

County Manager Update

April 26, 2021

11:08 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, County Manager Erik Martin, Becky Butler, Chris Panush, Katie Conradi, Meja Handlen, Tailor Albright

Guests: Nic Scott, Edna J. Fund, The Chronicle, Edna J. Fund

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Office security

Erik Martin said Andy Caldwell has recommended the BOCC secure its lobby, enclosing the lobby similar to that of the Assessor's Office, which would cost roughly \$5,700 after tax.

The commissioners said they'd like to see the mock-up but that they approve of the project.

Community Development

UGA / Housing: Erik said Centralia is working on a housing study related to a statute the city must follow. He said it may be different from what information the county hopes to obtain.

Public Works / DEM

Newaukum Valley Road: FEMA has provided verbal agreement to move forward in summer 2021. He said he is looking into whether Josh Metcalf could be the designated signer. Erik said work likely would begin in July and that a declaration of emergency would be needed.

FEMA portal: Erik said FEMA has created a portal that agencies will have to use for FEMA projects. He said he has Andy Caldwell how the county can help smaller entities navigate the portal.

Construction schedule: Erik outlined some of the Public Works maintenance and contract projects planned for the summer.

Staffing: Erik said Motorpool may ask for approval to hire an additional mechanic to offset overtime and outsourcing.

COVID-19

Erik said the county has been asked to donate a surplus van to the Lewis County Seniors. 2006 Dodge Caravan valued at roughly \$2,600. Becky Butler said the donation would be linked to COVID-19.

Erik said the demand for vaccinations appears to have waned and that JP Anderson is looking for ways to remove any roadblocks.

Personnel

Public Information position: Erik said he has drafted a job description for a public information position. He said the commissioners, directors and other electeds could use that person to share information in multiple media fronts, including Facebook.

Commissioner Swope said he thinks it's important to get the facts out. He shared headlines from three recent Chronicle articles, including those linked to controversies related to the animal shelter and a recent lawsuit settlement.

Erik said he will send the commissioners the job description and have it scored.

Commissioner Stamper expressed reservations about adding another FTE. He said he is curious about the job description.

Commissioner Swope said it would be good for the county to share the "why" behind various projects.

Meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m.