

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
LEWIS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR ORDINANCE 1385,  
WHICH WOULD AMEND LEWIS COUNTY CODE  
RELATED TO PRIVATE FAMILY BURIAL GROUNDS  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH SHB 2239

RESOLUTION NO. 26-414

**WHEREAS**, SHB 2239 provides for the establishment and regulation of family burial grounds under Washington State law; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed amendments are intended to address family burial grounds consistent with the requirements of SHB 2239 and applicable state law; and

**WHEREAS**, a duly noticed public hearing was held by the Lewis County Planning Commission on August 11, 2026, at which the Planning Commission considered the proposed amendments and voted to approve a recommendation, Exhibit A, for transmittal to the Lewis County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC); and

**WHEREAS**, the BOCC will hold a public hearing on proposed Ordinance 1385, which would amend Lewis County Code related to private family burial grounds in accordance with SHB 2239, in the Commissioners' Hearing Room on the second floor of the Historic Courthouse in Chehalis at or after 10 a.m. Oct. 27, 2026, at which time any interested party will have an opportunity to speak; and

**WHEREAS**, written comments also may be submitted beginning at 8 a.m. Oct. 13 by contacting Senior Long-Range Planner Natalie Kamieniecki via email at [natalie.kamieniecki@lewiscountywa.gov](mailto:natalie.kamieniecki@lewiscountywa.gov) or via postal mail at Community Development, c/o Natalie Kamieniecki, 351 NW. North St., Chehalis, WA 98532. Written comments must be received by 4 p.m. Oct. 26, 2026.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the BOCC will hold a public hearing on proposed Ordinance 1385, which would amend Lewis County Code related to private family burial grounds in accordance with SHB 2239, at or after 10 a.m. Oct. 27, 2026, in the Commissioners' Hearing Room; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Clerk of the Board is hereby instructed to proceed with all appropriate and necessary notifications, postings and publications as required by law.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION this 13th day of October, 2026.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
Jonathan Meyer, Prosecuting Attorney

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
LEWIS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Scott Gripp  
By: Scott Gripp,  
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

Lindsey R. Pollock, DVM  
Lindsey R. Pollock, DVM, Chair

ATTEST:



Absent  
Scott J. Brummer, Vice Chair

Rieva Lester, CMC  
Rieva Lester, CMC,  
Clerk of the Lewis County Board of  
County Commissioners

Sean D. Swope  
Sean D. Swope, Commissioner

## LEWIS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

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Frank Corbin, Chair

### LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

**To:** Lewis County Board of County Commissioners  
**From:** Lewis County Planning Commission  
**Date:** September 29, 2026  
**Subject:** **Transmittal to the BOCC – Amendment to Lewis County Code - Family Burial Grounds**

#### **Dear Commissioners:**

The purpose of this report is to transmit to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) draft amendments to the Lewis County Code. The draft amendments are found in the August 3, 2026 Planning Commission Staff Report, Attachment A, available online at <https://lewiscountywa.gov/departments/community-development/comprehensive-plan-and-development-regulation-amendments/family-burial-grounds/>.

#### Overview

The proposed amendments establish regulations for family burial grounds in Lewis County in response to Substitute House Bill 2239. The Planning Commission finds that the proposed amendments provide appropriate local regulations for a use authorized by state law while maintaining protections for surrounding properties public health and safety, and environmental resources.

#### Summary of Recommended Amendments

LCC 17.10 – Definitions: Updates cemetery-related definitions and adds definitions for animal crematoriums, crematoriums, columbaria, mausoleums, and family burial grounds.

LCC 17.42.020 – Rural Area Zoning Summary: Adds family burial grounds to the applicable land use table as permitted land use. Maser site plan review required.

LCC 17.38.830 – Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas: Prohibits new family burial grounds within Category I CARAs.

Shoreline Master Program, Section 5.03 – Allowed Shoreline Uses: Prohibits family burial grounds within shoreline jurisdiction.

LCC 17.142.110 – Family Burial Grounds: Establishes eligibility, permitting, size and setback standards, prohibits on-site cremation, and establishes recording, development restriction, and abandonment provisions.

LCC 16.02.040, 16.05.030, 16.05.330, 16.10.460 & 16.12.460 – Subdivisions: Clarifies that family burial grounds are subject to subdivision requirements and establishes requirements for plat identification, easements, disclosures, access/maintenance agreements, and protection from future land disturbance for family burial grounds associated with land divisions.

### **Findings of Fact**

The Planning Commission finds that the proposed amendments satisfy the criteria of LCC 17.12.110(2). Specifically, the amendments are consistent with the Lewis County Comprehensive Plan and are in the public interest.

The amendments are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan because they establish a regulatory framework for a limited use of privately owned property without changing the County's established land use designations or overall growth management framework. The amendments provide for the implementation of state law while maintaining appropriate consideration of surrounding land uses, public health and safety, and environmental resources.

The amendments are in the public interest because they provide clear and predictable local regulations for family burial grounds while incorporating the applicable requirements and protections established by SHB 2239. The amendments provide clarity for property owners, neighboring property owners, and County staff in the administration of family burial grounds.

### **Recommendation**

Based on the above findings, the Lewis County Planning Commission recommends that the Board of County Commissioners pass an ordinance that adopts the proposed amendments, as shown in August 3, 2026 Planning Commission Staff Report, Attachment A.

Being duly authorized to transmit the recommendations on behalf of the Lewis County Planning Commission, I hereby respectfully submit the documents to the Lewis County Board of County Commissioners.

Submitted by Frank L. Corbin Date 9/30/26  
Frank Corbin, Chair  
Lewis County Planning Commission

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE  
LEWIS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
AND INTENT TO ADOPT**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Lewis County, Washington, Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) will hold a public hearing on **October 27, 2026**, to consider proposed Ordinance 1385, which would amend Lewis County Code related to family burial grounds. The amendments include changes to Title 16 (Subdivisions), Title 17 (Land Use and Development Regulations), Critical Aquifer Recharge Area regulations, and the Shoreline Master Program.

The proposal would establish definitions and development standards for family burial grounds, create permitting and recording requirements, address protections during future land divisions, and establish limitations within environmentally sensitive areas, including Category I Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas and shoreline jurisdiction.

The hearing will take place at or after 10 a.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room on the second floor of the Historic Courthouse in Chehalis, Wash. Interested parties are encouraged to check the Commissioners' Business Meeting agenda for the Zoom log-in details. The agenda will be posted at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting on the [Lewis County Agendas & Calendar webpage](#).

Details about the proposal will be available online at the agenda link provided above. Please select the agenda for October 13 (Notice) or October 27, 2026 (Hearing) to see the draft ordinance. The draft is subject to change before or at the hearing. If you wish to receive a paper copy of the proposal, contact Kylie Peckahm at [Kylie.peckham@lewiscountywa.gov](mailto:Kylie.peckham@lewiscountywa.gov) or 360-740-1435 and a copy will be mailed to you.

During the hearing, individuals will be invited to speak and/or provide written statements regarding the proposed changes. All individuals wishing to speak are encouraged to attend. Written comments may be submitted beginning at 8 a.m. Oct. 13, 2026, and by be received by 4 p.m. Oct. 26, 2026, by emailing Natalie Kamieniecki, Senior Long Range Planner, at [natalie.kamieniecki@lewiscountywa.gov](mailto:natalie.kamieniecki@lewiscountywa.gov) or postal mail to Community Development, c/o Natalie Kamieniecki, 351 NW. North St., Chehalis, WA 98532.

To sign up for Community Development email announcements, please visit:  
<https://tinyurl.com/yj4cstms>

*The meeting site is barrier free. People needing special assistance or accommodations should contact Rieva Lester at 360.740.1419 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting.*

# BOCC AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

**Resolution:****BOCC Meeting Date:** Oct. 13, 2026**Suggested Wording for Agenda Item:****Agenda Type:** Legal Notice

Notice of hearing for Ordinance 1385, which would amend Lewis County Code related to private family burial grounds in accordance with SHB 2239

**Contact:** Natalie Kamieniecki**Phone:** 3607402606**Department:** CD - Community Development**Description:**

Notice of Public Hearing to consider proposed amendments to the Lewis County Code related to private family burial grounds in accordance with SHB 2239

**Approvals:**

| User         | Status  |
|--------------|---------|
| Mindy Brooks | Pending |
| PA's Office  | Pending |

**Publication Requirements:****Publications:**

The Chronicle

**Additional Copies:****Cover Letter To:**