

BOCC Wrap-Up

February 1, 2021

9 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, Chris Panush, Lee Napier, Lara McRea, Becky Butler, Suzette Smith, Meja Handlen, Katie Conradi, Kaity Nissell, Josh Metcalf, Steve Wohld

Guests: Former Commissioner Edna Fund, The Chronicle, Peter Lahmann, Nic Scott

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Accounting specialist: Becky Butler said Public Health would like to increase a half time, casual person to full time. She said the position is a union position and that coronavirus funds will cover a portion of the \$68,000 cost for salary and benefits. The commissioners said they would revisit the request Feb. 2.

Planning Commission: Lee Napier said Bob Russell is interested in serving on the Planning Commission. The commissioners said they would like to proceed with a resolution to appoint Bob to the Planning Commission board.

PacMtn. appointments: The commissioners said they would like to appoint Richard DeBolt and reappoint Bill Sullivan to the PacMtn. board.

Blakeslee Junction: Commissioner Swope said he has asked Erik Martin to let the state Department of Fish and Wildlife that the county is potentially interested in purchasing the property. Commissioner Swope said the city of Centralia is not interested in acquiring the land.

TransAlta / IPAT lands: Commissioner Swope said he is setting up meetings with TransAlta and DFWF. He said the county has until Feb. 5 to submit a letter against the proposal due to lack of outreach and uncertainty regarding water rights. He noted that TransAlta has not reached out to the region's state representatives. The commissioners said they would like to submit a letter indicating Lewis County is against the idea.

Grain Project: The commissioners said they are in support of a Port of Chehalis request for capital budget funding to construct grain storage and rail transload infrastructure at the port.

Bills the state Legislature is considering: Commissioner Pollock discussed bills going before state lawmakers.

Southwest Washington Fair presentation: The commissioners designated Commissioner Pollock to serve as the BOCC's spokeswoman during the Feb. 2 presentation.

Minute folders: The commissioners approved minute folders for the weeks of Jan. 11 and Jan. 18.

Calendars: The group discussed the commissioners' calendars.

Meeting ended at 9:37 a.m.