

Budget Update

March 9, 2021

3 p.m.

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Pollock, County Manager Erik Martin, Becky Butler, Josh Metcalf, Taylor Albright, Tammy Martin (3:16 p.m.), Steve Wohld

Guests: Bill Serrahn, Edna J. Fund

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Becky Butler provided the following updates:

- The Auditor and Treasurer area working on 2020 year-end reconciliation. It looks like the county will have a \$2.6 million increase in fund balance.
- The PA's Office has reviewed the proposed OpenGov contract. The contract will go before the commissioners for formal approval in the next few weeks.
- DNR has lowered its projections and now indicates the county will receive \$4.5 million in 2021, a huge drop from its 2020 total of \$12.9 million.

Becky suggested the BOCC consider requiring all offices and departments to go through the budget-planning process for FTE requests. Erik Martin said he will continue to process budget-neutral requests and help with any emergency requests.

Becky said conversations will need to take place regarding adequate staffing as the population grows locally.

COVID-19

Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) funding is available, and the county will be able to help cover its leases for RE Bennett and the Fairgrounds.

Taylor Albright left and Tammy Martin joined at 3:16 p.m.

American Rescue Plan Act

Becky provided the following information about American Rescue Plan Act of 2021:

- Funds available through end of 2024.
- 50 percent after passage and then the remaining 50 percent within 12 months.
- County may want to create an advisory committee for the economic impact piece.
- Waiting on guidance regarding allocations.

- Budget will need to hire a financial analyst to meet the challenge to manage the funds. Becky said she has a vacant Budget Tech position and would leave it unfilled and instead hire a financial analyst, creating a \$23,000 budget increase.
- Auditor's Office would need additional staff.
- PILT recipients may receive additional funding under the Rescue package.

Becky noted that the Rescue funds are less restrictive than the COVID-19 funding had been. She said it can be used for future pandemic planning, to offset lost revenue, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 3:43 p.m.