

LEWIS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BOCC)

Business Meeting minutes

January 20, 2026

Present: Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Brummer, Commissioner Swope

Recorder: Rieva Lester

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

At 10:01 a.m., Commissioner Pollock announced that the Board would be going into executive session under RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) until 10:16 a.m. to discuss the following topics: Gather Church, Fire District 5 and Fire District 6, and levy certification legal risks.

At 10:16 a.m., Commissioner Pollock extended executive session until 10:18 a.m.

Executive session ended at 10:18 a.m. Commissioner Pollock noted that no decisions had been made.

**Commissioner Brummer made a motion to approve the settlement authority regarding the Gather Church ACLU litigation as discussed in executive session. Commissioner Swope seconded. Motion passed 3-0.**

**Commissioner Brummer made a motion to approve engaging in settlement discussions or mediation regarding Fire District 5 and Fire District 6 litigation as discussed in executive session. Commissioner Swope seconded. Motion passed 3-0.**

**Commissioner Brummer made a motion to direct staff to add a notice of hearing for Ordinance 1372, a follow-up to the needle exchange ordinance, to the agenda for the Jan. 21 Directors' Update meeting. Commissioner Swope seconded. Motion passed 3-0.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

David DelaVega spoke in favor of Ordinance 1354, the needle exchange ordinance the Board of County Commissioners approved in 2024.

Dawn Miles spoke against allowing needle exchanges within Lewis County, indicating needle exchanges equate to enabling drug addiction. She said accountability, not a needle exchange, is what is needed.

Elizabeth Rohr spoke in favor of legislation that would prevent Gather Church from operating a mobile needle exchange program.

Dan Meekhof spoke in favor of the needle-exchange work Gather Church performs within Lewis County. He spoke in opposition of Ordinance 1354.

Greg Rohr spoke in opposition of needle-exchange work Gather Church performs within Lewis County.

Ray Chapman Wilson spoke in opposition to Ordinance 1354. He expressed concerns regarding county dollars being spent in response to lawsuits regarding Ordinance 1354.

Raymond Wagner spoke in favor of needle exchange programs. He noted that he was an intravenous drug user in his past and that a lack of access to clean needles led to him contracting Hepatitis C.

## NOTICE ITEM

*Commissioner Brummer made a motion to approve Resolution 26-022. Commissioner Swope seconded.*

**Resolution 26-022:** Notice of hearing for the renewal of a franchise to Public Utility District No. 1 of Thurston County to install, construct, operate and maintain water system facilities in Lewis County road rights of way.

Real Estate Services Manager Kimberly Edminster discussed the resolution. Kimberly said the hearing will take place Feb. 17.

*Motion passed 3-0.*

## CONSENT ITEMS

*Commissioner Brummer made a motion to approve minutes from the January 13, 2026, Business Meeting as well as Resolution 26-023. Commissioner Swope seconded. Motion passed 3-0.*

## DELIBERATION ITEMS

*Commissioner Brummer made a motion to approve Resolutions 26-024 through 26-026. Commissioner Swope seconded.*

**Resolution 26-024:** The proposed vacation of a portion of right of way known as Peterson Road, Chehalis.

Real Estate Services Manager Kimberly Edminster discussed the resolution. Kimberly said a neighboring property has requested the county vacate a portion of Peterson Road and that the resolution would direct staff to review the pros and cons of the potential action.

**Resolution 26-025:** The proposed acquisition of additional right of way for the Senn Road Bridge Scour Repair Project at MP 0.89.

Real Estate Services Manager Kimberly Edminster discussed the resolution. Kimberly said additional right of way is needed from two property owners for an upcoming bridge project.

**Resolution 26-026: Approve Indigent Defense contract with Sarah McFadden for Superior Court through July 31, 2026.**

Budget Administrator / Risk Director Becky Butler discussed the resolution. Becky said the resolution approves a six-month contract with Sarah McFadden for indigent defense services.

*Motion passed 3-0.*

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements.

#### PRESS CONFERENCE

No questions.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The BOCC Business Meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m., with the next Business Meeting scheduled for 10 a.m. Tuesday, January 27, 2026, 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/>.*

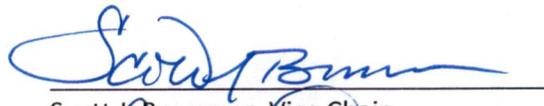


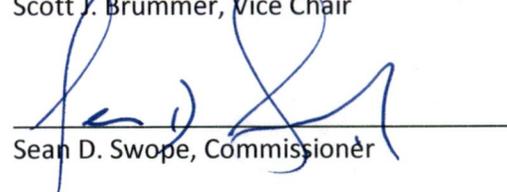
ATTEST:

  
Rieva Lester, Clerk of the Board

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
LEWIS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Lindsey R. Pollock, DVM, Chair

  
Scott J. Brummer, Vice Chair

  
Sean D. Swope, Commissioner