

BOCC Wrap-Up / County Manager Update

January 12, 2026

9:01 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Brummer, Commissioner Swope, County Manager Ryan Barrett, Becky Butler, Mindy Brooks, Matt Patana, Geoff Soderquist, David Bailey, Chris Sweet, Kevin Engelbertson, Alex Murray, Rachel Lester, Tom Stanton, Sherri Dokken, John Abplanalp, Graham Gowing, Grace Jimenez, Casey Mauermann, Fionna Velazquez, Ashley Hamilton, Josh Weiss (9:30), Troy Nichols (9:30)

Guest(s): Devin Gayton, other members of the public

Recorder: Tammy Martin

Public comment: None.

At 9:01 a.m., Commissioner Pollock announced that the Board would be going into executive session under RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) until 9:06 a.m. to discuss Kyle Scott v. Lewis County Jail.

At 9:06 a.m., Commissioner Pollock extended executive session until 9:09 a.m.

Executive session ended at 9:09 a.m. Commissioner Pollock noted that no decisions had been made.

Agenda change: Commissioner Brummer made a motion to add Resolution 26-021 to the Jan. 13th BOCC Business Meeting. Commissioner Swope seconded. **Motion passed 3-0.**

Rachel Lester presented RES 26-021: Approve a collective bargaining agreement with Teamsters Local #252 effective January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026.

Alex Murray presented options to the Commissioners for Hearing room blinds. The bids include installation. The plan is to repurpose the blinds in the hearing room for other offices and departments. Commissioner Brummer made a motion to approve blind replacement as presented. Commissioner Swope seconded. **Motion passed 3-0.**

Mindy Brooks proposed Community Development office hours to close at 4:30 p.m.

Becky Butler 2026 budget planning will take place on March 2. Becky will have year-end numbers to present and will have proposals for ordinances and a public safety tax as well. Depending on revenue sources, some costs may have to be absorbed.

Tammy Martin presented the only application received for the Civil Service Commission vacancy. The Board agreed to move forward with Joe Mano.

Commissioner Pollock said she had a phone conversation with Greg Kim from The Seattle Times on January 9 regarding the carbon credits.

Meeting recessed at 9:27 a.m.

Recess ended at 9:30 a.m.

Legislative update – Josh Weiss and Troy Nichols (9:30 a.m.):

Troy Nichols said there is a predicted \$2 billion deficit to begin the current legislative session. Troy said there are still close to 600 bills that will be presented. Josh Weiss discussed the County's requests for project funding. Josh said he would like to target and prioritize items that are revenue generating. Commissioner Brummer agreed. There are several asks and it was suggested narrowing down the requests to be submitted. Troy felt the HVAC project ask is large and may need to be adjusted. Ryan Barrett said the projects will be discussed at the Directors' Update and narrowed down.

Commissioner Brummer asked to discuss Senate Bill 5974. Commissioner Pollock asked about SB 6239 and Commissioner Swope asked about the coroner bill 1030 and HB 2343.

Geoff Soderquist said he had four project requests including the North Lewis County Industrial Access, several century-old bridge replacements, Interstate 5 Exit 72 at Napavine and the Packwood sewer expansion and upgrade project. Geoff said it sounds as though only Packwood Sewer could be submitted at this time based on available funding. Geoff said that his department is working with Rep. Gluesenkamp-Perez. Geoff said he estimates about \$4 million needed for land acquisition and project planning. Commissioner Swope said Rep. Abbarno would like to see the plan before it is submitted to session. The Commissioners asked for eligible funding sources, but Geoff said that at this time, Lewis County does not own the sewer treatment plant, and not owning the current facility makes it un-auditable by Public Works. Geoff feels the century old bridges could be financed with CRAB funds and WSACE is looking for general road revenue due to the cost of infrastructure. Geoff said two of the current asks are not project related, but are still concerns for Lewis County. Josh said the NLCI project and Exit 72 is funded by transportation and would be collaboration with Washington State Department of transportation.

Meeting ended 10:01 a.m.