

BOCC Wrap-Up / County Manager Update

December 16, 2024

9:03 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Brummer, Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, County Manager Ryan Barrett, Mindy Brooks, Becky Butler, Doug Carey, Gabe Anzelini, Chief Chris Sweet, Sheriff Rob Snaza, Undersheriff Kevin Engelbertson, Alex Murray, Eric Eisenberg, Lynn Richard, Matt Patana, Jonathan Meyer, Ross Nielson, Chris Lanegan, Kate Chatterton, Graham Gowing, Jenn Libby-Jones, Josh Metcalf, Meja Handlen, Preston Pinkston, Rudy Rodriguez, Sherri Dokken

Guest(s): Several Lewis County deputies, Celest Wilder, Stacy Denham, Kyle Manley, Emil Pierson

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Public comment: None.

Business Meeting agenda changes: Commissioner Pollock made a motion to add the following to the agenda for the Dec. 17, 2024, BOCC Business Meeting:

- **Resolution 24-434:** Approve an Interlocal Agreement between Lewis County Public Safety Parties for the Operation, Maintenance and Participation in Lewis County 911
- **Resolution 24-458:** Accept a grant from WSAC for energy audits in the Law & Justice Center and Historic Courthouse.

PA's Office request for clothing allowance: Ryan Barrett and Commissioner Swope discussed a request from the PA's Office for permission to use budget capacity to absorb costs for a one-time clothing allowance. Commissioner Pollock asked how it would affect collective bargaining agreements. Jonathan Meyer said it will be made clear that it is not part of the CBA and is a one-time action. He noted that a clothing allowance last occurred in 2016.

Deputy retention request: Sheriff Rob Snaza and Chief Chris Sweet detailed a request to offer a \$1,000 quarterly incentives in 2025 for deputies with two or more years of service at the following costs:

- **Quarter 1** (26 FTEs): \$26,000
- **Quarter 2** (27 FTEs): \$27,000
- **Quarter 3** (28 FTEs): \$28,000
- **Quarter 4** (32 FTEs): \$32,000

Commissioner Pollock asked how the jail would increase revenues to cover the increases. Sheriff Snaza and Chief Sweet discussed several topics, such as jail rates, a potential public safety tax, etc. The commissioners said they would revisit the deputy retention request in the future.

PA's Office request for clothing allowance: Commissioner Pollock made a motion to authorize the PA's Office to use its budget capacity for a one-time clothing allowance. Commissioner Swope seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Executive session: At 9:35 a.m., Commissioner Brummer announced that the Board would be going into executive session under RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) until 9:55 a.m. to discuss the following three topics:

- Property tax appeals
- Levya tort claim
- Dixson tort claim

Executive session ended at 9:55 a.m. Commissioner Brummer noted that no decisions had been made.

2024 budget amendment: Becky Butler reviewed changes to the upcoming budget amendment.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA): Becky Butler reviewed proposed changes regarding ARPA allocations. **Commissioner Pollock made a motion to institute the changes outlined in the budget memo, including the following:**

- Approve the deobligation of \$2.2 million in SLFRF funds from the E911 Communication Radio Project.
- Authorize the transfer of \$2.2 million from the unassigned Current Expense Fund balance to the Capital Fund to support the E911 Communication Radio Project.
- Reallocate up to \$6.9 million toward Public Safety salaries under the Revenue Replacement EC 6.1.

Commissioner Swope seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Timber River Connections (FKA Lewis County Seniors) 2025 lease agreement: Becky Butler reviewed the lease agreement and funding for 2025 first-half nutrition. The commissioners agreed to move forward with both and requested that staff outline all costs associated with the senior centers, such as insurance, etc., in the lease agreement.

Homeless shelter update: Matt Patana, Alex Murray and Eric Eisenberg discussed progress regarding the homeless shelter.

Urban growth area (UGA) interlocal agreement (ILA) for co-management / Comprehensive Plan: Mindy Brooks presented a proposed letter outlining the county's steps for compliance with SB5290 for land divisions in the UGAs. She noted it would include a temporary moratorium in the UGAs. The commissioners agreed to sign the letter with one wording update – changing the verbiage to say the county “is proposing to” instead of saying it “will” issue a moratorium.

Timberland Regional Library (TRL) letter of support: The commissioners agreed to sign a letter of support regarding Mason County's recent TRL Board of Trustees appointment.

Calendars: The commissioners discussed upcoming banquets:

- Chamber of Commerce banquet (Jan. 24 - \$70 apiece)
- Economic Alliance banquet (Feb. 7 - \$85 apiece)

Meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m.