

BOCC Wrap-Up

February 16, 2021

10:02 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, County Manager Erik Martin, Chris Panush, Becky Butler, Lara McRea, Lee Napier, Becky Butler, Steve Wohld

Guests: Edna Fund, Joni Sellards, Linda Wood, Nic Scott, Claudia Yaw

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Toledo airport

Commissioner Stamper said the state Department of Transportation discussed the state airport proposal earlier in the day. Erik Martin recommended the commissioners discuss the Toledo airport with Public Works Director Josh Metcalf in two weeks.

Snowstorm

The group discussed the snowstorm that hit the region over the weekend.

Activity reports

Commissioner Stamper provided his activity report:

- Packwood will hold its annual flea market. Would like to discuss temporary food handler permits.
- Bird's Eye vaccination.
- East Lewis County Chamber is re-engaging and is discussing tourism.

Commissioner Pollock provided her activity report:

- Lewis County Together is moving to the Chamber of Commerce.
- Columbia River Basin meeting is coming up. Discussion about the Snake River could affect local power rates.

Commissioner Swope provided his activity report:

- Met with Centralia and Chehalis officials regarding TransAlta proposal to donate land to the WDFW.
- Confusion regarding recycling changes.
- Centralia is working on streetscape project.
- Discussed broadband needs.

- Discussed needs regarding the 911 call center with Chehalis leaders.

Fire Commissioners' meeting

The commissioners said they would rotate commissioner attendance at the quarterly Fire Commissioners' meeting. They said Commissioner Swope would attend the next meeting, followed by Commissioner Pollock.

TransAlta / IPAT

Erik Martin said he will clarify what the state Department of Transportation means regarding whether the county is interested in Blakeslee Junction – such as whether that would be gauging if the county is interested in exploring the proposal or whether it would mean the county plans to make an offer. He noted that the county has not yet received an appraisal.

Commissioner Swope said the DFW has extended the comment deadline about the TransAlta / IPAT lands through Feb. 19. He said he would like DFW to extend the meeting even further. He also said he will tour the property soon. Erik said he will meet with Frank DeVaul regarding the proposed land transfer. Commissioner Pollock said she would like to attend.

Legislative session update – review of bills the state Legislature is considering

Erik said he will testify regarding a bill regarding infrastructure projects of \$10 million or greater. He noted that the Public Works Board has some concerns about funding. The commissioners said Lewis County supports the bill.

Steve Wohld said the state will discuss SB 5096, regarding income tax on long-term assets, later in the day.

Commissioner Pollock said she also is watching HB 1202 closely.

Former Commissioner Fund said 1152, which would regionalize health jurisdictions, continues to move forward.

Minute folders

Approval of minutes for the week of Feb. 1

Lewis County District Court proceedings in Morton

The group discussed District Court's concerns regarding unsanitary conditions at the Bob Lyle building, where District Court is held. Commissioner Stamper said he will reach out to Morton Mayor Dan Mortensen.

COVID-19

Erik said the entire state has moved to Phase II. He said the state Secretary of Health has said information on Phase III will not be available for at least two weeks.

Chris Panush said a vaccine event scheduled for Feb. 13 was canceled due to the recent snowstorm.

He said Providence will hold an invitation-only vaccination event for the second round of vaccines on Feb. 21.

Meeting ended at 10:40 a.m.