

LEWIS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BOCC)

Business Meeting minutes

August 19, 2019

Present: Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Fund

Recorder: Rieva Lester

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Russell of Chehalis spoke in support of awarding .09 funds for the biorefinery study. He said the industry fits the county's make-up, the jobs are needed and that a biorefinery will attract other similar businesses.

Don Welever of Randle said he is looking forward to meetings planned for the following week. He reiterated that water is a finite resource.

Judy Tjemsland of Boone Road in Toledo said there has been an excessive amount of traffic and speeders on Boone Road. She said it started when the Oyler Road bridge closed, but she said that despite the bridge's reopening, speeders and traffic are still a problem. She asked that the speed limit be lowered.

Bob Guenther of Chehalis discussed the biorefinery feasibility study.

Rick Gustafson of the University of Washington thanked the county for its work on UW's biorefinery feasibility study. He said UW sees Lewis County as a possible hub for a biorefinery industry. He said the feasibility study will provide a big-picture view, which will give interested parties the tools they need to determine whether to locate in Lewis County.

NOTICE ITEMS

Commissioner Fund made a motion to approve Resolutions 19-231 through 19-233. Commissioner Stamper seconded.

Resolution 19-231: Call for bids for one truck chassis upfit (flatbed). Bids are due to the Clerk of the Board by 11 a.m. Sept. 10, 2019.

Tim Murphy, Fleet Services Manager, spoke to the resolution. He said the flatbed will go on a Dodge. He said FEMA funding will be used to make the purchase.

Resolution 19-232: Call for bids for one truck chassis upfit (2-Yd flatbed dump). Bids are due to the Clerk of the Board by 11 a.m. Sept. 10, 2019.0

Tim Murphy, Fleet Services Manager, spoke to the resolution. He said FEMA funding will be used to make the purchase.

Resolution 19-233: Notice of the temporary closure of North Fork Road to all through traffic.

Martin Roy, Real Estate Services Manager, spoke to the resolution. He said the 1.3-mile stretch of North Fork will be closed from Aug. 26-30, 2019, as a culvert is replaced.

Motion passed 3-0.

CONSENT ITEMS

Commissioner Stamper made a motion to approve minutes from the August 12, 2019, meeting as well as Resolution 19-234. Commissioner Fund seconded.

Resolution 19-234: Approval of warrants/claims against the various county departments.

Chief accountant Suzette Smith, representing the Auditor's Office, said warrants numbered 817,813-817,896 and 817,924-818,158 were issued the week of August 9 for payments totaling \$2,438,072.99. She said warrants numbered 795,666-795,671 and Automatic Deposits 614-1234 also were approved for payments totaling \$1,987,035.24. Suzette noted a skip in sequence for warrants 817,897-817,923, which were issued on behalf of Special Purpose Districts.

Motion passed 3-0.

DELIBERATION ITEMS

Commissioner Fund made a motion to approve Resolutions 19-235 through 19-238. Commissioner Stamper seconded.

Resolution 19-235: Approve an amended agreement between the Washington State Military Department and Lewis County for the 18SHSP Homeland Security Program Grant, grant agreement No. E19-101A.

Steve Mansfield, Director of Emergency Services, spoke to the resolution. He said the \$26,000 grant had been approved. Steve said the original agreement allowed for the installation of a remote-controlled radio system to enable the Emergency Management Department to communicate to volunteers without the need for HAM radio towers. However, during the performance period of the grant, the department determined a Ground Tactical Channel Radio system is the most critical regional need, Steve explained. He said the system will allow fire services and law enforcement better coordinate their efforts and ensure safety to personnel in the field.

Resolution 19-236: Approve an agreement between Lewis County and Jeffery W. Pinkerton regarding the proposed purchase of property located at 269 SW Alfred St., Chehalis.

Martin Roy, Real Estate Services Manager, spoke to the resolution. He said the 50- by 100-foot lot is adjacent to county-owned property and will provide space for additional parking. Martin said the property includes an older home and an outbuilding.

Resolution 19-237: Approve a \$120,000 Distressed Counties (.09) grant to the University of Washington for a feasibility study related to building a biorefinery in Lewis County's Industrial Park.

County Manager Erik Martin spoke to the resolution. He said the funding will pay for a biorefinery feasibility study.

Resolution 19-238: Approve a consultant agreement for Strategic Planning Services for Lewis County.

County Manager Erik Martin spoke to the resolution. He discussed the competitive bidding process used for the selection of Tanner LLC as the consultant for the project.

Commissioner Stamper thanked Bob Guenther and Bob Russell for their help on the biorefinery feasibility study.

Motion passed 3-0.

HEARINGS

Ordinance 1303: Dissolve Joint Diking and Drainage District No. 1 of Lewis and Thurston Counties (Hanaford Valley).

Commissioner Jackson introduced the hearing.

Lewis County DPA Amber Caulfield gave the staff report.

Amber said the diking and drainage district meets the requirements for dissolution.

Commissioner Jackson asked if there were any questions.

John Arndt, who lives on Teitzel Road, said the Joint Diking and Drainage District No. 1 of Lewis and Thurston Counties (Hanaford Valley) has not been funded or used in 30 years. He said he'd like to see the county maintain the drainage ditch. He asked if the county can take it over and if the county could do anything with it.

Amber said the district, which formed in 1922, has roughly \$5,000 in assets and owns one ditch. She said the county would entertain offers for the ditch if the district is dissolved. She said the county also could be a potential buyer.

John asked how much land would be involved. Amber said it would be the ditch only, which covers many parcels.

Amber said the county would be responsible to hold a sale or potentially take over maintenance of the ditch if the district was dissolved.

Amber noted that the district has been inactive since the 1980s and that if the district were not dissolved, the district would still be in charge of the drainage ditch.

Ron Averill of Centralia noted that the ditch floods and causes the road to be closed periodically. He said the drainage ditch could fall under the jurisdiction of Chehalis Basin Flood Control Zone District.

Commissioner Jackson closed the question-and-answer portion of the hearing.

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

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

Erik Martin, speaking on behalf of the Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District, said the district could possibly take on the drainage ditch. He said it would merely be a matter of funding and staffing. He said the CRBFCZD supervisors could discuss it in the future.

Commissioner Jackson closed the hearing.

Commissioner Stamper made a motion to approve Ordinance 1303. Commissioner Fund seconded.

Commissioner Stamper said he doesn't know who will bid on the ditch but that dissolution creates the opportunity to search for funding to maintain the ditch.

Motion passed 3-0.

Ordinance 1304: Dissolve Davis Lake Drainage District No. 1 (Davis Lake, Morton).

Commissioner Jackson introduced the hearing.

DPA Amber Caulfield of the Prosecuting Attorney's Office gave the staff report. Amber said the BOCC *would be determining whether there was an inactive district*. She said the Auditor's Office noted that the district had seen no activity and held no elections in at least the past five years. She noted the district has suffered past difficulties. She said an annexation failed and that two supposed commissioners didn't actually live in the area because they reside in the area of the failed annexation, making them ineligible to serve as commissioners. Amber said there is a possibility that the Cowlitz River Flood Control Zone District could look at the drainage district.

Commissioner Stamper said he would want to explore funding possibilities.

Commissioner Jackson asked if there were any questions.

Ron Averill said there is no current funding but that there are possibilities for funding. He said the CRFCZD would have to look into possible funding mechanisms.

Dan Forrest, who lives south of Morton, said the county dug out the area in the 1970s. He said the area is now covered in swamp grass. He said he has concerns about dissolving the district with no back-up plan. He noted that the drainage district has right of way through his property.

Amber said the dissolution of Davis Lake would require the distribution of assets. She noted there have been issues about the drainage ditches for many years. She said it's been roughly 15 years since there was any activity within the Davis Lake Drainage and Drainage District. She said the county could choose to suspend the district *instead of disband it but that the county would have to maintain the district's operations and ditch maintenance*.

Troy Martinez of Temple Road said he has concerns about what will take place regarding his permits *should the district dissolve*.

Amber said there were two individuals who thought they were on the drainage district board but that those two individuals do not meet the requirements of being landowners, so they do not qualify to serve on that special purpose district's board.

Commissioner Jackson closed the question-and-answer portion of the hearing.

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

Amber said roughly 50 parcels lie within the boundaries of Davis Lake Drainage District No. 1. She said the annexation would have increased the size but that the annexation effort failed. Amber noted that only those who live within the boundaries set in the original documents would qualify to serve as a Davis Lake Drainage District No. 1 commissioner. She said a filing period for Special Purpose Districts would open in December. She said the commissioners could appoint members to the district commission since it has had two vacancies for more than six months.

Amber said the county would have to sell off the district's assets if it moved forward with the dissolution process.

Morton Mayor Dan Mortensen discussed a 1969 watershed document. He said the city has been able to mitigate some flooding concerns through the Davis Lake system. He said Fisheries has given the green light for a drainage effort. Mayor Mortensen said he'd like to see funding possibilities explored before dissolving the district.

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

No one spoke.

Amber said the discussion could be suspended. She noted that the county has no authority other than to dissolve the district. She said work to revive the district would have to be done with the district itself but that the district still exists. She said the district has not been active or held elections in more than 15 years.

Commissioner Stamper said he would like to table the matter.

Amber said the commissioners are required by statute to make a determination about dissolving the district by Sept. 1.

Commissioner Jackson closed the hearing.

Commissioner Stamper made a motion to not to dissolve the diking district.

Commissioner Fund seconded.

Amber said the board could move to not dissolve then follow up with signed documentation regarding the district.

Amber said interested parties could file for the two vacancies in December. She said the commissioners also could approve appointments before then for interested registered voters.

Commissioner Jackson called for a vote on the motion to not approve Ordinance 1304.

Motion passed 3-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Fund thanked county employees and fairgoers for another successful fair.

Commissioner Stamper thanked the fair volunteers.

Bob Guenther said the growth of poplar trees could help with issues such as those faced by the dikage and drainage district.

Commissioner Fund discussed upcoming events, such as the Garlic Fest, Threshing Bee, school open houses and others.

PRESS CONFERENCE

No questions from the press.

ADJOURNMENT

The BOCC Business Meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m., with the next Business Meeting scheduled for 10 a.m. Monday, August 26, 2019, 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
Rieva Lester, Clerk of the Board

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEWIS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Robert C. Jackson

Robert C. Jackson, Chair

Gary Stamp
Gary Stamp, Vice Chair

Edna J. Fund
Edna J. Fund, Commissioner