

County Manager Update

June 7, 2021

11:04 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, Erik Martin, Josh Metcalf, Tamara Martin, Taylor Albright, Becky Butler; Rieva Lester, Katie Conradi

Guest: Nic Scott, Edna J. Fund, The Chronicle

Recorder: Lara McRea

Budget

Becky Butler reported that the internal service funds memo was sent out to rate setters and internal service rates are due back on July 6. The rate setters have a meeting with the board on July 14th to give them an update on their rates and discuss any increases.

Commissioner Stamper discussed fiscal sustainability and said it is important to discuss the services needed when positions are added.

Congressionally-Directed Spending

Erik Martin reported that six infrastructure projects were submitted to Senator Cantwell's Office for Congressionally-Directed Spending consideration. The projects include the renovation of the youth services center, the first phase of radio infrastructure, Rush Rd. rebuild, Vader Water System improvements, replace the Airport Fuel System and improvements to Skate Creek Rd.

COVID-19 policy

Erik noted the policy is back on the legislative agenda for June 8.

Commissioner Pollock said she was not in favor of the vaccine card check program, however the county needs to work within L&I guidelines. She also said the county will not be asking the public for their vaccine card status.

Commissioner Swope expressed his concerns about the county policy being more restrictive than L&I guidance.

Public Works

Josh Metcalf informed the board of the ongoing issues with four hybrids in the Sheriff's Office. He said there have been many issues and they brought in a Ford rep to do some specific training for the

mechanics in house. There were two instances where a flatbed was brought in to haul the hybrid to the Ford dealership.

The fleet dept. is currently documenting issues they are having and there have been many reports from deputies when they are in pursuit mode.

Josh said Tim Murphy will be discussing plans to move vehicles out of pursuit and move into staff with the Sheriff's Office.

Josh also said this is the first round of hybrids that Public Works has purchased.

The hybrids are still under warranty but the repair time is anywhere from 2-4 weeks.

Josh noted he is looking at a potential pursuit vehicle purchase this year as one vehicle is out of commission due to a blown motor.

Staffing

Josh said he is putting information together for Erik and Becky to request an additional mechanic in the fleet department to deal with ongoing issues. He said they need to improve on their turnaround times. The department could recoup some costs through warranty work and the work could be done in house if they had the resources. The department has over 400 hours in backlogs. They will also start having services failures. One mechanic is not taking vacations due to the backlog.

Josh said they will be going out to bid for 6 new vehicles and hybrids will likely not be on the list. There is not enough people in the industry to service them.

The group discussed a rental option.

Public Works Maintenance

Josh reported that maintenance has already started Cement Treated Base (CTB) work. He also said they are still having issues acquiring paint but is hoping to get a shipment the first part of this month.

He said the stripers is out, doing test runs and chip sealing will start soon.

Animal Shelter

Erik mentioned the article in the Chronicle regarding the Animal Shelter employees and said there were no quotes from county staff. He would like to put out a statement to set the record straight. The board agreed to this and Erik will draft a response.

Commissioner Stamper noted he would like to discuss Community Developments plan for opening up their building at a future meeting when the state opens back up on June 30th.

Meeting ended at 11:44 a.m.