

County Manager Update

April 12, 2021

11 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Swope, County Manager Erik Martin, Becky Butler, Steve Wohld, Chris Panush, Lee Napier, Tailor Albright, Shad Hail, Lara McRea

Guests: Edna J. Fund, Frank Corbin

Recorder: Rieva Lester

911 Consolidation Feasibility Study

Erik Martin said he has distributed to members of the Combined User Committee findings from DELTAWRX's 911 consolidation feasibility study, which found that Lewis County should concentrate on local improvements and abandon plans to coordinate with TCOMM.

Erik said feedback included suggestions to:

- Move 911 to an existing building instead of constructing a new building.
- Form a 911 district supported by tax dollars.
- Seek outside funding to help with relocation efforts.

The commissioners directed Erik to move forward with DELTAWRX's recommendations and to use any unused DELTAWRX funding to identify local improvements.

Community Development update

Permit revenue: Erik said permit revenue is up roughly 40 percent over the previous year's figures. In addition to revenue increase, the building staff has processed and issued 23% more permits over last year.

Erik said he and Lee Napier are monitoring whether additional staffing is needed. Lee said the county may want to consider hiring an additional building inspector and planner to offset the increase in work load as the issued permits leads to new construction on the tax rolls.

Lee clarified that while the county is helping Winlock with its permitting process in the Urban Growth Area, related to the Winlock Industrial site, the permitting for the remainder of the Urban Growth Area are reviewed and issued by the city.

Permit extensions and new construction assessments: Erik said work is being done to address hiccups caused when new construction permits are extended.

Hearings Examiner - expansion of Good Quarry: Erik said the hearings examiner will hold a hearing about the expansion project on April 30. Lee said details about the project and other current planning

applications can be found on Community Development's website at <https://lewiscountywa.gov/departments/community-development/current-planning-applications/>.

Internal Services

Steve Wohld said work is being done to prepare for a possible 2021 fair in August.

Commissioner Pollock said the county is working on a survey to help identify needs for the fairgrounds.

Public Works/DEM update

Solid Waste personnel: Erik said Solid Waste Services Manager Greg Gachowsky has submitted his two weeks' notice.

Middle Fork Water Sewer System: Erik said the county has implemented a rate study. He said the county has received water rights applications for the commons area. Erik said a property owner has been illegally accessing water valves in the area.

Vader Water System: Erik said work is being done to increase capacity in the area. He said the county can pledge up to \$4 million to improve infrastructure in the area.

Chip seal list: Erik said the county will chip seal nearly 132 road miles in 2021. He said chip seal lasts roughly 10 years.

North Lewis County Industrial Access (NLCIA): Erik said state funding earmarked for 2025 may be available in 2021. If that happens, he said, Lewis County will issue an RFP to work on plans for the NLCIA.

911 update

Funding requests: Erik said 911 is down three positions.

Personnel

Erik said he found a public information specialist job description from Thurston County that could be used to help create a new Lewis County position.

COVID-19

Becky Butler said the state Department of Health (DOH) has indicated it will not contract to use the former Sears site. She said the county may choose to lease the space directly. Becky said the National Guard would staff the vaccination site.

Steve Wohld said the RE Bennett site being used on a monthly contract for Lewis County trials has a potential sale pending.

Meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m.