

Directors' Update

May 26, 2021

9 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, County Manager Erik Martin, Matt Jaeger, JP Anderson, Susie Palmateer, Steve Wohld, Chris Panush, Lee Napier, Doug Carey, Matt Patana, Josh Metcalf, Eric Eisenberg, Alison Puckett, Andy Caldwell, Lara McRea, Megan Sibbert, Patrick Shults, Scott Smitherman, Taylor Albright, Commissioner Stamper (9:04 a.m.), Sherri Dokken, Tom Stanton

Guests: Linda Williams, Jessica Peterson, Frank Corbin, The Chronicle, Nic Scott

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Lee Napier discussed a notice of Hearing for Ordinance 1326, amending LCC Title 15-Chapter 15.05 Building Codes. She said the hearing will take place June 22.

Eric Eisenberg discussed a resolution to establish the Lewis County Prosecuting Attorney's Drug Enforcement Fund No. 1610 for certain purposes consistent with RCW 69.50.505.

Josh Metcalf discussed a resolution to list the bids received and contractor selected for the County Safety Program-Phase 2 Project, HSIP-000S(553), Federal Aid Contract No. TA-6895, CRP No. 2191B. Josh said Janke Trucking of Napavine was the lowest responsive bidder.

JP Anderson discussed a resolution to approve an MOU between Equity Institute and Lewis County to provide COVID-19 outreach and vaccine opportunities to Spanish-speaking residents of Lewis County.

Josh Metcalf discussed a resolution to reappoint three members to the Lewis County Solid Waste Advisory Committee. He said Ed Lewis, Tom Rupert and Bob Taylor would be reappointed for three-year terms.

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to move one notice item, two consent items and four deliberation items to the Tuesday, June 1, 2021, BOCC agenda.

Commissioner Swope seconded the motion.

Motion passed 3-0.

COVID-19: Cases, response, supplies, services, policies, funding and allocation

JP Anderson said the county saw 149 new COVID-19 cases the week of May 16-22. He said the county's death toll has increased to 66. He said there is an active outbreak at one congregate setting. JP said 26.8 percent of county residents have been fully vaccinated.

Commissioner Swope said the state's quarantine and isolation facility had to transfer one of its patients to the hospital.

JP said the state Secretary of Health indicated the state is looking to respond to the county's concerns regarding the state's decision to set up the quarantine facility at Centralia's Lakeview motel.

Chris Panush said the state L&I provided updated mask guidance May 21. He said staff has developed an updated mask policy in response.

Susie Palmateer expressed concerns about keeping jurors safe. She said many other courts are continuing mask requirements in the Law and Justice Center. Chris clarified that the proposed policy would apply to employees only and would apply to the departments under the BOCC. Erik Martin said he feels the safety and security falls under the purview of the judges and the other electeds in the Law and Justice building.

Erik said he'd like to have the updated mask policy go before the commissioners via resolution June 2.

Roundtable

Matt Jaeger said the county has developed a website dedicated to American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding and has worked to implement the new OpenGov software.

Erik said Sen. Cantwell is looking for an outline of the area's infrastructure needs.

Doug Carey said the exterior project at the Law and Justice center will kick off June 1. He said it will be a three-month project.

Lee Napier said the Planning Commission held a work session May 25. She said Community Development has three vacancies.

Matt Patana said work continues to prepare the fairgrounds. He said help is still needed at Schaefer Park.

Josh Metcalf said the availability of materials, parts and equipment are decreasing while prices are increasing. Josh said the Ceres Hill slide has been stabilized and that the road has reopened. Josh said crews are preparing for chip seal work. He said the county is facing paint shortages.

Wednesday Workshop

Lewis County / Packwood Improvement Club agreement regarding maintenance and operation of the Cowlitz River Public Access Park: Commissioner Pollock made a motion to provide after-the-fact authorization for the BOCC chair to sign an agreement with Lewis County / Packwood Improvement Club regarding maintenance and operation of the Cowlitz River Public Access Park.

Commissioner Swope seconded.

Motion passed 3-0.

Napavine Cemetery District, position 3: Rieva Lester noted the position had been vacant since July 15, 2017. Linda Williams said she has filed for the seat.

Juvenile request re: PO2 positions in response to salary survey: Rieva Lester noted the discussion would hold until June 2.

Meeting ended at 10:06 a.m.