

ESC / Directors' Update

May 19, 2021

9:01 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, County Manager Erik Martin, Becky Butler, Matt Jaeger, JP Anderson, Shad Hail, Doug Carey, Scott Tinney, Chris Panush, Steve Wohld, Brittini Rogers, Grace Jimenez, Graham Gowing, Matt Patana, Lara McRea, Megan Sibbert, Marni Larson, Patrick Shults, Scott Smitherman, Tom Stanton, Susie Palmateer, Arny Davis, Undersheriff Wes Rethwill, Dianne Dorey, Katie Conradi, Andy Caldwell, Josh Metcalf, Tailor Albright

Guests: Nic Scott, Susan DeLaire, Edna J. Fund, The Chronicle, Frank Corbin

Recorder: Rieva Lester

ESC

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds: Becky Butler said the county has been allocated \$15.6 million. She said the county will receive half now and the other half in May 2022. She said the board is meeting regularly to determine how to spend the funds and already has approved a grants coordinator position, a public information specialist position, a water infrastructure study, a sewer infrastructure study and a housing study. She noted that the funds must be obligated by Dec. 31, 2024.

OpenGov: Becky said implementation continues. She noted that a separate ARPA page will be set up to improve transparency.

Munis update: Becky said the newest update will go live the week of July 10 and will streamline budgeting and invoicing efforts.

2022 Budget Planning: Becky said budgeting work is taking place. She said Risk is working to set its rates.

Salary survey re: electeds' salaries: Commissioner Stamper said the salary consultant has provided information regarding electeds' salaries. The commissioners said they are looking to dissolve the Salary Commission and are looking at possible alternatives.

Proposed update to Public Records Policy: Chris Panush said Casey Mauermann and Amber Smith are working on a new policy. He said his office would provide a summary of the proposed changes.

COVID-19: JP Anderson said Lewis County saw 131 new cases and one new death the week of May 9. JP said 25.4 percent of Lewis County residents have been fully vaccinated. He noted that Public Health and Social Services will hold a vaccination clinic during the Packwood Flea Market.

Roundtable

Shad Hail said guardian ad litem volunteers are needed to “be the voice” for area children.

Scott Tinney said the Clerk’s Office is busy with Blake-related work. He said the office has resumed passport processing.

Arny Davis said first-half taxes have been entered into the books. He said the Treasurer’s Office is working on two pieces of legislation that were signed into law: 1410 and 1271.

Undersheriff Wes Rethwill said Motorola will give a demonstration on body cameras later in the day.

DIRECTORS’ UPDATE

JP Anderson discussed a resolution to approve an MOU between Birds Eye Medical and Lewis County to provide COVID-19 vaccines to residents of Lewis County. He said the amendment will extend the agreement period.

Erik Martin and Josh Metcalf discussed a resolution to approve a temporary easement on McCormick Creek Road right of way to the State of Washington, Department of Transportation by authorizing signature thereon.

Becky Butler discussed a hearing to approve the Lewis County 2021 budget amendment for the American Rescue Plan Fund No. 1420.

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to move two consent items, two deliberation items and one hearing to the Tuesday, May 25, 2021, BOCC agenda.

Commissioner Swope seconded the motion.

Motion passed 3-0.

Announcements

Steve Wohld said interviews for the financial analyst II and Parks and Rec positions the following week.

Chris Panush gave an update on work being performed at the fairgrounds.

JP Anderson said the county is still awaiting guidance from L&I regarding the eased restrictions regarding masks.

Commissioner Swope left at 9:47 a.m.

Erik said the Public Information Specialist has been posted.

Matt Patana gave the following updates:

- Facilities is being audited on its equipment and county buildings.
- A park manager is needed for Schaefer Park.
- Toledo has agreed to perform the water testing at South County Park.

- The Veterans Conservation Corps will help with cleanup and other duties at South County Park.

Doug Carey discussed a City of Chehalis project to replace Chehalis Avenue.

Matt Jaeger discussed cybersecurity efforts.

Lee Napier said she will discuss the adoption of the 2018 state building codes during the Olympia Master Builders meeting planned for later in the day.

Scott Smitherman said he is working with Rep. Orcutt to determine how to spend the \$125,000 the state allocated to Lewis County 911. He said he is working with Joint Base Lewis McChord on an internship program.

Chris Panush said the county has openings for five or so casual positions in addition to several other positions.

Meeting ended at 10:01 a.m.