

LEWIS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BOCC)

Business Meeting minutes

October 26, 2020

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Fund

Absent: Commissioner Jackson

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Commissioner Stamper called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m., determined a quorum and then proceeded with the flag salute.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Guenther of Chehalis discussed the need to address broadband needs in Lewis County.

At 10:05 a.m., the commissioners paused after learning some at-home participants were unable to hear via Facebook and YouTube.

At 10:15 a.m., the commissioners resumed the meeting via Zoom. Bob Guenther restated his concerns about broadband to ensure those attending remotely could hear.

PRESENTATION

Commissioner Fund made a motion to approve a proclamation declaring October 28, 2020, First Responders Day. Commissioner Stamper seconded.

Boistfort Battalion Chief Gregg Peterson read the proclamation into the record. He then discussed the history of area fire departments.

Dr. Peter McCahill thanked the various agencies throughout the county that help respond to emergencies. George Chandler discussed the creation of a proclamation and banners to celebrate first responders. Scott Smitherman thanked the commissioners for including dispatchers in the proclamation. Sheriff Rob Snaza discussed the challenges of 2020 and thanked the community for its support. Chaplain Brian Carter discussed the role of chaplains as first responders. County Manager Erik Martin thanked the Public Works department for its role at emergencies.

Motion passed 2-0.

CONSENT ITEMS

Commissioner Fund made a motion to approve minutes from the October 19, 2020, meeting as well as Resolution 20-372. Commissioner Stamper seconded.

Resolution 20-372: Approval of warrants/claims against the various county departments.

Financial Analyst III Grace Jimenez, representing the Auditor's Office, said warrants 834,001 through 834,285 and direct disbursements 2638 through 2644 and 2651 were issued in October for payments against the county totaling \$374,888.93. She noted a skip in sequence for warrants 833,942 through 834,000, which were issued on behalf of Special Purpose Districts.

Motion passed 2-0.

DELIBERATION ITEMS

Commissioner Fund made a motion to approve Resolutions 20-373 through 20-379. Commissioner Stamper seconded.

Resolution 20-373: List the bids received and contractor selected for the 2019 County Safety Program, Federal Aid Project No. HSIP-000S(558), F.A. Agreement No. TA-6921, County Road Project No. 2191A.

County Engineer Tim Fife spoke to the resolution. He said the county received five bids and that Iversen & Sons of Tumwater was the apparent low bidder at \$162,212.50.

Resolution 20-374: Approve Amendment 2 between Lewis County and KMB Architects for Capital Plan Projects, Juvenile Court Renovation.

Internal Services Chief Steve Wohld spoke to the resolution. He said the Basic Services Fee is \$634,560, the Additional Services fee is \$247,906 and the Direct Expenses fee is \$16,226, for a combined total of \$898,692.

Resolution 20-375: Extend the local declaration of a state of emergency in response to the COVID-19 virus in Lewis County.

County Manager Erik Martin spoke to the resolution. He said the resolution would extend the state of emergency through the first week of January 2021.

Resolution 20-376: Approve a Memorandum of Understanding between Lewis County and The Salvation Army to provide funds through the housing assistance unit Emergency Solutions COVID19 Grant in the amount of \$75,000.

Public Health and Social Services Director JP Anderson and Community Health Services & Contracts Coordinator Meja Handlen spoke to the resolution. JP said the resolution provides \$75,000 to maintain a shelter to house those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless during the coronavirus pandemic. Meja discussed the efforts that took place to run a night-by-night shelter from Nov. 1 through Dec. 31, 2020. Lt. Gin Peck thanked the community for its collaborative effort to help the homeless population. Josh Gering of the Hub City Mission discussed the generosity and kindness of the community. Gather Church Pastor Cole Meckle discussed the outreach that takes place thanks to the overnight shelter. He echoed the appreciation to the county, volunteers and the community.

Resolution 20-377: Approve recommendations from the Lewis County Citizens' Commission on Salaries for Elected Officials ("Salary Commission") to provide salary adjustments for the elected offices of Auditor, Assessor, Clerk, Coroner, Prosecuting Attorney and Treasurer.

County Manager Erik Martin spoke to the resolution. He said the commissioners had made the decision during an open public meeting and were ratifying it via resolution.

Resolution 20-378: Approve a Personal Services Agreement between Lewis County and Robert K. Weidner.

County Manager Erik Martin and Commissioner Stamper spoke to the resolution. Erik noted that the one-year agreement provides \$15,000 for services Robert Weidner provides relating to public lands, environment and natural resources in conjunction with Secure Rural Schools funding.

Resolution 20-379: Approving a Subrecipient Agreement between Lewis County and the Lewis County Public Utility District No. 1 to provide emergency utility assistance for Lewis County residents who have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

County Manager Erik Martin spoke to the resolution. He said the PUD will be a subrecipient for the county and will use the money to provide relief for qualifying utility customers struggling in the wake of COVID-19.

Motion passed 2-0.

COVID-19

JP Anderson praised area schools for their work to safely reopen.

United Way Director Debbie Campbell and Phil Crocker provided an update on the Lewis County High Speed Education Network. Phil said the group has helped get more than 1,500 students get connected with broadband. Phil noted that there are ongoing costs above and beyond what the CARES Act covers. Phil said he believes there are 200 to 400 students still not being served.

Phil noted that area school districts will need an additional \$300,000 to serve students after the Coronavirus Relief Fund deadline passes. He said OPSI likely will be eligible to receive reimbursements for \$36,000 of the \$300,000.

Phil said some school districts, including Pe Ell and Mossyrock, did not reach out for help with broadband.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

PRESS CONFERENCE

No questions.

ADJOURNMENT

The BOCC Business Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m., with the next Business Meeting scheduled for 10 a.m. Monday, November 2, 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 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