

LEWIS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BOCC)

Business Meeting minutes

August 17, 2020

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Fund, Commissioner Jackson

Recorder: Rieva Lester

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

County Manager Erik Martin and E911 Administrator Scott Smitherman said the county has launched Text-to-911. Scott discussed the benefits provided by the new service. He noted that call locations with texting will not be as reliable as those with landlines. Scott said reporting parties are still encouraged to call when they can.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nickie Muller of 201 Hidden Meadows Drive in Chehalis discussed concerns about juggling employment and her son's studies while schools operate remotely. She also discussed concerns regarding children in foster care. She asked what the county is doing to support foster kids in the region.

Public Health and Social Services Director JP Anderson said he would meet with area superintendents later in the day and will discuss reopening plans as well as school plans IEP, 504 plans, pre-k and ECAP, among other topics.

Lori Smith of 2277 Southwest Salsbury in Chehalis said she is a registered nurse and has concerns about testing methods for COVID-19.

JP Anderson said he believes antibody tests have been counted as positives elsewhere but not in Lewis County.

Lori expressed concerns about testing numbers remaining stagnant. JP explained that the number of negative tests comes from the state level and that the state is updating those totals.

Alicia Howard of 480 Twin Oaks Road discussed her concerns about distance learning. She said the social isolation is unsafe and unfair to schoolkids. She urged the county to review the CDC's recommendations regarding reopening schools.

JP Anderson clarified that positive cases that are later retested are not considered new cases. JP also debunked rumors that individuals who have not been tested are being contacted as though they had tested positive for COVID-19.

NOTICE ITEMS

Commissioner Fund made a motion to approve Resolutions 20-276 through 20-282. Commissioner Jackson seconded.

Resolution 20-276: Concurring in the Superior Court's request for proposals (RFP) for Drug Testing Services for the Lewis County Drug Court & Family Recovery Court Programs.

Drug Court Manager Stephanie Miller spoke to the resolution. She said the programs have 56 participants who report for urine analysis. She said the proposed model would continue using the Eugenia Center for testing but that the samples would be sent to an entity with which the county has contracted.

Resolution 20-277: Concurring in the Superior Court's request for proposals (RFP) for Substance Use Disorder & Behavioral Health Treatment for Lewis County Drug Court & Family Recovery Court programs.

Drug Court Manager Stephanie Miller spoke to the resolution. She said the county is looking for a behavior health treatment provider to assess and treat program participants. Judge Joely O'Rourke discussed the benefits streamlined UAs as well as the benefit of opening up to potential new providers.

Resolution 20-278: Approve a call for bids for five new pickup trucks and one new 1-ton truck chassis. Bids are due to the Clerk of the Board by 12:30 p.m. Sept. 1.

Public Works Director Josh Metcalf spoke to the resolution. He said the county is looking to purchase two two-wheel-drive trucks, two four-wheel-drive trucks and one 1-ton truck chassis.

Resolution 20-279: Issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) to provide on-call material testing services 2020-2021 for projects including Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funded projects and Lewis County Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) projects. Proposals are due to Public Works by 12:30 p.m. Sept. 8.

Public Works Director Josh Metcalf spoke to the resolution. He said the materials testing is needed for local and federal projects.

Resolution 20-280: Notice of hearing regarding a franchise to Cardinal FG Company to install, construct, operate and maintain natural gas facilities in Lewis County rights of way. The hearing will take place Sept. 14.

Real Estate Services Manager Martin Roy spoke to the resolution.

Resolution 20-281: Notice of hearing regarding a franchise to Cardinal FG Company to install, construct, operate and maintain water line facilities in Lewis County rights of way. The hearing will take place Sept. 14.

Real Estate Services Manager Martin Roy spoke to the resolution. Martin said Cardinal Glass's gas comes in from the east side and the water comes in from the south side.

Resolution 20-282: Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact and Intent to Request Release of Funds for the LCFD #3 Construction Project in Mossyrock.

Public Works Director Josh Metcalf spoke to the resolution. He said the county completed an assessment of the area. He said the Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact opens the public comment period and that the call for bids can be made at the end of the public comment period.

Motion passed 3-0.

CONSENT ITEMS

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve minutes from the August 10, 2020, meeting as well as Resolution 20-283. Commissioner Fund seconded.

Resolution 20-283: Approval of warrants/claims against the various county departments.

Chief accountant Suzette Smith, representing the Auditor's Office, said warrants 831,642 through 831,758 and direct disbursements 2355 through 2359, 2361 through 2365, 2367 through 2370, 2374 through 2380, 2382, 2385 through 2387, 2407, 2417, 2422, 2425, 2426, 2449 and 2450 were issued in August for payments against the county totaling \$513,728.82. Suzette said payroll/tax deposit warrants numbered 795,779 through 795,783 and Automatic Deposits 14,876 through 15,493 were approved for payments against the county totaling \$1,768,320.56.

She noted a skip in sequence for warrants 831,607 through 831,641, which were issued on behalf of Special Purpose Districts.

Motion passed 3-0.

DELIBERATION ITEMS

Commissioner Fund made a motion to approve Resolutions 20-284 through 20-288. Commissioner Jackson seconded.

Resolution 20-284: Authorize a contract between the Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments (CWCOG) and Lewis County for costs of transportation planning work performed.

Public Works Director Josh Metcalf spoke to the resolution. He said the annual contract with COG is for \$25,000 and pays for a portion of Mike Kroll's position from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021.

Resolution 20-285: Approve an agreement between Lewis County and the Department of Commerce to provide funds through the Emergency Solutions Grant – COVID 19 in the amount of \$198,017.

Public Health and Social Services Director JP Anderson spoke to the resolution. He said the funding is to prevent, prepare for and respond to the coronavirus pandemic to help those who are homeless or receiving homeless assistance. Community Health Services & Contracts Coordinator Meja Handlen further explained how the funding will be used.

Resolution 20-286: Amend a lease between Lewis County and Lewis County Seniors for the use of five senior centers in Lewis County.

Capital Projects Manager Doug Carey spoke to the resolution. He said the Lewis County Seniors group is seeking an extension to its lease agreement so it can pursue grant funding. He said the group wants to extend the lease to 15 years. Lewis County Seniors President Ron Averill said area seniors were unserved or underserved by Meals on Wheels through the Catholic Community Services. Ron said the CCS contract ends in 2021 and that the Lewis County Seniors would like to improve its capability to provide the services. He said a grant for which the group is applying requires a 15-year lease. Commissioner Fund noted that the county generally signs five-year contracts but that it will make an exception to allow the Seniors to apply for grant funding.

Resolution 20-287: Approve Amendment E to a contract between Lewis County and The Salvation Army to add funds and extend the termination date.

Public Health and Social Services Director JP Anderson spoke to the resolution. He said the amendment will extend the contract to Oct. 31, 2020, and that it will add additional funding totaling \$41,334.

Resolution 20-288: List the bid(s) received and contractor(s) selected for the purchase of one passenger van and three SUV vehicles.

Public Works Director Josh Metcalf spoke to the resolution. He said Awesome Ford was the lowest responsive bidder for the passenger van and that I-5 Dodge submitted the lowest responsive bid for the three SUVs.

Motion passed 3-0.

HEARING

Ordinance 1320: Approve an ordinance to dissolve Dikage and Drainage District #1 for Lewis County pursuant to Chapter 36.96 RCW.

Commissioner Stamper introduced the hearing.

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Amber Smith gave the staff report. Amber said the Davis Lake Drainage district meets the definition of an inactive district under RCW 36.96.

Amber said notice of the hearing was posted in three locations as required.

Amber said the Dikage and Drainage District's last activity was 14 years ago. She noted that the Auditor's Office presented a proposal to dissolve the district the previous year. She noted that BOCC Clerk of the Board Rieva Lester contact each potential commissioner from the area and that no one applied to become a commissioner of the dikage and drainage district.

Commissioner Stamper said he had spoken to someone who lives in the area in the past year but that the individual was not interested in serving. Commissioner Stamper said he reached out to the mayor the previous night to alert him about the potential dissolution.

Amber said the dikage and drainage district did not have an active account with the county's Treasurer's Office. She said the district also had not responded to audit requests from the State Auditor's Office.

Treasurer Army Davis asked that the county alert the State Auditor's Office if it dissolves the district.

Commissioner Stamper asked if there were any questions. There were none.

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

Amber Smith asked that her previous comments be adopted into the record.

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

Ron Averill said the county has several diking and drainage and flood control districts, many of which run into funding issues. He said the existing Flood Control Zone Districts are a better response.

Commissioner Stamper closed the hearing.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve Ordinance 1320. Commissioner Fund seconded.

Commissioner Fund complemented Commissioner Stamper's outreach efforts regarding the district.

Motion passed 3-0.

SALARY COMMISSION REPORT

Bob Berg discussed the Salary Commission's efforts to address elected officials' salaries. Bob noted that salary adjustments for elected officials had not been changed in years. He said the group voted to give the commissioners a 10 percent increase and that it voted to recommend an increase of 10 percent for

other electeds. He said the group took into account the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19. However, he noted, the group found the salaries to be inadequate.

Commissioner Fund commended the group for completing its work but noted that the timing was difficult.

Bob clarified that the Salary Commission sets the commissioners' salaries and that the group makes recommendations regarding the other electeds' salaries.

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Cullen Gatten outlined the RCWs.

Bob Berg said the group following the percentage change in median income for Lewis County residents, which he said totaled 2 percent annually.

Commissioner Jackson thanked the committee for its efforts. He echoed that the timing presents a challenge.

County Manager Erik Martin thanked Cullen Gatten, Becky Butler and Lara McRea for their efforts to support the committee.

Cullen Gatten said the commissioners would need to approve the other electeds' raises via resolution.

COVID-19

Erik said the county learned of 16 new cases over the weekend, pushing the total number of cases to 272.

Commissioner Fund left at 11:32 a.m.

JP Anderson said the county is working with school districts and health officials to address citizens' concerns about remote learning.

Commissioner Fund returned at 11:33 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ron Averill noted that the fair would have kicked off during the week had it not been for COVID-19. He said a livestock auction will take place later in the week.

PRESS CONFERENCE

No questions.

ADJOURNMENT

The BOCC Business Meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m., with the next Business Meeting scheduled for 10 a.m. Monday, August 24, 2020, in the Commissioners' Hearing Room (Room 223).

Please note that minutes from the BOCC Business Meeting are not verbatim. A recording of the meeting may be purchased at the BOCC office, or video footage can be viewed at no charge at LewisCountyWa.gov/bocc-meetings. Video footage of BOCC meetings also is aired on Comcast Channel 3 at 10 a.m., 2 p.m., 6 p.m., and 10 p.m. daily. Video footage also can be found on the Lewis County Commissioners' Facebook page.



ATTEST:

Rieva Lester, Clerk of the Board

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEWIS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Gary Stamper, Chair

Edna J. Fund, Vice Chair

Robert C. Jackson, Commissioner