

BOCC Wrap-Up

March 1, 2021

9:02 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, County Manager Erik Martin, Becky Butler, Chris Panush, Sheriff Snaza, Steve Wohld, Lara McRea, Josh Metcalf, Undersheriff Wes Rethwill, Katie Conradi, Matt Jaeger, Lee Napier, Tammy Martin

Guests: Claudia Yaw, Peter Lahmann, Frank Corbin, Nic Scott, Joni Sellards, Edna J. Fund

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Commissioner Swope made a motion to add to the March 2 Business Meeting agenda the following item: Resolution 21-078: Approving an Interlocal Agreement between Lewis County and the State of Washington, Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) for the use of the Meskill Pit.

Commissioner Pollock seconded.

Motion passed 3-0.

Rieva Lester noted that Public Works had held the resolution regarding the Lentz Road vacation.

Sheriff Snaza and Commissioner Swope discussed the county's marijuana regulations under Ordinance 1271. Sheriff Snaza said he will support whatever the commissioners decide. Commissioner Swope said a recent Supreme Court decision about drug possession as well as recent news about tax revenue collected elsewhere from marijuana sales prompted him to revisit the conversation.

Becky Butler reviewed marijuana excise and sales tax revenues being collected by cities and counties throughout the state.

Commissioner Pollock said her understanding from the Drug Enforcement Administration is that there likely will be changes regarding marijuana at the federal level.

County Manager Erik Martin noted that the county's ordinance allows for marijuana sales if the businesses obtain a federal permit, permits not offered currently.

Sheriff Snaza urged the commissioners to move now instead of waiting for the federal government to make changes.

Commissioner Stamper said he'd like to hear from residents in the county's unincorporated areas before making any decisions.

Sheriff Snaza left at 9:33 a.m.

The commissioners provided their activity reports

Commissioner Pollock:

- Feb. 28 vaccine distribution at the fairgrounds went well

Commissioner Swope:

- Met with Abarrno and Orcutt to discuss transportation funding for the North Lewis County Interchange
- Met with Jonathan Meyer and Dianne Dorey to discuss the proposed TransAlta land deal
- Participated in a ride-along with Sheriff's Deputy Teitzel over the weekend

Commissioner Stamper:

- Met with officials regarding Swofford Pond project
- Met with constituents and officials in East Lewis County who were appreciative of Public Works' response to the recent winter storm

Internal Services personnel authorization form (PAF) – administrative assistant: The commissioners approved the request.

Legislative session update – review of bills the state Legislature is considering: The group reviewed a handful of bills.

Lewis-Mason-Thurston Area Agency on Aging (LMTAAA) vacancy: The commissioners directed Rieva Lester to post the vacancy.

Approval of minutes for the week of Feb. 15: The commissioners approved the minute folder for the week of Feb. 15.

Infrastructure priorities – Sen. Murray: Erik Martin said he is compiling a list of items and will add to it any projects discussed during the March 5 Mayors' Meeting.

Recurring meetings (monthly and quarterly meetings): The commissioners said they would revisit the topic later in the year.

COVID-19: Becky Butler said the commissioners will need to have a plan in place regarding the potential allocation of federal COVID-19 funding. She said it appears that economic impacts and lost revenues will be two of the four approved uses of the proposed funds.

The commissioners reviewed their calendars.

Meeting ended at 9:59 a.m.