest as follows:

Office / department awards:

- **Treasurer's Office** (Safety in Numbers)
- **BOCC** (Above Par)
- **911** (The Light in the Dark)
- **Auditor's Office** (two awards: Scary Sherri and the Holey Sheets / License to Spice)
- **DEM:** Storm's a-Brewin'
- **Sheriff's Office:** Law and Harvest
- **Community Development:** Permit Purgatory and Haunted House Plans
- **PHSS:** Public Health is my Jammies

Honorable mention:

- **Public Works** (Ogre-rated)
- **Fair** (Udderly Outrageous Funny Farm)

Grand Champion:

- **Assessor's Office** (WWExcellence)

Individual awards:

Shoutouts:

- **Becky Butler** (not beer)
- **Shelly Stewart and Michelle Norquist** (traffic cones)

Honorable mentions:

- Sherri Dokken (ghoul)
- Alex Murray (ill-fitting cow)

Winner: Geoff Soderquist (Shrek)

Biggest loser: Preston Pinkston (The Twig)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Greg Cole of Chehalis thanked the commissioners for honoring veterans. Greg also asked that the commissioners follow through with the county's follow-up meeting regarding the centralia moratorium. He also noted that he is a Catholic and asked that Commissioner Swope back all faiths, not just Christianity.

NOTICE ITEMS

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to approve Resolutions 25-305 through 25-310. Commissioner Swope seconded.

Resolution 25-305: Notice of Public Hearing for the proposed 2026 Annual Construction Program (ACP) and Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the years 2026-2031.

County Engineer Wes Anderson discussed the resolution. Wes said the hearing will take place in the Commissioners' Hearing Room at or after 10 a.m. Nov. 25, 2025.

Resolution 25-306: Notice of hearings regarding the Lewis County budget and levies for 2026.

Budget Administrator Becky Butler discussed the resolution. Becky said the hearings will take place in the Commissioners' Hearing Room at or after 10 a.m. Monday, Dec. 1, 2025.

Resolution 25-307: Notice of a public hearing on a revision to Lewis County's 5-year Homelessness Services Plan.

Consultant Eric Eisenberg discussed the resolution. Eric said the hearing will take place in the Commissioners' Hearing Room at or after 10 a.m. Dec. 23, 2025.

Resolution 25-308: Issue a request for proposals (RFP) for remediation of communication towers at Cooks Hill, Hopkins and Baw Faw sites.

911 Radio Services Supervisor Tony Wherry discussed the resolution. Tony said proposals for remediation of the county's communication towers are due online by 5 p.m. Dec. 3, 2025.

Resolution 25-309: Issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to prepare an updated Water System Plan (WSP) for the Middle Fork Water & Sewer System (MFWS).

Public Works Director Geoff Soderquist discussed the resolution. Geoff said responses are due online via OpenGov (<https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/lewiscountywa>) by 4 p.m. Dec. 4, 2025.

Resolution 25-310: Issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to Solicit Qualified Providers to Deliver Coordinated Entry (CE) Services in Lewis County.

Public Health and Social Services Director Meja Handlen discussed the resolution. Meja said proposals for the 18-month contract are due online through OpenGov by Nov. 21.

Motion passed 3-0.

CONSENT ITEMS

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to approve minutes from the October 28, 2025, Business Meeting as well as Resolution 25-311. Commissioner Swope seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

DELIBERATION ITEMS

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to approve Resolutions 25-312 through 25-319. Commissioner Swope seconded.

Resolution 25-312: Adopt a Categorized Schedule of Fees effective January 1, 2026.

Community Development Director Mindy Brooks discussed the resolution. Mindy said the resolution establishes fees for permits and approvals issued by Community Development, Public Works and Public Health and Social Services.

Resolution 25-313: Approve contract #C16-0255-25 amendment A between Comunicativo and Lewis County.

Public Health and Social Services Director Meja Handlen discussed the resolution. Meja said the amendment increases funding by \$176,433 to help Comunicativo prevent evictions by paying rent and utility costs for eligible Lewis County households through June 30, 2026. She said Comunicativo serves individuals with limited English proficiency and incomes at or below 80 percent of the Area Median Income per Housing and Urban Development (HUD) guidelines.

Resolution 25-314: Approve contract #K8531 between Washington State Healthcare Authority and Lewis County.

Social Services Supervisor Caroline Garibay discussed the resolution. Caroline said the Washington State Healthcare Authority provides funding totaling \$256,330 for Lewis County, which oversees the administration of Criminal Justice Treatment Account (CJTA) funds, to support treatment and recovery services for individuals involved in the criminal justice system from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2027.

Resolution 25-315: Approve Public Defense contract with Sound Defenders PLLC, represented by Heather Villani, for District Court.

Budget Administrator / Risk Director Becky Butler discussed the resolution. Becky said the agreement approves Sound Defenders PLLC, represented by Heather Villani, to provide public defense services for District Court.

Resolution 25-316: Approve contract #E02-0259-25 between Eugenia Center and Lewis County.

Social Services Supervisor Caroline Garibay discussed the resolution. Caroline said the July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2027, contract provides the Eugenia Center funding totaling \$54,433 to provide Drug Court participants transportation to treatment and other court-related activities – as well as other support.

Resolution 25-317: Approve Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Lewis County Public Health & Social Services and Lewis County Drug Court.

Social Services Supervisor Caroline Garibay discussed the resolution. Caroline said the contract provides Drug Court up to \$30,000 in reimbursement-based funding to support contracted services relating to substance use disorder assessments, individual therapy, group therapy, urinalysis testing and case management as well as recovery support services for eligible drug court participants.

Resolution 25-318: Approve Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Lewis County Public Health & Social Services and Lewis County Superior Court.

Social Services Supervisor Caroline Garibay discussed the resolution. Caroline said the county will provide Superior Court up to \$69,365 from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2027, to help cover the salary and benefits of an Assistant Program Coordinator position overseen by the Lewis County Superior Court.

Resolution 25-319: Approve contract #C02-0263-25 between Cascade Community Healthcare and Lewis County.

Public Health and Social Services Director Meja Handlen discussed the resolution. Meja said the county will provide Cascade Community Healthcare funding totaling up to \$76,899 to provide substance use

disorder assessments and individual and group treatments for individuals incarcerated in the Lewis County Jail from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2027.

Motion passed 3-0.

HEARINGS

Resolution 25-321: Lewis County 2025 budget, emergency and supplemental appropriations to and transfers within current expense and other funds.

Commissioner Brummer introduced the hearing.

Budget Administrator / Risk Director Becky Butler gave the staff report. Becky said the amendment reflects expenditure decreases totaling \$1,496,475 and revenue decreases totaling \$2,041,750, resulting in a \$545,275 decrease in the estimated ending fund balance.

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

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

Becky 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 spoke.

Commissioner Brummer closed the hearing.

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to approve Resolution 25-321. Commissioner Swope seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Ordinance 1369: Amend Chapter 2.11, Planning Section and Commission, and adopt Chapter 2.50, Advisory Groups, of the Lewis County Code.

Commissioner Brummer introduced the hearing.

Community Development Director Mindy Brooks gave the staff report. Mindy said the ordinance establishes a process for filling vacancies on the Planning Commission and other advisory groups.

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

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

Mindy 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 spoke.

Commissioner Brummer closed the hearing.

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to approve Ordinance 1369. Commissioner Swope seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Pollock reminded the public to vote and noted that ballots taken to the post office must be hand-canceled when dropped off or risk being marked as late.

At 10:40 a.m., Commissioner Brummer announced that the Board would be going into executive session under RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) until 10:50 a.m. to discuss Centralia / Port mediation.

- At 10:50 a.m., Commissioner Brummer extended executive session until 10:55 a.m.
- At 10:55 a.m., Commissioner Brummer extended executive session until 10:57 a.m.
- At 10:57 a.m., Commissioner Brummer extended executive session until 11 a.m.

Executive session ended at 11 a.m. Commissioner Brummer noted that no decisions had been made.

PRESS CONFERENCE

No questions.

ADJOURNMENT

The BOCC Business Meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m., with the next Business Meeting scheduled for 10 a.m. Tuesday, November 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/>.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEWIS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Scott J. Brummer, Chair

ATTEST:

Rieva Lester, Clerk of the Board

Lindsey R. Pollock, DVM, Vice Chair

Sean D. Swope, Commissioner