

Directors' Update

February 8, 2022

10:32 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, Commissioner Grose, County Manager Erik Martin, Steve Wohld, Lee Napier, Mindy Brooks, JP Anderson, Chris Panush, Doug Carey, Connie Riker, Becky Butler, John Clark, Eric Eisenberg, Austin Majors, Andrew Logerwell, Ross McDowell, Graham Gowing, Heidi Palmer, Josh Metcalf, Lara McRea, Semere Huckleberry, Tiffanie Morgan, Donald "Rick" Peters Jr.

Guests: Eric Rosane, Nic Scott, Scott Brummer

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Eric Eisenberg discussed a resolution to approve a Housing Initiative and Work Plan to improve the availability and affordability of housing countywide.

Erik Martin discussed a resolution to approve a Department of Commerce Capital Budget Grant 2021-2023. Erik said the \$126,420 grant will help replace microwave relay equipment.

Josh Metcalf discussed a resolution to approve an Amended Subrecipient Agreement between Lewis County Water District #1 and Lewis County for the New Water Reservoir project to further define contract administration responsibilities and amend the project budget.

Connie Riker discussed a resolution to update the bylaws, including the name, of the Southwest Washington Fair Advisory Board (formerly known as Commission).

Rieva Lester discussed a resolution to reappoint four Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC) members. Commissioner Grose said he wants the state to do away with requirements for a Lodging Tax Committee

Commissioner Grose made a motion to move two consent items and five deliberation items to the Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2022, BOCC Business Meeting agenda. Commissioner Pollock seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

COVID-19

JP Anderson said the testing site at the old Sears site is administering roughly 200 tests per day. JP discussed the availability of rapid tests. He noted the county received and has dispersed 10,000 rapid tests.

The commissioners said Erik Martin can sign the updated COVID-19 leave pool policy when it is finalized.

Announcements / roundtable

Doug Carey said work across the street will affect a couple of parking spots.

Ross McDowell said an after-action meetings for the flood response will take place on Feb. 10 and 17.

Tuesday Workshop

Veterans' clinic: Commissioner Grose said he has reached out to Jaime Herrera Beutler's office about reopening a veterans' clinic locally. The commissioners discussed the need for a mobile clinic that goes to the east end of the county and that has set hours.

Heidi Palmer discussed the recent closure of the local veterans' clinic. Heidi said there is a mobile service available to transport veterans to their appointments.

Defense and indemnification

Andrew Logerwell said Prosecuting Attorney Jonathan Meyer is facing a recall petition and that Lewis County had reached out to Thurston County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Donald "Rick" Peters Jr. to assist in the matter.

At 11:05 a.m., Commissioner Swope announced that the Board would be going into executive session under RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) for 10 minutes to discuss indemnification and defense for Jonathan Meyer.

Executive session started at 11:07 a.m.

Executive session ended at 11:17 a.m. Commissioner Swope noted that no decisions had been made.

Special DPA Rick Peters said he feels Prosecuting Attorney Jonathan Meyer acted within the scope of his position and that he recommends Lewis County provide indemnity and defense.

Commissioner Grose made a motion to provide indemnification and defense for Prosecuting Attorney Jonathan Meyer and to appoint Rick Peters to represent Jonathan Meyer. Commissioner Pollock seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Rick said he would provide updates on the case as available.

Meeting adjourned at 11:19 a.m.