

ESC / Directors' Update

July 20, 2022

9 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, Commissioner Grose, County Manager Erik Martin, Steve Wohld, Connie Riker, Meja Handlen, Jenn Libby-Jones, Becky Butler, Doug Carey, Lee Napier, Undersheriff Wes Rethwill, Josh Metcalf, Arny Davis, Brittnei Rogers, Casey Mauermann, Graham Gowing, Lara McRea, Matt Jaeger, Mindy Brooks, Patrick Schults, Sara Sons, Tammy Martin, Daleyn Coleman (9:09 a.m.), Eric Eisenberg (9:10 a.m.), John Clark (9:10 a.m.), Linda Mastin, Heidi Palmer

Guest(s): Nic Scott, The Chronicle, Anthony Chavez, Daphne Lughes

Recorder: Rieva Lester

ESC

Public comment: None.

2023 budget development

Becky Butler reminded offices and departments to begin their budget process. She reminded the group that the commissioners have outlined that the following regarding budget caps for 2023:

Included:

- Built-in contract increases
- Payroll
- Budgeted expenses

Excluded:

- New programs
- New employees
- One-time technology increases

Request for proposals (RFP) for countywide lobbying: Erik Martin said the county received proposals from three potential lobbyists. The commissioners discussed the merits of the various candidates and the timeline for hiring a candidate.

The commissioners agreed to interview two of the applicants.

Daleyn Coleman joined at 9:09 a.m., and Eric Eisenberg and John Clark joined at 9:10 a.m.

Roundtable: No updates.

DIRECTORS' UPDATE

Josh Metcalf discussed a resolution to list the bids received and contractor selected for the 2022 Countywide Miscellaneous Safety & Guardrail Project, CRP 2195.

Josh Metcalf discussed a resolution to approve Local Agency Agreements and Federal Aid Prospectuses between Lewis County and Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) for the federally funded Railroad Switch Upgrades (CRP-2171A) and Railroad Track Extension & Road Crossing Closure (CRP-2171B) projects.

Josh Metcalf discussed a resolution to approve a Local Agency Agreement and Federal Aid Project Prospectus between Lewis County and Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) for the Garrard Creek Road Bank Stabilization Project, County Road Project (CRP) 2159P.

Meja Handlen discussed a resolution to approve contract #C01-0163-22 between Compass and Lewis County Public Health and Social Services.

Erik Martin discussed a resolution to ratify an employment contract with Jennifer Libby-Jones for the 911 Communications Director position.

Rieva Lester discussed a resolution to approve a \$400,000 .09 ("Distressed Counties") grant to Pe Ell for its "Improvement of Access to Water Intake" project.

Rieva Lester discussed a resolution to approve a \$200,000 .09 ("Distressed Counties") grant to the Port of Chehalis for its "SW Washington Grain Facility" project.

Rieva Lester discussed a resolution to approve a \$450,000 .09 ("Distressed Counties") grant to the White Pass Country Historical Museum for its "Packwood Brewery Building" project. Commissioner Grose noted he would recuse himself on any deliberation on the topic.

Josh Metcalf discussed Traffic Ordinance No. 221 - An ordinance fixing the maximum speed at which vehicles may be operated over certain roads in Lewis County, Washington: defining offenses, and providing penalties for the violation thereof .

Commissioner Swope made a motion to move two consent items, eight deliberation items and one hearing to the Tuesday, July 26, 2022, BOCC agenda. Commissioner Grose seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Announcements / roundtable

Connie Riker said the application period for Little Miss Friendly has opened. She said exhibitor entries and fair tickets are available online.

Meja Handlen said staff will attend the Economic Alliance lunch later in the day.

Becky Butler said Darkness to Light training will take place later in the day. She said the county has hired a grant coordinator. She reminded the group about the upcoming budget amendment.

Josh Metcalf said he has a signed contract with the Department of Commerce for the Packwood sewer project.

Eric Eisenberg provided updates on broadband contracts and the county's housing initiative.

Becky Butler said the PAF team is working on a process for casual employees.

Rieva Lester said the annual Employee Picnic will be Sept. 15. She said employee recognition will be July 26.

At 9:44 a.m., the commissioners announced they were recessing the meeting for 5 minutes.

The meeting resumed at 9:49 a.m.

Wednesday Workshop

East Lewis County Sheriff's substation: Erik Martin said staff would like direction on the potential project. He said Capital Facilities has a plan for a pole barn and portable office. He asked if that would need to be expanded.

Doug Carey said the Sheriff's Office has requested that the county create a substation on the east end of the county, similar to what the county had years ago. He said the Sheriff's Office has identified needs for minimal office space and minimal vehicle storage space. Doug said the county has a portable that could be updated to meet the needs.

Steve Wohld said building a new substation has been estimated in the seven-figure range.

Undersheriff Wes Rethwill and the commissioners discussed the need for the project, a possible timeline and the needed scope of the project. The commissioners said they'd like read-aheads outlining costs, funding and the potential scope of the project.

Washington Counties Risk Pool (WCRP): Erik Martin reviewed the WCRP's proposed 40 percent rate hike for 2023. The commissioners said they oppose that large of an increase. The commissioners said they would not accept anything more than a 20 percent increase.

Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) meeting recap: Erik said he and Lee Napier met with EFSEC the previous week. Erik said EFSEC has final authority on projects it is required to review, noting that the group reports its recommendations directly to the governor.

Meeting ended at 10:38 a.m.