

Directors' Update

November 26, 2025

9:02 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Brummer, Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, County Manager Ryan Barrett, Becky Butler, Mindy Brooks, Gabe Anzelini, Geoff Soderquist, Wes Anderson, Rocky Lyon, Alex Murray, Sheriff Rob Snaza, Anders Pollman, Chief Rick Van Wyck, Chief Gabe Frase, Chief Chris Sweet, Deputy Christopher Rubin, Jeff Hursh, Graham Gowing, John Abplanalp, Natalie Kamieniecki, Sarah Hensley, Sherri Dokken, Matt Patana, Assessor Ross Nielson, Marylynne Kostick, Rachel Lester

Guest(s): Stacy Denham, Greg Rohr, Elizabeth Rohr, Jacob Moore, Alisha Griffith

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Public comment

Elizabeth Rohr shared concerns regarding upcoming budget decisions regarding the Sheriff's Office.

Greg Rohr shared concerns regarding upcoming budget decisions.

Directors' Update items

Geoff Soderquist discussed a notice of hearing for the renewal of a franchise to Cardinal FG Company to install, construct, operate and maintain water utility facilities in Lewis County rights of way.

Becky Butler discussed a notice of hearing for Lewis County 2025 budget emergency and supplemental appropriations to and transfers within current expense and various funds.

Becky Butler discussed a resolution to approve a Public Defense contract with Joshua House for District Court.

Mindy Brooks discussed a resolution to establish a Short Term Rental Advisory Group pursuant to Chapter 2.50, Advisory Groups, Lewis County Code.

Rocky Lyon discussed a resolution to approve a declaration of surplus vehicles and equipment.

Gabe Anzelini discussed a resolution to approve an agreement with Medix Ambulance Services for technology services.

Gabe Anzelini discussed a resolution to approve Interlocal Agreements Between Lewis County and Area Emergency Response Agencies Regarding Technology Services.

Rieva Lester discussed a resolution to approve a \$250,000 .09 (Distressed Counties) grant to Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District for its Airport Levee Design project.

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to move two notice items, two consent items and six deliberation items to the Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2025, BOCC Business Meeting agenda. Commissioner Swope seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Wednesday Workshop

Legislative liaison contracts: The commissioners said they are in support of continuing the county's contract with Columbia Policy Advisors. They said they will further discuss Robert Weidner's proposed contract on Dec. 8.

Roads transfer / traffic policing: Commissioner Swope said he is not in favor of reducing the budget for the Sheriff's Office. He, Commissioner Brummer, Commissioner Pollock and Sheriff Snaza all discussed the need for a public safety tax to cover the ever-increasing costs of law enforcement.

In response to a question from Commissioner Brummer, Sheriff Snaza said a \$300,000 decrease the Sheriff's Office budget would force the office to cut two patrol deputy positions, noting that two additional two patrol deputy positions rely on opioid funding and may be cut if that funding is not available in 2026.

Commissioner Pollock stressed the need to find outside revenue streams to balance the budget. She suggested selling the Kirkland Road shop to plug the budget gap.

Commissioner Brummer said he too is against the idea of an 11th-hour cut to the Sheriff's Office budget.

Sheriff Snaza noted that a global discussion with community partners would be needed before the option of a sales tax to support public safety could be presented to voters.

Water project at Fairgrounds: Matt Patana provided updates on the water project at the Fairgrounds.

Grant opportunity: Anders Pollman provided information regarding a state Department of Health grant he learned of the previous day.

Commissioner Pollock Motion to direct Public Works to apply for a Department of Health Drinking Water System Rehabilitation and Consolidation grant and to direct the chair - or his designee - to sign as such if necessary. Commissioner Swope seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Roundtable

Office and department representatives provided updates, including:

- Gabe Anzelini urged caution regarding cybersecurity.
- Mindy Brooks said Community Development will launch the SmartGov permitting software Dec. 1, and she noted that Community Development will close early Dec. 31. Mindy also noted that the Tour of Lights Christmas-decorating competition will take place Dec. 19.
- Rocky Lyon said Solid Waste is wrapping up on its comprehensive plan.

Meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m.