

Mayor's / Managers' Meeting

September 4, 2020

9:01 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Fund, Commissioner Jackson(Zoom), Becky Butler(Zoom), Steve Wohld(Zoom)

Guests: Jeremy Allman, Lynette Hoffman, Peter Lahmann

Zoom: Rob Hill, Jill Anderson, Mayor Dobosh, Frank Corbin, Nic from KELA, Sara Kohout, Mayor Schey, Jon Lath,

Recorder: Tammy Martin

Commissioner Fund spoke to the press release from Dr. Wood which addressed some middle and high school students for lab classes and CTE courses. Next Thursday there will be a public meeting. Erik Martin spoke about the new recommendation and how the meeting will focus on a question and answer period in effort to get kids back to school as safely as possible. This recommendation is allowing schools to open as needed for things that cannot be taught via zoom.

Lewis County will be receiving a new allocation of CARES Funding of \$1,589,600.00. Each county will also be receiving additional funding. Jill Anderson's concerns are that these funds have very hard restrictions.

Mayor Dobosh said Toledo's original Cares Funds funded labor/supplies to clean and sanitize the city parks.

Rob Hill said that they came up with a way to promote business in Centralia. They establish a script money similar to gift certificates and the city reimbursed the business the amounts used from the script. There were restaurants, gas stations, hardware stores and a variety of different businesses that were part of the program.

Lewis County allocated money to Breeze to help with internet and to Lewis County High Speed Education Network to help internet avenues.

Commissioner Fund asked how our cities were doing with sales tax. The City of Chehalis is reporting approximately 5% down for 2020. They have chosen to not fill vacant positions in an effort to budget. Centralia's revenue reported approximately 10% in reduction. They have had an offset from online shopping. They are not projecting layoffs. Erik Martin said that Lewis County is in the midst of preliminary budgets.

Lonnie Willey from Pe Ell said that they were approved for a block grant of \$900,000 that will be used for sewer upgrades. The town of PE Ell is also searching for another marshal, but they are under budget constraints.

The Legislative Roundtable is tentatively planned for December. We are awaiting confirmation from area lawmakers.

Commissioner Fund said to keep in mind all of the unfunded mandates issued by the state. Yvonne Rivera said that the 2020 Census will end September 30, 2020. The Census takers are still going door to door for reporting purposes. Currently, they are handing out fliers for people to complete the census online.

Pam Pieper said that any concerns or suggestions about payroll tax be forwarded to her office.

Jill Anderson said that the City of Chehalis has had lots of projects completed this year. They have completed the Penny Playground / sports center project and will hopefully open soon. The city has purchased a piece of land for the new fire station and are looking for a funding strategy.

Pro-tem Allman said the curbs and the sidewalks are done for the city of Winlock. A new church is being built and 10 new homes being built. They have a new community development director.

Mayor Schey said businesses are trying to cope with state mandates. They have some businesses being built including a Dollar General. They are working on a master plan to get up to date and looking for grants to help fund sewer updates. They are also looking to build a new park.

Mayor Dobosh said they are sprucing up the old jail house. Sidewalks are being updated as well as some street updates.

Lodging tax applications are out for Lewis County. Rob Hill said that they are down for revenue to support lodging tax grants and will focus on the bond payments for the Northwest Hub and the Fox Theater.

Peter Lahmann said the port is looking for a new port commissioner. He stressed that he is grateful for the Lodging Tax Grants because most of their funding comes from the public, but due to COVID-19, they haven't been able to do that this year. There won't be a Labor Day Picnic

Erik Martin shared that Lewis County has been working on a draft review of the NEPA document for flood mitigation.

Lynnette said that there will be a cruise through Winlock on September 26, 2020.

Josh Metcalf has taken the Commissioners to view all of the current projects in Lewis County. Commissioner Jackson said that there will be a press release to establish the new lease at Benaroya. John Roe is doing a great job with the Toledo airport. Erik Martin said that Lewis County has created the Middle Fork Water & Sewer district. Since then, multiple permits have been issued as well as current construction.

Commissioner Fund ended with reminding us that this month was proclaimed Suicide Awareness.

Meeting adjourned 10:24 a.m.