

PA Update

February 2, 2021

2:01 p.m.

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, Chris Panush, Steve Wohld, Jonathan Meyer, Josh Metcalf, Brittani Bonahoom, Natalie Dunlap, Eric Eisenberg, Amber Smith, Doug Carey, Tammy Martin

Guests: Former Commissioner Edna Fund, The Chronicle, Frank Corbin

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Jonathan Meyer said he has been appointed to serve as a prosecutor for Okanogan County due to circumstances related to the appointment of a former private-practice prosecuting attorney, which has left the Okanogan County PAO unable to prosecute roughly 75 cases.

Jonathan said his office has posted for an existing job opening and an upcoming job opening.

Jonathan discussed the need to hire a county records manager. He also discussed space concerns.

Jonathan said there is a push to have an independent prosecutor's office created to review officer-involved shootings. He said his office is monitoring other bills the Legislature is considering.

Eric Eisenberg discussed including language such as the following to the resolution changing the date of the commissioners' Business Meeting:

- 24 hours' notice via online agenda of all items to be discussed and acted upon at the meeting;
- A practice of making agenda items descriptive enough to apprise the public of the nature of the discussion or action contemplated;
- A discouragement of adding new agenda items at regular meetings, despite it being legal to do so, out of respect for the public's right to know;
- A reservation of the BOCC's right to describe agenda items broadly if the contemplated discussion is broad or general (for example, "Roundtable from department directors" or "public comment"); and
- A reservation of the BOCC's right to receive information, without discussing or taking action, on off-agenda topics if requested to do so.

Amber Smith discussed the latest "miscellaneous venues" guidance from the governor's office, which now allows in-person meetings of unlimited staff in addition to 25 percent of capacity. Amber said 25 percent capacity in the hearing room would allow for roughly 35 individuals, if the room was reconfigured and no staff attended. She suggested the commissioners urge staff to continue attending remotely. She, Jonathan and Eric discussed requirements for overflow rooms.

Jonathan suggested acknowledging the number of members of the public in the main room an overflow room during each meeting.

Jonathan and Eric said the move to allow in-person meetings is tied to the county's move to Phase II. Jonathan said the state will review the phase placements every two weeks, on a Friday, and that the change to Phase I would take effect the following Monday.

The commissioners said they would prefer to allow the mayors to attend in person for the Feb. 5 Mayors' Meeting and allow staff to attend the Feb. 3 Directors' Update in person.

The commissioners said they would like to open back up for in-person meetings.

At 2:52 p.m., Commissioner Stamper announced that the Board would be going into Executive Session under RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) for 10 minutes to discuss northern spotted owl rulemaking and litigation, the Middle Fork Water Sewer System and opioid litigation. Executive session started at 2:53 p.m.

At 3:03 p.m., the Board extended Executive Session for 5 minutes.

At 3:08 p.m., the Board extended Executive Session for 5 minutes.

At 3:13 p.m., the Board extended Executive Session for 2 minutes.

Executive Session ended at 3:15 p.m. Commissioner Stamper noted that no decisions had been made.

The commissioners directed Eric Eisenberg to contact Jaime Herrera Beutler's office regarding her work in support of Fish and Wildlife's recent ruling regarding the northern spotted owl. Eric discussed the possibility of reaching out to the state attorney general's office to gauge that office's thoughts on the matter. The commissioners directed Eric to instead monitor the situation for any potential updates from the state attorney general's office.

Meeting ended at 3:22 p.m.