

ESC / Directors' Update

July 21, 2021

9 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, County Manager Erik Martin, Matt Jaeger, Becky Butler, JP Anderson, Doug Carey, Lee Napier, Matt Patana, Daleyn Coleman, Megan Eastman, Dianne Dorey, Scott Tinney, Alison Puckett, Brittni Rogers, Graham Gowing, Katie Conradi, Lara McRea, Larry Grove, Marni Larson, Scott Smitherman, Wes Rethwill, Arny Davis, Tailor Arrington, Josh Metcalf, Meja Handlen, Tom Stanton, Grace Jimenez, Gwen Reed

Guests: Claudia Yaw, Frank Corbin, Susan DeLaire

Recorder: Rieva Lester

ESC

Salary commission / electeds' salaries

The commissioners reviewed their options regarding electeds' salaries.

The commissioners directed staff to draft a resolution that ties the electeds' salaries – aside from the salaries of the commissioners – to the salaries of the Superior Court judges and includes a recital that requires annual ratification of those salary changes. The commissioners also directed staff to draft a resolution that does not include the ratification language.

Erik Martin noted that the commissioners would need to select a percentage by which to tie the salaries.

Erik also noted that the commissioners would need to determine whether to include the Sheriff's salary in the fold.

Overview of 2022 preliminary internal service rates and services

IT: Matt Jaeger said IT rates are based off of MNS. Matt said he is proposing a budget of \$2.16 million, which reflects a 3.8 percent increase over the previous year. Matt noted that the bulk of the change reflects salary, subscription and equipment changes, etc.

Facilities: Matt Patana reviewed the services covered through Facilities rates.

COVID-19

JP Anderson said the county saw 43 new cases, six new hospitalizations and four new deaths the week of July 11-17.

Roundtable

Megan Eastman discussed long-term care benefit requirements. She said an opt-out period starts in November and that to opt out, individuals must have a plan in place by October. Megan said open enrollment for a local plan through WCIF will take place in August.

Arny Davis said the county's timber tax account has a reserve fund that will be used to cushion the special purpose districts – the fire departments, etc. – from the fallout linked to the Department of Revenue's snafu regarding timber taxes. He said school districts are not included in the reserve and therefore will be impacted.

Assessor Dianne Dorey said she has three vacancies in her office, with one linked to FMLA.

Clerk Scott Tinney said the Clerk's Office is handling lots of jury trials and passport applications. Scott said passport processing is taking roughly 18 weeks.

Undersheriff Wes Rethwill said new laws going into effect July 25 will affect the Sheriff's Office. Wes said work continues to identify a body camera vendor.

Auditor Larry Grove said ballots for the Aug. 3 primary have been mailed.

DIRECTORS' UPDATE

Commissioner Pollock discussed a resolution to appoint Jill Van Hulle and Bryan Merryman as regular members of the Lewis County Water Conservancy Board.

Lee Napier discussed a resolution to provide preliminary approval of the East Roanoke PUD located within the Centralia Urban Growth Area (UGA).

HELD: JP Anderson discussed a resolution to approve Amendment B to a mass vaccination agreement between Lewis County and Bird's Eye Medical for COVID-19 vaccinations. JP said Bird's Eye continues outreach efforts, mobile clinics, etc. JP said the contract is for up to \$610,000 and is for reimbursements and that the work must be approved by the county. Becky Butler suggested including language indicating that funding of up to \$610,000 would be provided based on services requested. Meja Handlen clarified that the contract itself indicates that the funding is for an amount "up to" and that it specifies that the funding is for approved services. The group opted to hold the resolution a week.

Josh Metcalf discussed a resolution ratifying the purchase of new fuel card readers and software from Mascott Equipment and authorizing signature thereon.

Josh Metcalf discussed a resolution adopting Washington State Department of Transportation/American Public Works Association (WSDOT/APWA) Standard Specification for Lewis County road, bridge and municipal construction contracts.

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to move two consent items and four deliberation items to the Tuesday, July 27, 2021, BOCC agenda.

Commissioner Swope seconded the motion.

Motion passed 3-0.

Rieva Lester noted that the .09 agreement with the East Lewis County PDA likely would be a late add for July 27.

Announcements

Matt Jaeger discussed IT's recent walk-through of Maple Lane, taking place in preparation for Juvenile's temporary move there during its construction project. Matt said IT is helping the Sheriff's Office with its body cam project.

Becky Butler said the State Auditor's Office (SAO) has started its audit and will hold its Entrance Conference with Commissioner Stamper later in the day. Budget amendments were due the previous week. Becky said she is working on streamlining the budget process. Becky said Lewis County is poised to receive \$300,000 of the state's allocation regarding unfunded mandates. Becky noted that the EDC will hold its Stakeholders' Meeting later in the day. Becky said she has hired Gwen Reed as a budget technician.

JP said he has hired Eric Farmer as Ed Mund's successor. He discussed outreach regarding farmers' markets.

Doug said the bid package for the Juvenile project is being finalized.

Matt Patana said fair prep is in full swing.

Daleyn Coleman said the county has 30 job openings.

Connie Riker said she'd like the board to appoint Mirinda Moriarty to the Lewis County Outdoor Recreation and Tourism committee. Connie said the fairgrounds will host a 5k marathon in coordination with Garlic Fest.

Wednesday Workshop

Rieva Lester said Shad Hail and Rickie Anders will provide an update regarding Juvenile's efforts during the July 27 Business meeting and that Jesse Honiker of the Southwest Washington Farmers' Cooperative also will give a 10-minute presentation.

Meeting ended at 10:42 a.m.