

**PA Update**

**March 2, 2021**

**3:01 p.m.**

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, County Manager Erik Martin, Jonathan Meyer, Becky Butler, Amber Smith, Chris Panush, Steve Wohld, Eric Eisenberg, Brittani Bonahoom, Lee Napier, Natalie Dunlap, Tailor Albright, Lara McRea

Guests: Claudia Yaw, Lori Schmitt

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Jonathan Meyer discussed the recent State v. Blake case, through which the state Supreme Court has decriminalized the possession of controlled substances. He noted it affects hundreds of current cases in Lewis County and could affect cases dating back to the 1970s. Eric Eisenberg said his office will meet later in the week to discuss potential financial impacts, noting it's unclear whether the county would have to reimburse individuals who paid fines for possession – even multiple years ago.

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to direct Eric Eisenberg to proceed with a letter to the Department of Revenue in response to its levy certification audit and to also approve having the commissioners sign a memo directing the Clerk of the Board on how to proceed with levy certifications in the future.

Commissioner Swope seconded.

Motion passed 3-0.

Amber Smith discussed a vacancy on Fire District No. 17. She noted that the vacancy has remained unfilled for 90 days or more, so the Board of County Commissioners would need to select an appointee under RCW 42.12.070(4).

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to direct the Clerk of the Board to open a 30-day application process for the Fire District No. 17 Commissioner vacancy.

Commissioner Swope seconded.

Motion passed 3-0.

Jonathan Meyer and Eric Eisenberg discussed what could be done to change Ordinance 1271, which regulates marijuana activity. Eric suggested reaching out to other departments and offices that would be affected. Eric said any land-use changes would require it to go back through the Planning Commission.

Lee Napier said Lewis County Code, Titles 5, 8, 15 and 17, would have to be reviewed.

Commissioner Swope directed Eric to review the matter further.

At 3:35 p.m., Commissioner Stamper announced that the Board would be going into Executive Session under RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) for 15 minutes to discuss the following:

- Northern Spotted Owl litigation and comment
- TransAlta land acquisition
- Opioid Litigation

Executive Session started at 3:36 p.m.

At 3:51 p.m., the Board extended Executive Session for 5 minutes.

Executive Session ended at 3:56 p.m. Commissioner Stamper noted that no decisions had been made.

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to have Lewis County to participate as a plaintiff in a new lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife Service and for Lewis County to retain Susan Drummond as counsel in that matter and for Lewis County to split Susan Drummond's fees with Skamania County.

Commissioner Swope seconded.

Motion passed 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m.