

Directors' Update

December 2, 2020

9 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Fund, Commissioner Jackson, County Manager Erik Martin, Becky Butler, Steve Wohld, Scott Smitherman, Andy Caldwell, Tamara Hayes, Alison Puckett, Kaity Nissell, Lee Napier, Tailor Albright, Matt Jaeger, Matt Patana, Meja Handlen, Patrick Shults

Guests: Commissioner-elect Dr. Lindsey Pollock, Nic Scott, Claudia Yaw (9:10 a.m.), Commissioner-elect Sean Swope

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Josh Metcalf discussed the proposed vacation of a portion of the Loren LaBree Road No. 328.

Becky Butler discussed a notice of hearing regarding Lewis County 2020 budget emergency and supplemental appropriations to and transfers within current expense and various funds.

JP Anderson and Becky Butler discussed a resolution to approve the allocation of Coronavirus Relief Funds through the Lewis County Department of Public Health and Social Services to Lewis County School Districts for costs incurred during the COVID-19 emergency and the safe reopening of schools. Becky said the county will provide \$40 per student.

Claudia Yaw joined at 9:10 a.m.

JP Anderson discussed a resolution to approve a memorandum of Understanding between Lewis County and Housing Resource Center to provide rapid rehousing and prevention services in the amount of \$267,193.

JP Anderson and Meja Handlen discussed a resolution to approve an agreement between Lewis County and Lewis Gather Church to provide funds for coordinated entry and homeless prevention services in the amount of \$150,000.

JP Anderson and Meja Handlen discussed a resolution to approve an agreement between Lewis County and Lewis County Gospel Mission to provide funds for hygiene services in the amount of \$11,235.

Josh Metcalf discussed the proposed vacation of a portion of the Branch of E. J. Lentz Road No. 405A.

Becky Butler discussed two hearings involving the following three resolutions:

- Making a Declaration of Substantial Need for Purposes of Setting the Limit Factor for the Property Tax Levies for the General and Roads Funds in 2021.
- Adopting the Annual Budget of Lewis County for the calendar year of 2021.
- Property Tax Budget and Levy for Both the Current Expense and Road Fund for 2021.

Commissioner Fund made a motion to move two notice items, two consent items, five deliberation items and two hearings to the Monday, Dec. 7, 2020, BOCC agenda.

Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion.

Motion passed 3-0.

Announcements

Chris Panush said progress on the salary study continues.

Becky reviewed year-end budget amendments. Becky said the PUD was able to help 176 customers using the \$164,000 in Coronavirus Relief Funding the county allotted.

Steve Wohld said the PUD is working on updates near the corner of the historic courthouse.

Erik Martin urged electeds and directors to look into work-from-home possibilities as COVID-19 cases increase.

Matt Jaeger said court upgrades are nearing completion.

Andy Caldwell said the county will receive N95 masks to distribute across the county.

Claudia Yaw left at 9:27 a.m.

Patrick Shults discussed upcoming WSU webinars.

Tamara Hayes discussed an effort to urge citizens to purchase gift cards to area businesses. She discussed fair packages on sale.

Commissioner Fund discussed a meeting with the Department of Transportation that took place the previous day to address concerns regarding the Blakeslee Junction homeless camp.

COVID-19

JP Anderson discussed increases in COVID-19 cases across the county, state and nation.

He noted that the county's infection rate was 325.9 per 100,000 for the date range of Nov. 15-28.

JP discussed recent guidance the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has provided regarding distributing vaccines to "priority" groups.

JP discussed efforts to find a successor for Lewis County Public Health Officer Dr. Rachel Wood, who plans to retire in February 2021.

Becky Butler discussed additional federal funding being proposed.

The commissioners discussed their calendars.

Meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m.