

LEWIS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
BOARD OF HEALTH
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 11, 2021
1:30 p.m.

The Board of Health for Lewis County, Washington met in regular session on Monday, January 11, 2021, at 1:30 p.m. **COMMISSIONER LINDSEY R. POLLOCK, DVM**, was in attendance with **COMMISSIONERS GARY STAMPER** and **SEAN D. SWOPE** joining by ZOOM.

CHAIRMAN STAMPER determined a quorum, called the meeting to order, and proceeded with the flag salute. **COMMISSIONERS STAMPER, POLLOCK** and **SWOPE** introduced themselves. **Sandi Andrus** announced the names of people who were present in the BOCC Hearing room and those joining via ZOOM.

ATTENDEES:

Commissioner Pollock, Bill Teitzel, and Sandi Andrus were attending in the BOCC Hearing Room due to the Governor's Proclamation #20-28-14 declaring all meetings would be virtual only.

Other people joined by Zoom included JP Anderson, Dr. Rachel Wood, Alison Puckett, Amber Smith, Edna Fund, Frank Corbin, Jessica Peterson, John Abplanalp, Matt Patten, Meja Handlen, Sara Sons, Vanessa Ruelas, and The Chronicle reporter. Joining later were Laura Coppock, Nic, Becky Butler, and Erik Martin.

Sandi Andrus read the ZOOM guidelines aloud.

COMMISSIONER POLLOCK moved to approve the Minutes from [December 14, 2020](#), **COMMISSIONER SWOPE** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Stamper made a **motion** to approve consent agenda item #1, **Commissioner Swope** seconded.

H. Res #011121.1 Election of Chair and Vice Chair for the Board of Health for 2021

This resolution approves Commissioner Lindsey R. Pollock, DVM, as the Chair and Commissioner Sean D. Swope as Vice Chair of the Board of Health for 2021.

Commissioner Stamper asked to approve the consent item. Motion approved 3-0. Commissioner Stamper passed the gavel to Commissioner Pollock and she took over as the Chair of the Board of Health.

Commissioner Swope made a motion to approve consent agenda items #2 and #3, **Commissioner Stamper** seconded.

H. Res #011121.2 Approve agreement between Washington DSHS and Lewis County Board of Health as the Governing Body of the Local Health Jurisdiction for Data Security Requirements of all contracts with DSHS from October 15, 2020 to June 30, 2023

H. Res #011121.3 Delaying 2021 Permanent Food Establishment Permit Fees until April 30, 2021 Due to COVID-19 Causing Economic Hardships

JP gave a summary of agenda item #2 regarding data security requirements in the contracts the Department has with DSHS and any agency receiving funds from DSHS through the Department.

Commissioner Pollock asked if we have an active process for removing the data once we no longer need it. **JP** responded that our records are put on a retention schedule and maintained. Much of the more sensitive information on clients is maintained by the State.

JP gave a summary of agenda item #3 regarding delaying 2021 permanent food establishment permit fees. These fees pay for restaurant inspections that are still occurring and any fees that are not charged would have a budget impact. **Commissioner Swope** mentioned the forgiveness aspect for restaurants that are not able to operate in a capacity to make money. He felt there is no sense in penalizing them after April 30 to pay when we have actively shut them down.

Vanessa Ruelas, Customer Service Representative, stated we have about 440 different establishments in the County and they range in category from 1-5 which determines what they pay each year. **Bill Teitzel** added that food permits usually expire January 31. This resolution would extend the permit to April 30, 2021 still covering the fiscal year and fees. The County would continue to provide the same service but extend the due date for struggling establishments not operating at their normal capacity due to the State's restrictions. This would allow them time to defer that payment for a few months. Bill added that he could get the numbers to the Commissioners of what the budget impact would be to the County to waive those fees. **JP** suggested looking at the full amount that comes in and if or how much it could be reduced based on percentages. JP will get the data to the Commissioners before the next BOH. Financial impact of this was discussed.

A meeting will be set up to review what Environmental Health Services does and how it is budgeted. **Commissioner Swope** suggested looking at other counties to see what they are doing for their solution to see if we could find something that would work for our county. **Bill** stated some counties are looking at pro-rated fees and some are looking at extending the

current permit year. Many of the current food establishments in Lewis County are currently operating; they are not operating to the extent they would under normal circumstances. There are some that are shut down completely.

Commissioner Pollock sees a lot of questions regarding the financial impact aspects, our ability to do the inspections, and how that will affect those who have to renew permits. This needs to be addressed prior to the next BOH meeting. **Bill** informed the BOH that Environmental Health is preparing a letter to send to the food establishment owners informing them of the plan for 2021 and working towards a resolution with the BOH. **Vanessa** added that some people have already come in and paid their permits to get them taken care of.

Commissioner Swope made a **motion** to extend the permit fees until the end of February. **Commissioner Stamper** seconded. Resolution 011121.3 will be amended to extend the permanent establishment permit fees until the end of February. Motion approved 3-0.

Commissioner Pollock asked to approve the consent items #011121.2 and 011121.3 as amended. Motion approved 3-0.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES (PHSS) ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE

JP introduced Matt Patten, Chief Operations of Cascade Mental Health and Chair of the Public Health & Social Services Advisory Board and explained what the PHSS Advisory Board does. **Matt** gave a summary of the last meeting held on [January 7, 2021](#). At that meeting the Advisory Board heard about a proposal from the State regarding regionalizing Public Health Districts. After a discussion, the Advisory Board decided to recommend to the BOH to strongly oppose this regionalization which they feel would result in negative health outcomes. Local buy-in in public health is vital to ongoing good public health outcomes.

The Advisory Board also heard about the use of COVID-19 dollars used to support housing for 224 families who were behind on their rent.

Matt continued stating they received information on youth surveys in Centralia and Morton White Pass Schools. More surveys were returned than they expected.

Commissioner Stamper was curious about the families that were helped with their rent. Meja Handlen will provide information and statistics for the Director's meeting on Wednesday. **JP** explained a flyer was sent to every resident in Lewis County that connected them with contact information for this type of funding, as well as Behavior Health services and other needs they may have around COVID-19.

JP has forwarded the first draft of that Bill that is starting to circulate and health jurisdictions would be called Comprehensive Health Districts. This could be similar to how we are being regionalized now with COVID-19. **Commissioner Pollock** stated there has been pretty strong opposition to the regionalization at the WASAC level. A discussion continued regarding how putting counties in with other counties makes a different dynamic and how

citizens want to work with local leaders who know and understand their county's unique needs and demographics. The BOH consensus was that Health Jurisdictions should remain local.

Dr. Wood added that her colleagues have expressed the same sentiment and that they are concerned about the regionalization and to whom they would be answering and how that would work. **JP** added that the Bill looks to provide protection for Health Officers.

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Dr. Wood presented an overview of what Health Officers' responsibilities and duties are according to the RCWs (Revised Code of Washington). The Health Officers in Washington are those who have trained either as medical doctors or doctors of osteopathy and it is recommended that they have a Master's Degree in Public Health. There is a provision for those who do not have it.

RCW 70.05.070 is the State Code used mainly for decision making for actions taken to protect the public's health. Local health rules and ordinances within each jurisdiction also pertain to the Health Officer. Much of what is listed in this RCW has been used during this novel COVID-19 pandemic.

Commissioner Stamper had to leave at 2:19 for another meeting.

Dr. Wood thanked everyone she has worked with at the County especially during this last year working on a team to help prevent COVID illnesses.

JP's COVID-19 update covered mainly what is going on with the vaccine. A State-developed dashboard shows how much vaccine has come into the County and how much has been used. 30% of the vaccine in the State has been administered but there is a lag time for updates. JP opened the time up for questions about COVID. **Commissioner Pollock** asked if he had any estimates regarding local distribution of how much vaccine has been received vs. how much has been administered. **John Abplanalp**, who leads the effort on vaccinations, responded that we do not have data yet at the county level.

Commissioner Swope asked about the shelf life of the vaccines. **John** replied that DOH determines the allocations received from the Feds to the organizations who ordered the vaccines in each county. These organizations have been approved to administer the vaccines they ordered but have not yet received requested amounts. The vaccine can be stored for a pretty good amount of time under refrigeration. The Moderna vaccine is the bulk of what the providers in our county are ordering.

Dr. Wood commented that the "multigenerational" qualification has been discussed at length. Recipients are approved through an honor system and we cannot police people's answers.

Commissioner Swope inquired about writing letters to the Governor regarding their perception of being placed in which Phase and possible districts. **JP** responded that he is available with whatever information the Commissioners may need to compile a letter and that

letters to other Elected Officials should come from Elected Officials. **Commissioner Pollock** requested continuing this discussion with more available information when all three Commissioners are present.

JP informed the Commissioners that the PHSS department has many employees taking on extra work due to COVID-19 while continuing to fulfill their job duties during this time. He gave kudos to the department and thanks to the BOH for supporting PHSS and looks to creating a strong team with them under their leadership as the Board of Health.

Commissioner Swope moved to adjourn. **Commissioner Pollock** seconded, **Commissioner Pollock** adjourned.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:33 p.m., on Monday, [January 11, 2021](#). The next public meeting will be held on Monday, February 8, [2021](#) at 1:30 p.m.

Please note that minutes from the Board of Health meetings are not verbatim. A tape of this meeting is available.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Jonathan Meyer, Prosecuting Attorney

BOARD OF HEALTH
LEWIS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

By:
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

Lindsey R. Pollock, DVM, Chair

ATTEST:

Sean D. Swope, Vice Chair

Sandi Andrus, Clerk of the BOH

Gary Stamper, Member