

BOCC Wrap-Up

May 17, 2021

9:01 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, County Manager Erik Martin, Becky Butler, Chris Panush, Steve Wohld, Kevin McDowell, Sheriff Snaza, JP Anderson, Taylor Albright, Alison Puckett, Katie Conradi, Lara McRea, Lee Napier, Meja Handlen, Undersheriff Wes Rethwill, Matt Patana

Guests: Claudia Yaw, Rich Curtis, Mike Aust, Frank Corbin, Susan DeLaire, Frank DeVaul, Nic Scott

Recorder: Rieva Lester

At 9:02 a.m., Commissioner Stamper announced that the Board was going into Executive Session under RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) for 5 minutes to discuss a real estate transaction.

Executive Session started at 9:03 a.m.

At 9:08 a.m., the Board extended Executive Session for 5 minutes.

At 9:13 a.m., the Board extended Executive Session for 2 minutes.

Executive Session ended at 9:15 a.m. Commissioner Stamper noted that no decisions had been made.

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to authorize Steve Would negotiate and sign a purchase and sale agreement up to the amount discussed during executive session.

Commissioner Swope seconded.

Motion passed 3-0.

Kevin McDowell left at 9:19 a.m.

Becky Butler said Gov. Inslee signed two broadband bills simultaneously – one that allows utilities authority for broadband retail and one that excludes it, putting into question whether public utilities have retail authority on broadband.

Becky discussed a meeting planned for May 18 to discuss the impact of the state's fix for the state Supreme Court's Blake decision.

Activity reports:

- Commissioner Swope said he went on ride-alongs with the Sheriff's Office and Centralia PD over the weekend. He said he feels the Blake decision will do tremendous harm to the region's citizens. Commissioner Swope said he attended the Back the Blue event over the weekend.

- Commissioner Pollock said she spoke with TransAlta about its efforts to secure a water bank. She said she also reached out to Ecology about water banks. She said gathered a list of consultants who've done similar work on the east side of the state. Commissioner Pollock said she attended the Back the Blue and Armed Forces events over the weekend.
- Commissioner Stamper said he and Erik Martin attended a recent meeting about the upcoming Packwood sewer project. He said he attended the previous week's Vader City Council meeting. All three commissioners discussed their respect and appreciation for law enforcement.

TransAlta: Commissioner Swope said he will have an update to provide during executive session.

Salary Commission: Commissioner Swope said he would like to dissolve the Salary Commission. He said he feels using the Salary Commission makes the decision political in nature. The commissioners directed staff to draft a resolution to dissolve the Salary Commission.

Sanctuary county: Commissioner Stamper said Sheriff Snaza had requested the commissioners declare the county a 2nd Amendment sanctuary county. Sheriff Snaza discussed his reasons behind wanting to declare Lewis County a sanctuary county. Commissioner Pollock aired concerns about connotations surrounding the term "sanctuary." The commissioners said they would further look into the matter.

Letter regarding quarantine / isolation facility at Centralia's Lakeview Inn: Commissioner Pollock said she has a few more tweaks to make to the draft letter. Commissioner Swope said the state came in without the permits and zoning and other approvals that the community at large would be required to obtain. He said a weekend tournament would have filled the hotel with paying customers but instead it had four non-paying clients over the weekend.

Business Meeting time: Commissioner Stamper said he'd like to move the Business Meeting to Tuesday mornings. He also discussed possibly canceling the Tuesday meeting if the preceding Monday is a holiday.

Summer break for Mayors' Meeting: The commissioners said they'd like to meet in July and possibly keep the August and September meetings as well.

Public Works Certificate of Good Practice: The commissioners said they would present the certificate during the May 18 Business Meeting.

Minutes: The commissioners approved minutes for the weeks of April 26 and May 3, 2021.

Calendars:

Announcements: Commissioner Swope said he will attend the Fire Commissioners' meeting and the upcoming Olympia Master Builders meeting and plans to visit flood-damaged area with Josh Metcalf.

Claudia Yaw left at 10:23 a.m.

Calendars: Commissioner Swope said he is continuing work on a possible upcoming housing summit.

Correspondence: Commissioner Stamper said he has received correspondence about noise complaints.

Commissioner Stamper said he will schedule a meeting to discuss North and South Prairie Roads for the following week.

Becky Butler discussed changes regarding infectious disease reporting linked to workers' comp signed by the governor.

Meeting ended at 10:27 a.m.