

ESC / Directors' Update / COVID-19

December 16, 2020

9:02 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Fund, Commissioner Jackson, County Manager Erik Martin, Alison Puckett, Andy Caldwell, Brittni Rogers, Chris Panush, Chief Chris Sweet, Dianne Dorey, Doug Carey, Eric Eisenberg, Graham Gowing, Arny Davis, Josh Metcalf, JP Anderson, Kaity Nissell, Lee Napier, Megan Sibbert, Patrick Shults, Scott Tinney, Scott Smitherman, Shad Hail, Chief Kevin Engelbertson, Undersheriff Wes Rethwill, Larry Grove, Matt Jaeger, Jonathan Meyer, Susie Palmateer, Marni Larson, Tailor Albright, Chris Panush, Casey Mauermann, Tamara Hayes, Becky Butler, Steve Wohld

Guests: Lianne Everett, Dr. Kevin Caserta, Claudia Yaw, Commissioner-elect Sean Swope, Commissioner-elect Dr. Lindsey Pollock, Nic Scott, Susan DeLaire

Recorder: Rieva Lester

COVID-19

Dr. Lianne Everett of Arbor Health provided the following updates:

- **Bed capacity:** Seven of Arbor Health's 25 beds are in use, and four of the seven are from outside the area.
- **PPE:** Arbor Health is struggling to keep supplies of small gloves and N95 masks.
- **Staffing:** Arbor Health is struggling to fill positions. Roughly 11 percent of staff has been quarantined at one point or another.

Dr. Kevin Caserta of Providence provided the following updates.

- **Bed capacity:** Providence is averaging 45 patients, roughly a quarter of which require critical care.
- **Staffing:** Providence is struggling to fill positions.
- **Community:** Dr. Caserta urged the public to help curb the spread by wearing masks, washing hands and practicing social distancing so the county can begin to reopen.

ESC

Steve Wohld provided an update on the ongoing salary survey. He noted that the consultant is reaching out to offices and departments to better identify the salary structures. Steve noted that the commissioners met with the consultant the previous day and that the commissioners approved the target goals, approved the implementation strategy and instructed staff to pursue the next phase of the project. He said the target date to implement the updated salary structure is April 1, 2021.

Directors' Update

Chief Sweet discussed an interlocal agreement for use of jail facilities between the Lewis County Sheriff's Office/County and the incorporated cities of Centralia, Chehalis, Napavine, Toledo, Mossyrock, Morton, Winlock and Pe Ell. He noted some may have to hold if the signed agreements are not returned by the cities.

Becky Butler discussed a resolution to approve a financial contribution agreement between Lewis County and Lewis County Seniors organization for senior nutrition program support during calendar-year 2021.

Matt Jaeger discussed a resolution to approve interlocal agreements between Lewis County and area emergency response agencies regarding technology services and authorizing signatures thereon.

Andy Caldwell discussed a resolution to approve the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) for Emergency Management Services between Lewis County Emergency Management and the City of Vader, City of Toledo, City of Winlock, and the Town of Pe Ell.

Andy Caldwell discussed a resolution to approve an agreement between Lewis County and Washington State Military Department for the FEMA Emergency Management Performance Grant and authorizing signatures thereon.

JP Anderson discussed a resolution to approve an MOU between Lewis County and the following two entities: Valley View Health Center and Cascade Community Health Care contingent on receipt of an HRSA grant (Approve Memorandum of Understanding between Valley View Health Center, Cascade Community Healthcare and Lewis County to develop a consortium).

JP Anderson discussed a resolution to reappoint Marie Shankle and William Marshall and appoint Janice Marshall as regular members to the Veterans' Advisory Board (VAB) through June 30, 2022.

JP Anderson discussed a resolution to approve an amendment between Lewis County and Reliable Enterprises to amend Resolution #20-434, which listed the incorrect amount for case management services in Exhibit B.

JP Anderson discussed a resolution to approve contract amendment #B between Lewis County and Housing Resource Center.

Josh Metcalf discussed a resolution to approve an amendment to the agreement between Lewis County and the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) for Berwick Creek Barrier Removal and Realignment (Logan Hill Rd MP 0.103, CMP 1805).

Josh Metcalf discussed a resolution to initiate county road construction projects and assign County Road Project (CRP) numbers.

Josh Metcalf discussed a resolution to approve County Road Easement No. 50-101193 between Lewis County and DNR and authorizing signatures thereon.

Tammy Martin discussed a resolution to approve an agreement between Lewis County and Washington State Office of Public Defense for Public Defense Improvement Funds.

Rieva Lester discussed a resolution to update Lewis County's CEDS list.

Erik Martin discussed a resolution to update Lewis County's District Court Public Defender contracts. Erik noted that the group had not received a salary increase since 2008.

Rieva Lester discussed a resolution to approve 2021 "lodging tax" contracts with various organizations for funding from Tourism Promotion Fund No. 1980 for tourism-related activities. She said the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee received 19 applications requesting funds totaling \$706,636. She said the county is approving 17 projects for funds totaling \$515,286.

Eric Eisenberg discussed a resolution to approve the purchase of Trimble surveying device (approving purchase of a Trimble X7 and necessary equipment, hardware, software and training). Eric noted there would be no need for a separate resolution for a drone since the cost falls below the \$40,000 threshold. Undersheriff Wes Rethwill thanked the commissioners and the PA's Office for their work to secure the improved technology.

Becky Butler discussed a hearing for the Lewis County 2020 budget, emergency and supplemental appropriations to and transfers within current expense and other funds.

Commissioner Fund made a motion to move two consent items, 17 deliberation items and one hearing to the Monday, Dec. 21, 2020, BOCC agenda.

Commissioner Stamper seconded the motion.

Motion passed 3-0.

Rieva Lester noted there likely would be two late adds: one for a school contract and another for a memo with the Lewis County Seniors for FEMA funding. Becky Butler described the two items.

Roundtable

Tamara Hayes reminded the group about fair packets available for purchase.

Becky Butler reminded the group to turn in any budget amendments.

Doug Carey provided an update on projects.

Josh Metcalf said Emergency Management orders are due Dec. 21. He said the next round of orders will open Jan. 4. Josh said N95 masks are being distributed throughout the community.

Scott Smitherman provided updates on upgrades taking place in 911.

Commissioner Jackson left at 10:13 a.m.

COVID-19

JP Anderson provided updates on the number of COVID-19 cases. He said the state is changing reporting regarding antigen tests, which will increase by at least 216 the county's total number of cases by at least 216 and increase by two the total number of deaths. JP discussed the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines.

Wednesday Workshop

The commissioners said they will discuss the Lewis-Mason-Thurston Area Agency on Aging on Dec. 21.

Commissioner Fund asked that staff coordinate a tour of the Blakeslee Junction homeless camp.

Meeting ended at 10:35 a.m.