

COVID-19 funding

April 7, 2021

10:33 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, County Manager Erik Martin, Becky Butler, Chris Panush, Meja Handlen, Mike Baum, Steve Wohld, Alison Puckett, J.P. Anderson, Lara McRea

Guests: Edna J. Fund, Frank Corbin, Michelle Whitten, B. Brodersen, Willie Painter, Rob Hill

Recorder: Tammy Martin

Becky provided updates given during a recent Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) phone conference. She said there will be Treasury guidelines and that WSAC provided a budget analysis.

Becky said there was also a National Association of Counties (NACo) call that still left a lot of unknowns with the guidelines. Cities and counties have been asking for clear guidelines for decisions with sewer and water. Funds will be wired to the cities and counties. The covered period has yet to be defined. She said they are seeking clarification for infrastructure definitions.

Lost revenue: There needs to be specific guidance from the Treasury Department to define what can be claimed as lost revenue.

Ongoing county costs related to COVID-19: Public Health & Social Services needs flexible access to funds. There has been on-going costs for buildings for jury selection and trials at the fair. Becky is continuing to look for funding options for construction.

MOU with Economic Development Council (EDC): Becky said there will be reports and monthly meetings to update the Commissioners. Commissioner Swope asked for the EDC to be the point person to communicate with the cities to maximize the utilization of funds. Becky said there is specific language for measurables. Becky said cities and towns can be added to the stakeholder definition. Erik Martin would like to see project dollar updates, including what had been spent and what that money accomplished. Willie Painter from the PUD asked that the PUD be included as a stakeholder for reporting purposes.

Internal planning, processes and approvals: Becky said she had a preview discussion with Erik Martin. They are applying approval threshold amounts and determining what amounts can be delegated for approval. Becky suggested a progress workflow for Commissioner approval.

Becky said the group should follow SB 5115 which could impact how the county reports information. There was also a bill to require accreditation for the Coroner which the Lewis County Coroner's office currently has.

Erik suggested combining ideas from the Commissioners with the EDC. Commissioner Stamper asked whether projects that had used FEMA funding would be eligible for upkeep and upgrades due to wear from use. Meja Handlen and Mike Baum are currently working on inquiring information about those costs.

Meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.