

BOCC Wrap-Up

February 22, 2021

9 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, County Manager Erik Martin, JP Anderson, Chris Panush, Katie Conradi, Lara McRea, Taylor Albright, Steve Wohld, Andy Caldwell, Suzette Smith, Fionna Velazquez, Becky Butler (9:27 a.m.)

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

Recorder: Rieva Lester

JP Anderson said he will discuss the Regional Incident Management Team (IMT) at a future date.

The commissioners said they would support the Timberland Regional Library's request for a letter of support regarding Kenneth Seby's application for the TRL Board of Trustees.

Commissioner Stamper said he is working on the possibility of using the ELCDPA building in Packwood for vaccination distribution.

Commissioner Pollock discussed fair-planning efforts and plans to hold a fair in 2021.

Commissioner Swope said he toured the TransAlta lands the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is considering acquiring. Commissioner Swope said he and Assessor Dianne Dorey met with the WDFW. He noted that the move would give the county up to \$160,000 in PILT funding, a huge drop from the \$2 million the county would collect in property taxes.

The group briefly discussed bills the state Legislature is considering.

The commissioners approved the minute folder for the week of Feb. 8.

The commissioners said they would draft infrastructure priorities as requested by Sen. Murray.

The commissioners discussed potential changes to their recurring monthly and quarterly meetings.

The commissioners agreed to cancel the Sept. 7, 2021, Business Meeting.

Commissioner Swope said he, Jonathan Meyer, Dianne Dorey and Arny Davis will meet with TransAlta later in the week to discuss tax implications.

Commissioner Stamper said Morton Mayor Dan Mortensen said the city will hire an exterminator to improve conditions at the Bob Lyle Building, where Lewis County District Court holds hearings.

JP Anderson said Lewis County's allocation and administration of the COVID-19 vaccine is lacking. He said the county is looking to the state Department of Health regarding concerns about the lack of vaccines coming to the county.

The commissioners discussed their calendars.

Becky Butler joined at 9:27 a.m.

Becky noted that if WDFW were to acquire the TransAlta lands, the county would have to choose between receiving PILT funding or receive fines and fees for game violations on the land.

Former Commissioner Fund discussed Office of the Chehalis Basin work regarding flooding.

Meeting ended at 9:32 a.m.