

County Manager Update

July 26, 2021

11:01 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, County Manager Erik Martin, Becky Butler, Steve Wohld, Chris Panush, Josh Metcalf, Gwen Reed, Katie Conradi, Lee Napier, Tailor Arrington

Guests: Nic Scott, Bill Serrahn, The Chronicle

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Electeds' salaries / Salary Commission

Erik Martin reviewed decisions the commissioners have made and have yet to make regarding elected officials' salaries.

Decisions made

- Tie electeds' salaries (aside from those of the commissioners and the judges) to the Superior Court judges' salaries, which are set by the State Salary Commission.
- Ratify increases via resolution.

Decisions needed

- The percentage to which the electeds' salaries should be tied to the Superior Court judges' salaries.
- Effective dates.
- How to determine commissioner salaries.

Commissioner Pollock suggested having the Salary Commission set the commissioners' salaries and then tying the other electeds' salaries to that of the commissioners.

Commissioner Swope said he'd prefer to have the Salary Commission set the commissioners' salaries and then tie the other electeds' salaries to those of the Superior Court judges.

Erik noted that the State Salary Commission meets every two years. He said the group would meet in 2022 to set salaries for 2023 and 2024. He said that group's changes take effect in July. He recommended making the following Jan. 1 the effective date for Lewis County increases so the commissioners can know ahead of time what the changes will be.

The commissioners agreed to an effective date of Jan. 1.

The commissioners discussed setting the salaries for the elected positions of Auditor, Assessor, Treasurer, Clerk and Coroner to the salaries at 45 percent or 45.5 percent of Superior Court judges' salaries.

The commissioners said they would like to set the Sheriff salary at 68 percent of Superior Court judges' salaries and the Prosecutor's salary at 95 percent of Superior Court judges' salaries.

Clerk Scott Tinney said he feels the elected positions of Auditor, Assessor, Treasurer, Clerk and Coroner should be at 46 percent of the Superior Court judges' salaries.

The commissioners said they would like to continue using the local Salary Commission to determine the commissioners' salaries.

Internal Services update

Steve Wohld provided the following updates:

- Efforts to control graffiti and vandalism at county parks.
- Chehalis Ridge site will back out to bid.
- Juvenile project goes out to bid July 27.
- Rainier building work is underway.
- The remaining Main Street building occupants have agreed to vacate by the end of 2021.
- Community Development design is taking place.
- PA's Office has requested another remodel.
- New PA system has been installed at the fairgrounds.

Erik said he met with the Combined Users Group (CUC) the previous week. He said Scott Smitherman may explore a low-interest loan to pay for 911 system upgrades that are needed.

Erik said the CUC would like to extend its interlocal agreement for one year. Erik noted that an upcoming DELTAWRX meeting has been delayed.

Erik said the county is using the 911 system to dispatch mental health agencies. He said conversations will need to take place to determine whether those agencies should be included in the CUC.

Meeting adjourned at noon.