

LEWIS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BOCC)

Business Meeting minutes

April 27, 2021

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Commissioner Stamper called the meeting to order at 2 p.m., determined a quorum and then proceeded with the flag salute.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

State Rep. Peter Abbarno provided an overview of Legislative session that ended April 25. He praised efforts to pass the capital budget. He discussed funding provided in the state's budget as well as other bills state leaders passed during the Legislative session.

STATE-OF-THE-LIBRARY PRESENTATION

Timberland Regional Library (TRL) Executive Director Cheryl Heywood provided an overview of TRL's activities and events from 2020 and 2021. She said TRL has secured two mobile units for libraries on wheels. She also said TRL is looking for property in Randle for a new library site.

CONSENT ITEMS

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to approve minutes from the April 20, 2021, meeting as well as Resolution 21-167. Commissioner Swope seconded.

Resolution 21-167: Approval of warrants/claims against the various county departments.

Chief accountant Suzette Smith, representing the Auditor's Office, said warrants 840,918 through 841,092 were issued in April for payments against the county totaling \$1,167,693.75. She said payroll/tax deposit warrants 795,827 through 795,828 and Automatic Deposits 25,001 through 25,577 also were approved for payments against the county totaling \$1,097,353.51.

Suzette noted a skip in sequence for warrants 840,870 through 840,917, which were issued on behalf of Special Purpose Districts.

Motion passed 3-0.

DELIBERATION ITEMS

Commissioner Swope made a motion to approve Resolutions 21-168 through 21-173. Commissioner Pollock seconded.

Resolution 21-168: Approve professional services contract with The Salvation Army for services and shelter for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Public Health & Social Services Director JP Anderson discussed the resolution. He said the agreement provides \$4,518,908 to help those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. JP said the amount includes a 10 percent administration fee.

Resolution 21-169: Approve a Memorandum of Understanding between Lewis County and Lewis County Public Health & Social Services to use the SW Washington Fairgrounds entire property for COVID-19 mass vaccination events.

Public Health & Social Services Director JP Anderson discussed the resolution. He said the agreement allows the use of the Fairgrounds for mass vaccination events. He said the agreement allows for 30- to 90-day increments at \$80,000 per month.

Resolution 21-170: List the bids received and contractor selected for the Culvert Material Purchase for the Lincoln Creek Rd. MP 13.7 Culvert Replacement Project, SM 20F100191370.

Public Works Director Josh Metcalf discussed the resolution. He said the county received only one responsive bid. Josh said the bid is 31 percent higher than the engineer's estimate, due to increased shipping costs as well as supply and demand.

Resolution 21-171: Award the contract for the Law & Justice Building Fire Alarm Replacement Project.

Capital Projects Manager Doug Carey discussed the resolution. He said the fire alarm in the building has reached the end of its life. He said replacement parts are no longer available. He said the county received two bids and that Absco Solutions submitted the lowest responsive bid at \$397,826.

Resolution 21-172: Awarding the contract for the Law and Justice Exterior Upgrades Project, Project #31-2026.

Capital Projects Manager Doug Carey discussed the resolution. He said the county received three bids for the project and that Schwiesow Construction of Centralia was the lowest responsive bidder.

Resolution 21-173: Modify restrictions on outdoor burning to allow permitted burning throughout lands regulated by Lewis County.

Community Development Director Lee Napier discussed the resolution. She said restrictions on permitted outdoor burning were lifted as of 8 a.m. April 27.

Motion passed 3-0.

HEARINGS

Resolution 21-174: The closure of a portion of Senn Road off Centralia Alpha Road near Chehalis.

Commissioner Stamper introduced the hearing.

County Engineer Tim Fife gave the staff report. He said the county is considering closing Senn Road at its Centralia Alpha intersection. He said a property owner contacted the county in May 2020 and asked that the county close the portion of Senn Road. He said the county then reached out to all of the affected property owners and that the majority of those contacted indicated they were in favor of the closure. He said the closure will save the county money. Tim said nine property owners responded to the county's request for input. He said the property owners who will have to drive the furthest if the area is closed are those most in favor of the closure.

Commissioner Stamper asked if there were any questions. Ron Averill of Centralia asked if there is an alternate route. Tim Fife said there is. Ron asked how the entrance would be blocked. Tim said a turnaround would be installed and the stream would be returned to its normal channel.

Tim Dyeson asked if the closure is a permanent closure. Tim said the closure is a permanent closure.

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

Tim Fife asked that his previous comments be adopted into the record.

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

Tim Dyeson said he will have to drive the furthest of all property owners and that he wholeheartedly supports the closure.

Commissioner Stamper closed the hearing.

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to approve Resolution 21-174. Commissioner Swope seconded.

Motion passed 3-0.

COVID-19

JP Anderson said Lewis County has fallen short of criteria for the state's phases and may be at risk of being rolled back to Phase II. However, he said, Lewis County appears to be moving in a positive direction. He said he hopes the recent improvements will prevent the county from rolling back to Phase II. He said vaccinations are the key to community immunity.

JP said the county has seen zero school transmissions. He said family social gatherings have been cited as transmission sites.

JP said the walk-through clinic at the old Sears site will be open from noon until 8 p.m. April 28. He said an appointment is not needed.

Commissioner Swope asked if Lewis County is emulating the steps areas, such as Texas, have taken to fully open up.

JP said the National Guard will help provide mobile vaccine services for groups of 20 or more.

JP discussed mask use for athletes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

PRESS CONFERENCE

Susan DeLaire asked if low testing numbers in Texas have led to the low COVID rates in that state. JP said he would not speculate.

Claudia Yaw asked if the 20-ish people mobile clinics are taking place elsewhere across the state. JP said he is unsure if it is. She also asked if confidentiality will be a concern. JP said the National Guard could address confidentiality and that potential patients would have to determine whether to attend the vaccination events.

Ron Averill said the Public Facilities District (PFD) expansion project is moving quickly. Ron said Centralia City Council will vote on phase II of the China Creek project later in the day. He said the Flood Authority is providing some of the needed funding.

ADJOURNMENT

The BOCC Business Meeting adjourned at 3:13 p.m., with the next Business Meeting scheduled for 2 p.m. Tuesday, May 4, 2021, in the Commissioners' Hearing Room (Room 223).

Minutes from the BOCC Business Meeting are not verbatim. Video footage can be viewed online at no charge at <https://lewiscountywa.gov/offices/commissioners/bocc-meetings/>.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEWIS COUNTY, WASHINGTON




Gary Stamper, Chair



Lindsey R. Pollock, DVM, Vice Chair

ATTEST:



Rieva Lester, Clerk of the Board



Sean Swope, Commissioner