

**LEWIS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BOCC)**

**Business Meeting minutes**

**October 4, 2022**

Present: Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, Commissioner Grose

Recorder: Rieva Lester

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Commissioner Pollock noted that proposed Ordinance 1336, which would have amended Chapter 17.30 (Resource Lands) of Lewis County Code, had been eliminated from consideration and that staff had been directed to perform no further work on the proposal. As such, she said, the Oct. 4 hearing for the matter was been canceled.

Galilee Carlisle of Boistfort thanked the commissioners for opting not to move forward with proposed Ordinance 1336. She said the county needs to continue to protect the rural area's resources and country setting.

Richard Yrjanson of Centralia thanked the commissioners and staff for how they handled the proposal to change to county code related to resource lands.

Joy Promise discussed a survey the county spearheaded. She said she wants to help share food and care services with those in need, and she expressed frustration over a lack of local support.

Lakeda Sullivan said a mobile diaper bank will begin Nov. 1 in Lewis County, thanks to the nonprofit group Touched by One, Touched and its partners. She said the services will target individuals in rural communities.

Lacey Clark applauded the work done regarding the proposed ordinance and asked if county residents in need of services were treated differently based on race or any other factors.

**NOTICE ITEM**

***Commissioner Grose made a motion to approve Resolution 22-315. Commissioner Swope seconded.***

**Resolution 22-315:** Notice of hearing regarding Ordinance 1338, which would prohibit unauthorized camping on county property. The hearing will take place in the Commissioners' Hearing Room at or after 10 a.m. Oct. 25, 2022.

Commissioner Swope discussed the resolution. Commissioner Swope discussed public health and safety concerns related to unauthorized homeless encampments located within the county. He said the proposed ordinance and an accompanying encampment removal policy would help address those issues.

*Motion passed 3-0.*

#### CONSENT ITEMS

*Commissioner Swope made a motion to approve minutes from the September 27, 2022, Business Meeting as well as Resolution 22-316. Commissioner Grose seconded.*

**Resolution 22-316:** Approval of warrants/claims against the various county departments.

Chief accountant Grace Jimenez, representing the Auditor's Office, said warrants 860,230 through 860,481 and direct disbursements numbered 6224 through 6227 were issued in September for payments against the county totaling \$1,837,826.98. She payroll/tax deposit warrants 795,974 through 795,976 and Automatic Deposits 45,149 through 45,735 also were approved for payments against the county totaling \$1,220,958.52. Grace noted a skip in sequence for warrants 860,198 through 860,229 and 860,482 through 860,494, which were issued on behalf of Special Purpose Districts.

*Motion passed 3-0.*

#### DELIBERATION ITEMS

*Commissioner Grose made a motion to approve Resolutions 22-317 through 22-321. Commissioner Swope seconded.*

**Resolution 22-317:** Approve a grant award between the County and Fire Mountain Arts Council for the construction of a backstage/multi-purpose addition to the Roxy Theater in Morton.

Budget Services Administrator Becky Butler discussed the resolution. Becky said Lewis County is providing a \$212,594 grant to the Fire Mountain Arts Council for its backstage / multi-purpose room project at the Roxy Theater in Morton.

**Resolution 22-318:** Authorize application for the Federal Reconnecting Community Grant from the US Department of Transportation, commit local matching funds and assign the Director of Community Development as the Authorized Representative.

Senior Long-range Planner Mindy Brooks discussed the resolution. Mindy said the resolution authorizes the county to apply for a Federal Reconnecting Community Grant from the US Department of Transportation, commits local matching funds and assigns the Director of Community Development as the Authorized Representative.

**Resolution 22-319:** Approve consolidated contract #CLH31017 Amendment 8 between Lewis County and Washington State Department of Health (DOH).

Public Health and Social Services Director Meja Handlen discussed the resolution. Meja said the amendment updates the statement of work and increases funding by \$14,958.

**Resolution 22-320:** Approve Amendment B to contract #21-4619C-116 between Lewis County and Washington State Department of Commerce.

Public Health and Social Services Director Meja Handlen discussed the resolution. Meja said the agreement approves funding to help prevent homelessness. She said the agreement increases funding by \$507,733 and is for those at 80 percent or below poverty level and that the funding goes to landlords and utilities.

Commissioner Swope commended the local Salvation Army for its efforts to help those at risk of becoming homeless. He noted that he has concerns regarding the state and federal governments but that the local Salvation Army is a great community partner.

**Resolution 22-321:** Approve Amendment B to Contract E03-0149-21 between Equity Institute and Lewis County Public Health and Social Services.

Public Health and Social Services Director Meja Handlen discussed the resolution. Meja said the funding is designed to help those at risk of becoming homeless. She said the agreement increases the funding by \$300,642.

***Motion passed 3-0.***

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Swope said The Salvation Army will provide updates on its work regarding the Eviction Rent Assistance Program (ERAP) and its work on a local homeless shelter Oct. 18.

Col. Ron Averill said the Farm Bureau will hold its annual dinner Oct. 19 at the Veterans Museum.

**PRESS CONFERENCE**

No questions.

**ADJOURNMENT**

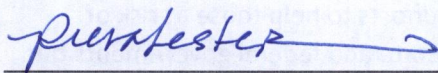
The BOCC Business Meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m., with the next Business Meeting scheduled for 10 a.m. Tuesday, October 11, 2022, in the Commissioners' Hearing Room (Room 223).

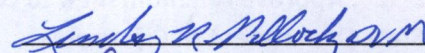
Minutes from the BOCC Business Meeting are not verbatim. The weekly Business Meeting streams live on YouTube (search for "LewisCountyWa" on YouTube or go to <https://www.youtube.com/user/LewisCountyWa/featured>). Video footage also is available at no charge at <https://lewiscountywa.gov/offices/commissioners/bocc-meetings/>.

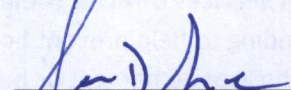


BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
LEWIS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

ATTEST:

  
Rieva Lester, Clerk of the Board

  
Lindsey R. Pollock, DVM, Chair

  
Sean D. Swope, Vice Chair

  
F. Lee Grose, Commissioner