

## ESC / Directors' Update

March 17, 2021

9 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, County Manager Erik Martin, Becky Butler, Chris Panush, John Abplanalp, Josh Metcalf, Susie Palmateer, Andy Caldwell, Scott Smitherman, Doug Carey, Bill Wamsley, Arny Davis, Grace Jimenez, Graham Gowing, Jonathan Meyer, Lara McRea, Steve Wohld, Lee Napier, Larry Grove, Megan Sibbert, Meja Handlen, Marni Larson, Michelle Sabin, Undersheriff Wes Rethwill, Sara Heinricher, Shad Hail, Patrick Shults, Dianne Dorey, Tammy Martin, Scott Tinney, Matt Jaeger, Alison Puckett, Casey Mauermann, Brittini Rogers, Lara McRea, Tom Stanton

Guests: Claudia Yaw, Susan DeLaire, Edna J. Fund, Frank Corbin

Recorder: Rieva Lester

### ESC

**Munis update:** Becky Butler said training is being offered for the new Munis "Hub." She said work order management also is being implemented and that HR functions likely will be implemented at year-end.

**American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act overview:** Becky said the new round of funds can cover revenue lost because of the pandemic as well as COVID-19 response, infrastructure and essential workers. Becky said the county will receive roughly \$15.6 million in 60 days and then the same amount within 12 months later. She said the county also will receive additional funding because it receives Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) funding.

**Update on Chehalis Avenue buildings:** Steve Wohld said the building that housed the Eugenia Center will house Community Development, Environmental Services, the water lab and conference rooms. He said Weed already has moved to the building. He said GIS will move to the Public Works building. Steve said Motorpool is considering moving out to the Central Shop. Doug Carey said the project is expected to be complete by the end of 2022.

**Law and Justice Center security:** Andy Caldwell said concerns have been raised regarding the security firm that works at the entrance to the Law and Justice Center. He said the county hired a retired police officer, Neil Hoium, to patrol county campuses and that the county should consider adding another "Neil" and putting the security firm's contract out to bid. He noted there likely would be increased costs. However, Andy noted that the county has three court sites to patrol, in addition to the courthouse: Law and Justice, R.E. Bennett and Fairgrounds. Susie Palmateer said Neil has reached out to other retired officers to gauge interest in serving in a similar capacity. Susie said bailiffs had been helping with mask compliance, health screenings, etc., but that court is back in session so the bailiffs are needed elsewhere. Susie said the hired security firm at the entrance of the Law and Justice center is woefully inadequate. Becky noted that security costs may be covered by COVID funding and that it's possible security could become mandatory.

The commissioners directed Andy to issue a request for proposals (RFP) regarding security. Andy said he would use a small committee to determine the needed scope of services for the RFP.

### **Roundtable**

Treasurer Arny Davis said the county sold its bonds the previous day and that the county secured a rate of 1.76 percent.

Assessor Dianne Dorey said her office has been busy and that she expects a hearty construction season based on the number of permits.

Clerk Scott Tinney said the Clerk's Office has resumed passport-processing work.

Chris Panush reminded the electeds and directors to submit their salary study approvals by the end of the week.

### **COVID-19**

John Abplanalp said the county received roughly 3,000 vaccines to distribute at mass vaccination sites. He said roughly half of the county's population age 70 or older have initiated the vaccination process and that roughly a quarter of the population has received their vaccines.

At 9:48 a.m., the commissioners announced they were recessing for 2 minutes.

The commissioners resumed their meeting at 9:54 a.m.

### **DIRECTORS' UPDATE**

Josh Melcalf discussed a notice of hearing regarding the closure of a portion of Senn Road off Centralia Alpha Road near Chehalis, Washington.

Becky Butler said she is postponing the notice of hearing for the Lewis County 2021 budget. She said the hearing will be April 13.

Bill Wamsley discussed a resolution approving a Stewardship Agreement No. 17-SA-11060300-020 Modification 4 (Four), between Lewis County and the USDA Forest Service, Gifford Pinchot National Forest that adds funding in the amount of \$13,955.64 and changes the performance period from December 31, 2020, to December 31, 2023.

Chris Panush discussed a resolution to authorize initial placements of new salary grid for non-union employees.

Chris discussed a resolution to authorize initial placements on a new salary grid for AFSCME and the Lewis County Dispatchers Guild and Certain Teamsters Represented Employees.

John Abplanalp discussed a resolution to approve Amendment C between Lewis County and Equity Institute to provide additional funds and extend timeline for Eviction Rental Assistance Program.

John Abplanalp discussed a resolution to approve Amendment B between Lewis County and The Salvation Army to add funds through the housing assistance unit Eviction Rental Assistance Program Grant.

Josh Metcalf discussed a resolution to approve the proposed acquisition of additional right of way for Lincoln Creek Road, Centralia.

Josh Metcalf discussed a resolution to approve the proposed vacation of a portion of the John W. Berry Road No. 293.

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to move one notice items, two consent items and seven deliberation items to the Tuesday, March 23, 2021, BOCC agenda.

Commissioner Swope seconded the motion.

Motion passed 3-0.

### **Announcements**

Erik Martin thanked the Directors for their efforts.

Scott Smitherman said he will honor his 911 employee of the year during the March 23 BOCC Business Meeting.

Doug Carey said contractors are installing a new card reader / ADA door at the east entrance of the historic courthouse.

Patrick Shults said WSU is opening up for additional in-person activities.

Matt Jaeger said IT is working on upgrades. He said 6,000 people have used the court video system this year so far, meaning that 6,000 people didn't have to come on campus.

Josh Metcalf thanked the fire chief, dispatch and county crews for responding to a blaze at the Morton transfer station.

### **Wednesday Workshop**

**Commercial Aviation Coordinating Commission (CACC) airport study:** Josh said he will send a draft of the later for the commissioners' review in the day.

**Legislative session update:** Commissioner Pollock said a revenue forecast is expected later in the day. Former Commissioner Fund said lawmakers will have \$3 million more than they anticipated.

**OpenGov contract:** Becky said the commissioners have three options for the OpenGov contract:

- Pay annually: No discount.
- Prepay for five years: Save roughly \$20,000.

- Prepay for three years, which would provide savings and then pay the regular rate for the final two years.

Becky said ARP could potentially cover at least some of the costs. Steve Wohld said the renewal fees would be lower. The commissioners directed Becky to move forward with the prepaid five-year contract.

The commissioners approved a letter to appoint Commissioner Swope to the Community Action Council (CAC) of Lewis, Mason and Thurston Counties. Erik said he would attend the group's meeting later in the day.

Meeting ended at 10:29 a.m.