

LEWIS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BOCC)

Business Meeting minutes

June 16, 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.

**HONORING STATE CHAMPIONS**

The Lewis County commissioners honored members of the Napavine baseball team for the team's first baseball state title in school history.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 10:07 a.m., Commissioner Pollock announced that the Board would be going into executive session under RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) until 10:13 a.m. to discuss proposed Ordinance 1380 regarding a moratorium on family burial grounds.

At 10:13 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 change the title of Ordinance 1380 to Resolution 26-190. Commissioner Swope seconded. Motion passed 3-0.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Aesin LaTourette of Olympia said a levy lift is needed to save the Timberland Regional Library (TRL) from its current financial state. He said TRL Board of Trustees representative Brian Mittge is undermining any funding efforts by spreading homophobic rhetoric.

Kylie McQuarrie echoed the concerns regarding Brian Mittge.

Andrea Mandt echoed the concerns regarding Brian Mittge and said Lewis County needs to consult with its partner counties to change the library's trajectory.

Ray Chapman-Wilson shared quotes Commissioner Swope made a few years ago regarding the library system. Ray echoed the concerns regarding Brian Mittge.

Commissioner Swope said he had not read Mittge's document about TRL objectives until earlier in the day but that the document doesn't say to ban or remove books. He said he agrees that the library should be a neutral place and that he stands behind the county's TRL representatives.

## NOTICE ITEM

*Commissioner Brummer made a motion to approve Resolutions 26-180 through 26-185. Commissioner Swope seconded.*

**Resolution 26-180:** Notice of hearing for the proposed vacation of an unimproved portion of Fagley Rd #609.

**Right of Way Agent Connor Wilmovsky** discussed the resolution. Connor said the hearing for the road vacation is scheduled for at or after 10 a.m. July 14.

**Resolution 26-181:** Notice of hearing for the renewal of a franchise to Lightspeed Networks to install, construct, operate and maintain telecommunications facilities within the road rights of way of unincorporated Lewis County.

**Right of Way Agent Connor Wilmovsky** discussed the resolution. Connor said the hearing for the franchise agreement will take place July 21, 2026.

**Resolution 26-182:** Notice of hearing for the renewal of a franchise to Boistfort Valley Water, for installation, construction, operation and maintenance of water and sewer system facilities within the road rights of way of unincorporated Lewis County.

**Right of Way Agent Connor Wilmovsky** discussed the resolution. Connor the hearing for the five-year franchise renewal will take place July 21.

**Resolution 26-183:** Issue a call for bids for HVAC installations at radio sites.

**Capital Infrastructure Specialist Matt Patana** discussed the resolution. Matt said the call for bids pertains to HVAC installations at the county's radio sites.

**Resolution 26-184:** Issue a call for bids for Historic Courthouse repointing project.

**Capital Infrastructure Specialist Matt Patana** discussed the resolution. Matt said the call for bids is for masonry work on the Historic Courthouse.

**Resolution 26-185:** Notice of hearing for Ordinance 1381, which would update membership guidelines for the Lewis County Law and Justice Council under Chapter 9.20 of Lewis County Code.

Clerk of the Board Rieva Lester discussed the resolution. Rieva said the hearing will take place in the Commissioners' Hearing Room at or after 10 a.m. July 7, 2026.

*Motion passed 3-0.*

#### CONSENT ITEMS

*Commissioner Brummer made a motion to approve minutes from the June 9, 2026, Business Meeting as well as Resolution 26-186. Commissioner Swope seconded. Motion passed 3-0.*

#### DELIBERATION ITEMS

*Commissioner Brummer made a motion to approve Resolutions 26-187 through 26-189. Commissioner Swope seconded.*

**Resolution 26-187:** Approve the Thirty-First Supplement Agreement between West Consultants Inc. and Lewis County, acting as Fiscal Agent for the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority.

Community Development Business & Office Manager Sarah Hensley discussed the resolution. Sarah said the agreement increases funding by \$25,000 to upgrade the Flood Warning System to include text notification and Spanish-language options and will launch in time for the 2026-27 flood season.

**Resolution 26-188:** Approve contract #H02-0258-25 amendment B with Housing Resource Center.

Social Services Supervisor Caroline Garibay discussed the resolution. Caroline said the amendment updates the scope of work for case management and rapid rehousing services, adds funding totaling \$82,000 and extends the contract with Housing Resource Center to June 30, 2027.

**Resolution 26-189:** Approve contract #R01-0260-25 amendment B with Reliable Enterprises.

Social Services Supervisor Caroline Garibay discussed the resolution. Caroline said the amendment updates the scope of work for permanent supportive housing case management services, adds funding totaling \$163,020.09 and extends the contract with Reliable Enterprises to June 30, 2027.

*Motion passed 3-0.*

## HEARING

**Ordinance 1378:** Authorize the County Manager to enter into an interlocal agreement with the City of Vader for the City to annex territory within the City of Vader urban growth area.

Commissioner Pollock introduced the hearing.

**Community Development Director Mindy Brooks and Vader Planning Consultant James Eager** gave the staff report.

Mindy said the city would like to annex the area within its urban growth area (UGA) as allowed per RCW 35A.14.296.

James said the change helps the city meet the requirements outlined in the Growth Management Act (GMA), which are designed to prevent urban sprawl by directing future population and commercial development into specific, pre-mapped areas. James also noted that the city's tax rates currently are lower than the county's tax rates.

James said the city is exploring protections for individuals who are in the UGA and who use their properties to slaughter livestock.

Commissioner Swope asked whether the city or county are addressing questions submitted by Jen Lai.

James said Vader's code protects agricultural uses and that the city is addressing the remainder of her questions. Mindy noted that the county would not respond as the

Mayor Joe Schey said the annexation process started in 2005.

Commissioner Pollock asked if there were any questions.

Jen Lai asked whether the city plans to provide utilities to the area on the other side of Olequa Creek. Mayor Joe Schey said water service already exists on the other side of the creek and that the extension of sewer service would be a future consideration. James Eager said the long-term development plan involves continued growth in that area.

James said the city would require water and sewer hook-ups only in the cases of development or septic failures.

Jeremy "Mo" McFarland also discussed property uses. She said she was told the city's code compliance officer would investigate suspected code violations only when notified. Mindy noted that code compliance / enforcement is always complaint based.

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

Mindy Brooks, James Eager and Mayor Schey asked that their previous comments be adopted into the record.

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

Jen Lai outlined concerns regarding agricultural lands and aired concerns about wetlands and service to the other side of Olequa Creek.

Jeremy "Mo" McFarland shared concerns regarding the annexation and urged the commissioners to pause their discussions / actions.

Liana Horton (remote) shared concerns regarding the proposed annexation.

Commissioner Pollock closed the hearing.

Commissioner Brummer asked Mayor Schey why properties along Olequa Creek were included in the proposed annexation.

Mayor Schey said the process started roughly two decades previous. He said the city has ensured all of the properties in the UGA can continue as is once those areas are annexed. He said "split parcels" were removed from the proposed annexation area.

Mayor Schey said the city has heard from residents from five of the 120 homes affected by the proposed annexation. Commissioner Brummer noted 20-ish people had signed the document Jen Lai had provided.

Mindy noted that the county reviews UGAs annually. She said cities can expand their UGA boundaries or increase density to accommodate GMA requirements.

Mayor Schey discussed geographical limitations that restrict where the City of Vader can potentially grow. Mayor Schey said the city would need the county to make its determination about the interlocal agreement by August.

***Commissioner Brummer made a motion to table Ordinance 1378 to on or after 10 a.m. July 7, 2026, with the option to allow further public testimony. Commissioner Swope seconded. Motion passed 3-0.***

**Resolution 26-190:** Adopt a temporary moratorium on the establishment of Family Burial Grounds in unincorporated Lewis County and direct Community Development to develop implementing requirements.

Clerk of the Board Rieva Lester and Community Development Director Mindy Brooks noted that as outlined in the governing state law (RCW 36.70A.390), an after-the-fact hearing for the action will take place in the future.

***Commissioner Brummer made a motion to approve Resolution 26-190. Commissioner Swope seconded. Motion passed 3-0.***

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Pollock noted that offices and departments will be closed June 19 in recognition of Juneteenth. She also noted that there will be no Business Meeting on June 30 as it falls on the fifth Tuesday of the month.

**PRESS CONFERENCE**

No questions.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The BOCC Business Meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m., with the next Business Meeting scheduled for 10 a.m. Tuesday, June 23, 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/>.



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LEWIS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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*Sear D. Swope*  
Sear D. Swope, Commissioner

ATTEST:

*Rieva Lester*  
Rieva Lester, Clerk of the Board