

LEWIS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BOCC)

Business Meeting minutes

September 1, 2026

Present: Commissioner Brummer (remotely), Commissioner Swope

Absent: Commissioner Pollock

Recorder: Rieva Lester

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Former Lewis County Commissioner Lee Grose asked the commissioners to forgive the loan to the East Lewis County Public Development Authority (ELCPDA), which does not have staff or taxing authority.

Greg Pohl shared concerns regarding a sinkhole along Jackson Highway.

Debbie Aust shared concerns regarding House Bill 2266, which she said would allow homeless people to live wherever they'd like. She asked the commissioners to protect the area to prevent it from housing another Blakeslee Junction-type camp.

NOTICE ITEM

Commissioner Brummer made a motion to approve Resolution 26-377. Commissioner Swope seconded.

Resolution 26-377: Notice of hearing to renew a franchise to Rene and Jeannette Remund to install, construct, operate and maintain water facilities within county road rights of way.

Real Estate Services Manager Kimberly Edminster discussed the resolution. Kimberly said the hearing for the Doty-area franchise renewal will take place Sept. 22.

Motion passed 2-0.

CONSENT ITEMS

Commissioner Brummer made a motion to approve minutes from the August 25, 2026, Business Meeting as well as Resolution 26-378. Commissioner Swope seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

DELIBERATION ITEMS

Commissioner Brummer made a motion to approve Resolutions 26-379 and 26-380. Commissioner Swope seconded.

Resolution 26-379: Reappoint Anthony Rogers as a Regular Member, appoint Jeremy Schlake as a Regular Member and appoint Gregory Shadko as a new Alternate Member on the Veterans' Advisory Board.

Social Services Supervisor Caroline Garibay discussed the resolution. Caroline reviewed the terms for the appointments and noted that Candace Johnson had stepped down from the board. Commissioner Brummer shared his regret to see Candace Johnson leave the board and his excitement to see Gregory Shadko join.

Resolution 26-380: Approve contract #T01-0262-25 amendment B with The Salvation Army.

Social Services Supervisor Caroline Garibay discussed the resolution. Caroline said the agreement adds \$762,000 in funding for the night by night shelter. Meja Handlen discussed the agreement and noted that the local Salvation Army has welcomed its new captains following the departure of Captains Gin and Steven Pack.

Motion passed 2-0.

HEARINGS

Resolution 26-381: Approve a franchise renewal to View Ranch Water Association, to install, construct, operate and maintain water facilities within county road rights of way.

Commissioner Swope introduced the hearing.

Kimberly said postings and publications have been made as required for the 10-year renewal of the franchise.

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

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

Kimberly asked that her previous comments be adopted into the record.

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

No one chose to speak.

Commissioner Swope closed the hearing.

Commissioner Brummer made a motion to approve Resolution 26-381. Commissioner Swope seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Ordinance 1384: Add Chapter 9.50 - Mistreatment of Children and Dependent Persons - to Lewis County Code to establish rules and penalties for endangerment with an opioid controlled substance.

Commissioner Swope reopened the hearing, which had been recessed on Aug. 25.

Lewis County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Scott Gripp gave the staff report. Scott provided an overview of the ordinance.

Commissioner Swope asked Scott Gripp to expand on why cocaine and other drugs had not been included in the ordinance.

Commissioner Swope asked if there were any additional questions.

Commissioner Brummer said he had spoken with legal counsel and law enforcement and therefore feels comfortable with the proposed language in the ordinance.

Anthony Mixer asked if the individuals who drafted the ordinance reviewed and considered the definition of practitioner in RCW 69.50.101. Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Scott Gripp said the definitions had been considered.

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

Scott asked that their previous comments be adopted into the record.

Commissioner Swope asked if anyone wanted to speak for or against the ordinance.

Anthony Mixer shared his support for the ordinance. He suggested replacing "prescriber" with "practitioner" in the ordinance language, and he recommended revising Section 3.

Dawn Miles shared her support for the ordinance.

Cein Caldwell shared her support for the ordinance.

Tracie Jefferson shared her support for the ordinance.

Commissioner Swope closed the hearing.

Commissioner Brummer made a motion to approve Ordinance 1384. Commissioner Swope seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Commissioner Brummer directed Clerk of the Board Rieva Lester to sign the day's documents on his behalf.

PRESS CONFERENCE

No questions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / NEW BUSINESS

At 10:33 a.m., Commissioner Swope announced that the Board would be going into executive session under RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) until 10:38 a.m. to discuss Cascade Hardwoods tax litigation.

Executive session ended at 10:38 a.m. Commissioner Swope noted that no decisions had been made.

Commissioner Brummer made a motion to authorize the Prosecuting Attorney's Office to move forward with the tax litigation settlement with Cascade Hardwoods as discussed in executive session. Commissioner Swope seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

ADJOURNMENT

The BOCC Business Meeting adjourned at 10:39 a.m., with the next Business Meeting scheduled for 10 a.m. Tuesday, September 8, 2026, in the Commissioners' Hearing Room (Room 223).

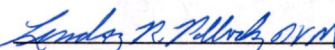
Minutes from the BOCC Business Meeting are not verbatim. The weekly Business Meeting streams live on YouTube (search for "LewisCountyWa" on YouTube or go to <https://www.youtube.com/user/LewisCountyWa/featured>). Video footage also is available at no charge at <https://lewiscountywa.gov/offices/commissioners/bocc-meetings/>.

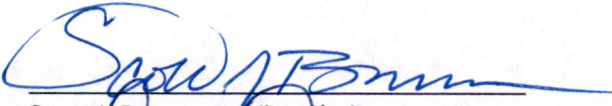


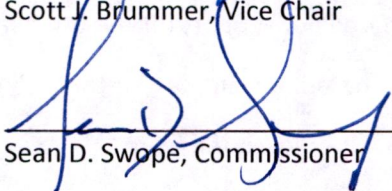
ATTEST:


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