

Public Works Update

June 3, 2025

11:05 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Brummer, Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, County Manager Ryan Barrett, Grace Jimenez, Graham Gowing, Geoff Soderquist, Tina Correia, Becky Butler

Guest(s): None

Recorder: Tammy Martin

Public comment: None

Geoff Soderquist said current road projects include Barnes Drive, Bunker Creek Road, Centralia Alpha Road, Van Ornum Creek, Labree Road, King Road scour, and Sargent Road scour.

Geoff said the Vader water main replacement is in progress but there are issues with construction. The Toledo beacon project has started, and the fuel system is complete. Geoff said there is work starting at the Packwood airport.

Geoff said the Packwood sewer project is approximately \$255,000 in the negative. There was an ARPA grant with the Department of Commerce that was not reauthorized, and work was still being performed on the project. Geoff said there was additional research needed for more grant funding. Becky Butler said the general fund, REET, or .09 could be a solution to the funding shortage. Becky stated that .09 Distressed Counties funding is the most likely solution, but if other funding sources become available, they would be used first. Becky said any agreement would have to be postdated to pay for the funds currently spent.

Geoff's concern about operating the water/sewer systems is having knowledgeable people to responsibly operate the systems. Geoff would like to have the water system plan in compliance. Then to work on having all the interlocal agreements in place and rate studies done.

Grace said the Middlefork Water system is in the red as well. Tina Correia said there are options that can be considered to include placing liens on the parcels or collection agency efforts applied to the parcels that are overdue.

Tina said the flood control has a timing issue for reimbursement by the cities. Grace said a general fund transfer can be completed earlier in the year to eliminate any negative balances.

Meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.