

LEWIS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BOCC)

Business Meeting minutes

August 31, 2020

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Fund, Commissioner Jackson

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Commissioner Stamper called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m., determined a quorum and then proceeded with the flag salute.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Alicia Howard of Adna noted that the state has updated its testing count but that the county has not included that data. She also asked for more specific identification, even if it was not down to zip code. Alicia asked that parents be surveyed to see who would prefer in-person learning or distance learning.

JP Anderson information will be updated as the state updates its data. He noted that many school districts have conducted their own surveys regarding families' preferences about in-person vs. distance learning.

Lori Smith of Chehalis said the CDC has released new numbers that assigns a 6 percent mortality rate to COVID-19. She said she hopes those figures are weighed.

Frank Corbin said he feels the community has reached a boiling point and that the county is making its best efforts to move to a school reopening.

PRESENTATIONS

Commissioner Fund made a motion to approve three proclamations. Commissioner Jackson seconded.

Proclamation recognizing Sept. 11, 2020, as a day of remembrance and commemoration.

Commissioner Jackson read the proclamation into the record.

Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner Fund and Frank Corbin shared memories of 9/11.

Proclamation proclaiming Sept. 11, 2020, as 9-1-1 Day.

E911 Dispatcher Davene Rodocker read the proclamation into the record.

Davene Rodocker, who retired Aug. 30 after more than 31 years with Lewis County, shared memories of her experiences as a dispatcher for more than three decades.

Proclamation Recognizing Sept. 6-12, 2020, as Suicide Prevention Week and September 2020 as Recovery Month.

Trinidad Medina of the Great Rivers BH-ASO read the proclamation into the record.

Trinidad discussed the ASO's work to help members of the community. He noted that suicide rates have increased among teens and young adults in the wake of COVID-19.

Joe Avalos of Olympic Health outlined crisis services available in Lewis County.

Richard Stride of Cascade discussed crisis help and suicide prevention tools available. He said Cascade can be reached at 360-330-9044.

Motion passed 3-0.

CONSENT ITEMS

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve minutes from the August 24, 2020, meeting as well as Resolution 20-299. Commissioner Fund seconded.

Resolution 20-299: Approval of warrants/claims against the various county departments.

Chief accountant Suzette Smith, representing the Auditor's Office, said warrants numbered 832,029 through 832,107 and 832,156 through 832,348 were issued in August for payments against the county totaling \$1,337,086.74. She said payroll/tax deposit warrants numbered 795,784 through 795,789 and Automatic Deposits 15,494 through 16,110 also were approved for payments against the county totaling \$1,749,382.77.

She noted a skip in sequence for warrants 832,108 through 832,155, which were issued on behalf of Special Purpose Districts.

Motion passed 3-0.

DELIBERATION ITEMS

Commissioner Fund made a motion to approve Resolutions 20-300 through 20-310. Commissioner Jackson seconded.

Resolution 20-300: Reappoint four returning members and appoint two new members to the Lewis County Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

Public Works Director Josh Metcalf spoke to the resolution. He said the terms for Don Bradshaw, Peppy Elizaga, Samantha Fleischner, Jerry Lord and Max Vogt will run through June 1, 2023.

Resolution 20-301: List the bid(s) received and contractor selected for the Vader Raw Water Reservoir Recoating Project, No. 60-Vadertank.

Public Works Director Josh Metcalf spoke to the resolution. He said the county received four responsive bids and one bid that was deemed nonresponsive as it was incomplete. Josh said the Mericka Group out of Longview was the lowest apparent bidder at \$119,205.24.

Resolution 20-302: List the bid(s) received and contractor selected for the Tucker Road Improvements Project, Federal Aid Project No. STPR-F212(001), F.A. Agreement No. TA-6968, County Road Project No. 2189-C.

Public Works Director Josh Metcalf spoke to the resolution. He said Granite Construction Company of Olympia was the lowest apparent bidder at \$511,170.00. He said the engineer's estimate was \$767,700.

Resolution 20-303: Approve an agreement between Lewis County and the Department of Commerce to provide funds through the housing assistance unit Eviction Rental Assistance Program Grant in the amount of \$776,660.

Public Health and Social Services Director JP Anderson spoke to the resolution. He said the agreement uses CARES Act funds to allow the county to provide funding to landlords to help those struggling with rent.

Resolution 20-304: Approve an agreement between Lewis County and the Department of Commerce to provide special youth specific funds through the housing assistance unit Eviction Rental Assistance Program Grant in the amount of \$87,893.

Public Health and Social Services Director JP Anderson spoke to the resolution. He said the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding will be used to help prevent evictions by paying past due rents for those with the greatest needs. He noted that the county is not collecting any administration fees.

Resolution 20-305: Approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Lewis County Board of County Commissioners identifying Bethel Church as a temporary alternate location to conduct Lewis County Government business under emergency circumstances that may disrupt normal government operations.

Emergency Management Deputy Director Andy Caldwell spoke to the resolution. He said the agreement would allow the use of Bethel Church in the case of an emergency that left the county unable to use the historic courthouse.

Resolution 20-306: Adopt the August 2020 Lewis County Board of County Commissioners Continuity of Government Plan as an Annex to the Lewis County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

Emergency Management Deputy Director Andy Caldwell spoke to the resolution. He said the agreement allows for the use of Bethel Church as an alternate location for the continuity of government.

Resolution 20-307: Extend the local declaration of a state of emergency in response to the COVID-19 virus in Lewis County.

Emergency Management Deputy Director Andy Caldwell spoke to the resolution. He said the resolution extends the emergency declaration for 30 days.

Resolution 20-308: Authorize the Cancellation of Uncollectable Debt from Delinquent Process Fees due to the Civil Division of the Lewis County Sheriff's Office.

Chief Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Eric Eisenberg spoke to the resolution. He said the public can hire the Sheriff's Office for civil process server work and that efforts to collect from delinquent accounts have proved unsuccessful so the Sheriff's Office will write off those outstanding fees. He said the delinquent accounts in question total \$701.30.

Resolution 20-309: Approve a grant agreement with United Way for installation services, connection fees to facilitate distance learning and telework capabilities.

Fair Manager Tamara Hayes spoke to the resolution. She said the county is providing up to \$150,000 to improve distance learning.

Resolution 20-310: Accepting grant funds in the amount of \$480,038 from the Washington Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) through Coronavirus Aid, relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) for Courtroom upgrades.

County Manager Erik Martin spoke to the resolution. He said AOC has approved Superior Court's grant application for video conferencing to allow for virtual court appearances.

Motion passed 3-0.

HEARING

Resolution 20-311: Approve a franchise to LIGHTSPEED NETWORKS, INC. to install, construct, operate and maintain telecommunication facilities in Lewis County road rights of way.

Commissioner Stamper introduced the hearing.

Real Estate Services Manager Martin Roy gave the staff report. He said the nonexclusive franchise has a five-year term. He outlined the notice requirements for the hearing.

Commissioner Stamper asked if there were any questions. Alicia Howard asked if the agreement was related to the Breeze grant agreement. Erik Martin and Martin Roy noted that it was not related to the Breeze grant.

Martin Roy explained what franchise agreements allow. He noted that the franchise allows Lightspeed to continue using the rights of way, noting that he doesn't know of any active permits for expansion.

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

Martin Roy and Erik Martin asked that their previous comments be adopted into the record.

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

No one spoke.

Commissioner Stamper closed the hearing.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve Resolution 20-311. Commissioner Fund seconded.

Motion passed 3-0.

COVID-19

Erik Martin said the county learned of 11 new cases over the weekend. He and JP Anderson directed the public to the website www.phsscovid19.lewiscountywa.gov for updated information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Fund reminded nonprofits about a grant available through the EDC and Lewis County Together.

Commissioner Jackson discussed a recent meeting with Alicia Bull of the Chehalis-Centralia Chamber of Commerce. He said Alicia indicated that the Chamber has seen a drop in revenues and that he has urged the Chamber to reach out to the county for operational funding.

Commissioner Stamper discussed graffiti painted on an area bridge that indicated that visitors are not welcome. Commissioner Stamper discussed the benefits tourism has on the area.

Commissioner Fund noted that the Chamber would be eligible to apply for the EDC / Lewis County Together grants.

Erik Martin discussed plans for a meeting with school officials tentatively planned for Sept. 10.

Col. Ron Averill thanked the commissioners for the Suicide Prevention and Recovery Month proclamation passed earlier in the meeting. Col. Averill discussed agritourism restrictions that were recently eased.

PRESS CONFERENCE

No questions from the press.

Dawn Miles shared her memories from the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. She thanked the commissioners for passing the 9/11 proclamation and the suicide prevention proclamation. Dawn said she is interested in getting more involved in her community.

ADJOURNMENT

The BOCC Business Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m., with the next Business Meeting scheduled for 10 a.m. Monday, September 14, 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