

ESC / Directors' Update / COVID-19

October 21, 2020

9 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Fund, Commissioner Jackson, County Manager Erik Martin, Steve Wohld, Chris Panush, Becky Butler, Shad Hail, Matt Jaeger, Tamara Hayes, Doug Carey, JP Anderson, Scott Tinney, Arny Davis, Lara McRea, Katie Conradi, Josh Metcalf, Tailor Albright

Zoom: Brittni Rogers, Casey Mauermann, Daleyn Coleman, Dianne Dorey, Gary Fredricks, Graham Gowing, Josh Metcalf, Katie Conradi, Wes Rethwill, Marni Larson, Patrick Shults, Suzette Smith, Meja Handlen, Scott Smitherman, Daleyn Coleman, Lee Napier

Guest: Frank Corbin

Recorder: Rieva Lester

ESC

Suzette Smith said the FY 2019 has begun and that it will take place in a shortened 10-week period.

Steve Wohld said the county has entered into an agreement with a consultant to conduct a salary study of every job in the county. He said the hope is to have the first round completed by Thanksgiving.

Treasurer Arny Davis said the Capital Facilities team has proposals for a new \$6.6 million building (the Rainier complex) and \$6 million Juvenile jail. He said the county can re-bond two existing bonds to pay for the projects.

Steve Wohld described the work planned in the two projects, noting that the Risk Pool has approved a project to replace a wall.

Arny noted that rates are at an all-time low.

Assessor Dianne Dorey said change of value notices ("reval notices") have been sent out. She said values have increased across the county as sales prices have increased due to housing shortages.

Arny said his office is hiring a tax reconciliation consultant.

Directors' Update

Commissioner Stamper and Commissioner Jackson discussed a proclamation proclaiming Oct. 28, 2020, as First Responders Day.

Commissioner Stamper discussed a resolution to approve a Personal Services Agreement between Lewis County and Robert K. Weidner.

Erik Martin discussed a resolution to approve recommendations from the Lewis County Citizens' Commission on Salaries for Elected Officials ("Salary Commission") to provide salary adjustments for the elected offices of Auditor, Assessor, Clerk, Coroner, Prosecuting Attorney and Treasurer.

JP Anderson discussed a resolution to approve Memorandum of Understanding between Lewis County and The Salvation Army to provide funds through the housing assistance unit Emergency Solutions COVID19 Grant in the amount of \$75,000.

Erik Martin discussed a resolution to extend the local declaration of a state of emergency in response to the COVID-19 virus in Lewis County.

Doug Carey and Steve Wohld discussed a resolution to approve of Amendment 2 between Lewis County and KMB Architects for Capital Plan Projects, Juvenile Court Renovation. Doug said the project is estimated to be completed by the end of 2022.

Commissioner Fund made a motion to move one presentation, two consent items and five deliberation items to the Oct. 26, 2020, Business Meeting.

Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion.

Motion passed 3-0.

COVID-19

JP Anderson discuss efforts to use Coronavirus Relief Funding to help area businesses and area schools. JP said there has been an increase in COVID-19 cases statewide. He described the steps being taken in the county to safely keep schools and businesses open. He discussed

Erik Martin proposed a change in the structure of Incident Command, housing it under Health and naming JP as lead. He said he'd like the group – and Becky Butler and Jonathan Meyer – to set up policies. The commissioners said they supported the move.

Becky said a new round of grants has been announced to help area nonprofits and businesses struggling in the wake of COVID-19.

Announcements

Commissioner Stamper said local chicken farmers are struggling. He said they are being priced out because of the taxes on their buildings.

Arny Davis said area landlords are suffering in the wake of COVID-19 because the governor has placed a moratorium on evictions.

Commissioner Fund noted that rental assistance is available for low-income renters.

Meeting ended at 10:21 a.m.