

BOCC Wrap-Up / County Manager Update

October 27, 2025

9:01 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Brummer, Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, County Manager Ryan Barrett, Becky Butler, Meja Handlen, David Bailey, Angie Hodge, Kirsten Wecker, Mindy Brooks, Grace Jimenez, Jeremy Mannikko, Gabe Anzelini, Alex Murray, Geoff Soderquist, Caroline Garibay, Jeff Landrum, Kristine Ward, Kimberline Anderson, Marylyne Kostick, Natalie Kamieniecki, Sherri Dokken, Vanessa Ruelas, Liz Hill, Fionna Velazquez, Graham Gowing

Guest(s): Todd Chaput, Dennis Riebe, Tina Moore, Gretchen Fritsch, several unnamed guests

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Public comment: None.

Executive session: At 9:02 a.m., Commissioner Brummer announced that the Board would be going into executive session under RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) until 9:07 a.m. to discuss the Ziontz tort claim.

Executive session ended at 9:07 a.m. Commissioner Brummer noted that no decisions had been made.

Short-term rental permits: Mindy Brooks reviewed the proposed permit process for short-term rentals. The commissioners said they would like to further review the process and discuss it again Oct. 29.

Roads cash flow: Geoff Soderquist said Roads faces a roughly \$5 million budget gap. He said it is being addressed using \$1.9 million that is being returned from ER and R due to overpayments and that he will recommend the Solid Waste Disposal District approve a \$3 million cash-flow loan to Roads to address the remaining portion.

Boundary Review Board (BRB): Mindy Brooks recommended the commissioners consider disbanding the BRB after completion of the Chehalis annexation, should that annexation move forward. The commissioners directed Mindy to proceed with a December resolution that would disband the BRB, with the disbandment postponed until after completion of the Chehalis annexation, should it move forward.

Storage array update: Gabe Anzelini outlined options to meet the county's data storage needs. Gabe said a six-year contract would provide savings, with the cost estimated at \$750,000, while a three-year contract would be roughly \$340,000. He recommended going with the six-year contract. Becky Butler outlined potential funding sources.

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to use Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF) funding to move forward with a six-year contract for data storage. Commissioner Brummer seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

RFP for Coordinated Entry Services: Meja Handlen reviewed a proposed RFP for Coordinated Entry Services. The commissioners directed her to move forward with the RFP.

Broadband project update: Becky Butler said troubles with permitting for broadband work along the railroad has forced the need for a workaround that has delayed completion of the broadband project.

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to extend the broadband contract to Nov. 21, 2025.

Commissioner Swope seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Southwest Washington Fair budget: Becky Butler outlined corrections needed for the 2025 fair budget. She said premium funds were inadvertently moved to a different fund and that extra help costs were significantly higher than estimated. Becky said the Fair will need to use \$90,000 from its fund balance to plug the budget gap.

Health and welfare benefits for non-represented employees: Angie Hodge outlined HR's recommendations regarding 2026 employer contributions for non-represented employees.

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to establish 2026 monthly employer contributions for health and welfare benefits for non-represented employees as follows:

- \$970 employee only
- \$1,440 employee and spouse
- \$1,440 employee and child(ren)
- \$1,790 full family

Commissioner Swope seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to also move forward with the 2026 employer contributions for the health savings account and life insurance rates for non-represented employees as outlined in the memo. Commissioner Swope seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Nov. 12 biomass conference: All three commissioners said they will attend Economic Alliance's biomass conference. Commissioner Pollock and Commissioner Brummer noted they may arrive late due to previous engagements.

Meeting adjourned at 9:54 a.m.