

PA Update

October 20, 2020

2:02 p.m.

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Jackson, County Manager Erik Martin, Amber Smith, Eric Eisenberg (2:04 p.m.), Cullen Gatten, Daleyn Coleman, Natalie Dunlap, Brittani Bonahoom, Natalie Dunlap, Lara McRea, Tailor Albright, Commissioner Fund (2:22 p.m.)

Guest(s): Rich Curtis, Mike Aust

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Amber Smith said the county will meet with the Department of Ecology the following regarding the three existing water rights applications related to the Middle Fork water system.

Eric Eisenberg joined at 2:04 p.m.

Amber said there are nine existing wells and two in the application process. She said there are 15 properties that could be added to the system.

Erik said he and Josh Metcalf can plan a future meeting to discuss the timelines and future of the Middle Fork Water System.

Eric Eisenberg said he reviewed a letter the commissioners received regarding the North Prairie Road. He said he evaluated the letter against work Glenn Carter and Ross Petersen already had performed regarding the topic.

Eric said the documents indicate that the road was “widened” in the 1940s. He said the work included realignment, so the county would have had to indicate the width for the new area.

Eric said the road was established in 1885 and 1886. He said the order establishing the road did not specify the width. Therefore, he said, the width defaults to 60 feet in width.

Eric noted that state law is strict about how to vacate a road. He said that Lewis County has not followed the vacation procedure, so North Prairie Road remains at the default width of 60 feet.

Eric reiterated that the county never vacated the right of way.

Commissioner Fund joined at 2:22 p.m.

Rich Curtis said the commissioners on April 8, 1885, set the width of the road at 30 feet, as outlined in Vol. 3 of the Lewis County Commissioners Court Record, pages 412 and 413.

Commissioner Stamper said he would like to set up a meeting with Eric Eisenberg, Erik Martin and Rich Curtis to further discuss the matter.

At 2:37 p.m., Commissioner Stamper announced that the Board would be going into Executive Session under RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) for 30 minutes to discuss Cortland / Hupy / Green litigation, the northern spotted owl comment and litigation; opioid litigation; and the Lewis County Water Sewer District 2 / Middle Fork Water System. Executive session started at 2:30 p.m.

At 3:10 p.m., the Board extended Executive Session for 5 minutes.

At 3:15 p.m., the Board extended Executive Session for 5 minutes.

At 3:20 p.m., the Board extended Executive Session for 2 minutes.

Executive Session ended at 3:22 p.m. Commissioner Stamper noted that no decisions had been made.

Meeting ended at 3:24 p.m.