

PA Update

March 16, 2021

3:06 p.m.

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, County Manager Erik Martin, Sheriff Snaza, Undersheriff Wes Rethwill, Chief Kevin Engelbertson, Chief Dusty Breen, Stephanie Miller, Judge Toynbee, Jonathan Meyer, Chris Panush, Amber Smith, Becky Butler, Josh Metcalf, Steve Wohld, Eric Eisenberg, Natalie Dunlap, Lara McRea, Shelly Stewart, Tailor Albright

Guests: Edna J. Fund, Claudia Yaw

Recorder: Rieva Lester

The group discussed the state Supreme Court's recent Blake decision and the county's proposed ordinance, Ordinance 1324, which would address possession of a controlled substance.

Sheriff Snaza shared his support for a proposed ordinance to address possession of a controlled substance.

Judge Toynbee said he was being cautious not to weigh in due to the needed separation of the legislative and judicial branches. He did caution the board to take into account efforts to decriminalize some drug activity. He discussed what he called devastating effects of the Blake decision.

Jonathan Meyer said he'd love to see expanded treatment options to include help for low-level offenders.

The group discussed the merits of a countywide ordinance vs. one that would cover unincorporated areas.

Jonathan said he would reach out to area mayors and city managers to update them on the proposed ordinance and ask them for feedback.

Eric said he will soon work on draft letters to Sens. Murray and Cantwell regarding timber. He suggested reaching out to their staffs to discuss why they would choose to regulate areas in which the spotted owl does not live.

Former Commissioner Fund and Jonathan discussed actions the state is taking in response to the Blake decision.

At 3:41 p.m., Commissioner Stamper announced that the Board would be going into Executive Session for 20 minutes to discuss the following:

Under RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)

- Title VI
- The Middle Fork Water Sewer System

- Pending litigation regarding O'Connor v. Lewis County
- Transalta
- The Northern Spotted Owl litigation and comment

Under RCW 42.30.110(1)(b)

- The Middle Fork Water Sewer System
- Blakeslee Junction

Executive session started at 3:43 p.m.

At 4:03 p.m., the Board extended Executive Session for 20 minutes.

Commissioner Stamper left at 4:23 p.m.

At 4:23 p.m., the Board extended Executive Session for 10 minutes.

At 4:33 p.m., the Board extended Executive Session for 5 minutes.

Executive Session ended at 4:38 p.m. Commissioner Pollock noted that no decisions had been made.

Commissioner Swope made a motion to authorize Susan Drummond to submit a counteroffer to the federal government regarding attorneys' fees in the northern spotted owl litigation at her discretion.

Commissioner Pollock seconded.

Motion passed 2-0.

Commissioner Swope made a motion to approve that any attorneys' fees received in the northern spotted owl litigation be evenly split between Lewis County and the two other counties involved.

Commissioner Pollock seconded.

Motion passed 2-0.

Meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.