

LEWIS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BOCC)

Business Meeting minutes

February 10, 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.

POLAR PLUNGE

Public Health and Social Services Community Health Services & Contract Coordinator Sara Sons said participants in the Jan. 24 Polar Plunge fundraiser at Mayfield Lake helped raise more than \$11,000 for Special Olympics. Sara said the money raised will help cover costs for uniforms and equipment and will provide opportunities for Special Olympics athletes to compete at the local and state level at no cost to the athletes or their families.

Sara and the commissioners honored the teams and individuals that raised the most money.

• Teams:

- First place: Sheriff's Office, which raised \$1,675
- Second: Community Development
- Third (tie): Public Works and Public Health and Social Services

• Individuals:

- First place: Kesley Williams
- Second: Debbie Schang
- Third: Mindy Brooks

Sara also gave a special thank you to Chief Christ Sweet, who helps plan the Polar Plunge and the Law Enforcement Torch Run each year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Clerk of the Board Rieva Lester noted that Kyle Wheeler and Skip and Julie Voetberg had submitted written public comment for the record.

Peter Lahmann invited the public to the Port of Centralia's Feb. 11 and Feb. 18 meetings, during which the port will work to fill its vacant executive director position.

Scott Tennant of Chehalis urged the commissioners to consider expanding to a five-member board.

Frank Corbin expressed appreciation for the high caliber of applicants for the Planning Commission vacancies.

NOTICE ITEMS

Commissioner Brummer made a motion to approve Resolutions 26-047 and 26-048. Commissioner Swope seconded.

Resolution 26-047: Notice of hearing for Lewis County 2026 budget emergency and supplemental appropriations to and transfers within current expense and various funds.

Budget Administrator / Risk Manager Becky Butler discussed the resolution. Becky said the hearing will take place in the Commissioners' Hearing Room at or after 10 a.m. March 3, 2026. Becky noted that the hearing originally had been planned for Feb. 24 but that the date was moved to March 3. Becky said the amendment reflects expenditure increases totaling \$2,900,012 and revenue increases totaling \$1,888,120, with a decrease in estimated ending fund balance of \$1,011,892.

Resolution 26-048: Notice of hearing for the renewal of a franchise to Olympic Pipeline Company LLC for a pipeline for purposes of transmission of petroleum and petroleum products within Lewis County road rights of way.

Real Estate Services Manager Kimberly Edminster discussed the resolution. Kimberly said the franchise hearing will take place in the Commissioners' Hearing Room at or after 10 a.m. March 10, 2026.

Motion passed 3-0.

CONSENT ITEMS

Commissioner Brummer made a motion to approve minutes from the February 3, 2026, Business Meeting as well as Resolution 26-049. Commissioner Swope seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

DELIBERATION ITEMS

Commissioner Brummer made a motion to approve Resolutions 26-050 through 26-056. Commissioner Swope seconded.

Resolution 26-050: Approve the Thirtieth (30th) Supplemental Personal Services Agreement between West Consultants Inc. and Lewis County, acting as Fiscal Agent for the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority, and authorize the Director of Community Development to sign on behalf of Lewis County.

Community Development Business and Office Manager Sarah Hensley discussed the resolution. Sarah said the resolution approves the county to sign an agreement with West Consultants on behalf of the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority.

Resolution 26-051: Appoint Nathan Carpenter and Robert Hankins to the Lewis County Planning Commission.

Community Development Director Mindy Brooks discussed the resolution. Mindy said the resolution appoints Nathan Carpenter and Robert Hankins to fill vacancies on the Planning Commission.

Resolution 26-052: The proposed acquisition of additional right of way for the Lewis County Preventative Bridge Maintenance Project, CRP 2199, on Hining Road MP 0.23 and Galvin Road MP 1.23.

Real Estate Services Manager Kimberly Edminster discussed the resolution. Kimberly said the resolution allows the county to acquire easement from two property owners for a bridge project.

Resolution 26-053: List the bids received and contractor selected for the 2026 Chip Rock Proposal.

County Engineer Wes Anderson discussed the resolution. Wes said county received five bids and that the resolution awards the chip rock contract to the low bidder, Goods Trucking, for \$264,618.90 for rock and sales tax.

Resolution 26-054: List the bids received and contractor selected for the Meade Hill Road MP 0.77 to MP 0.815 Slide Repair Project, 90-21F75451000077.

County Engineer Wes Anderson discussed the resolution. Wes said the county received 17 bids and that the resolution awards the project to the low bidder, P&A Civil LLC, for \$1,497,504.00, including tax.

Resolution 26-055: Reappoint Harry Bhagwandin and appoint Jessica Scogin to the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC).

Clerk of the Board Rieva Lester discussed the resolution. Rieva said the resolution appoints Harry Bhagwandin, who represents Shady Grove Retreat Center, and Jessica Scogin, who represents the Fire Mountain Arts Council, to fill vacant “provider” and “user” roles, respectively, on the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee for terms through Dec. 31, 2027.

Resolution 26-056: Reject all proposals for water lab renovation project.

Capital Infrastructure Specialist Matt Patana discussed the resolution. Matt said Lewis County received two proposals for the water lab renovation project. He said Lewis County has decided the proposed costs of the project outweigh the potential benefits and is therefore rejecting both of the proposals.

Motion passed 3-0.

HEARING

Ordinance 1372: Repeal Ordinance 1354 and remove regulations for sterile needle and syringe exchanges operating in Lewis County (Lewis County Code Chapter 8.80).

Commissioner Pollock introduced the hearing.

County Manager Ryan Barrett gave the staff report. Ryan said Ordinance 1372 repeals and removes regulations for sterile needle and syringe exchanges operating in Lewis County. He said those regulations had been established in Lewis County Code Chapter 8.80 via Ordinance 1354, which the BOCC approved on April 16, 2024. Ryan noted there is pending litigation challenging that prior ordinance.

Commissioner Pollock asked if there were any questions.

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

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

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

Skip Voetberg said he hopes the county provides future regulation of some sort for needle exchanges.

Commissioner Pollock closed the hearing.

Commissioner Brummer said he's disappointed in the court's decision regarding the county's ordinance. He said needle exchanges need accountability.

Commissioner Swope read from RCW 69.50. He also read from written statements members of law enforcement had submitted to the court. He said he is including those – as well as declarations submitted to the court by Troy Westergard and Cole Meckle – to the record. Commissioner Swope said he too is disappointed in the court's decision.

Commissioner Pollock said she had submitted a version of the ordinance that would have survived legal scrutiny. She said the county has spent roughly \$600,000 on the resulting lawsuit.

Commissioner Brummer made a motion to approve Ordinance 1372. Commissioner Swope seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Pollock said county offices will be closed Monday, Feb. 16, in observance of Presidents Day.

PRESS CONFERENCE

No questions.

ADJOURNMENT

The BOCC Business Meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m., with the next Business Meeting scheduled for 10 a.m. Tuesday, February 17, 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/>.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEWIS COUNTY, WASHINGTON



ATTEST:

Rieva Lester
Rieva Lester, Clerk of the Board

absent
Lindsey R. Pollock, DVM, Chair

Scott J. Brummer
Scott J. Brummer, Vice Chair

Sean D. Swope
Sean D. Swope, Commissioner