

County Manager Update

October 28, 2024

9:50 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Brummer, Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, County Manager Ryan Barrett, Geoff Soderquist, Mindy Brooks, Chis Sweet, Kevin Engelbertson

Guest(s): Stacey Denham, Jason Alves, Joe Clark

Recorder: Tammy Martin

Public comment: None

Undersheriff Kevin Engelbertson and Chief Chris Sweet spoke about Naphcare. Undersheriff Engelbertson said the contract expires Dec. 31, 2024. Chief Sweet said contract negotiations have been under way the last two months. Chief Sweet said there will be an increase of costs due to COLAs. The commissioners proposed submitting RFPs to determine if other vendors would provide medical services for the jail facility. The Commissioners also suggested reform via lobbying. Chief Sweet said his concerns are losing the deal that is currently being negotiated with Naphcare.

Homeless shelter update/outreach letter is being pushed out to a later date still to be determined.

Jason Alves said the Kennicott Phase II is predominately senior housing. There are traffic issues that Commissioner Pollock would like addressed. Jason said there is a new proposal for a center turn lane. Commissioner Pollock would like to see traffic safety addressed. Jason said there will be 50 units that will be built soon and they will have access to the same entrances and exits. Commissioner Swope is concerned the County would be liable for the safety of constituents. Stacey Denham suggested lowering the speed limit in the area and suggested a traffic study. Stacey said a center turn lane will fit and allow for proper traffic flow without expanding the roadway.

Geoff Soderquist explained the potential benefits of a roundabout. The issue is adding an intersection to an already crowded area. There are 28 road approaches in the area and adding additional conflict points decrease safety. A turn lane provides one movement to safely make a left turn but increases the distance of the left turn creating conflict points that take away the benefits of the turn lane. Geoff suggested creating a right turn lane only and allowing a roundabout. Jason said his main concern about the roundabout is ensuring it will fit within the current right-of-way.

Commissioner Pollock said she feels a long-term solution is needed to address safety. There are entrance issues with County code that will need to be addressed. Commissioner Swope would like to see the development progress.

Mindy Brooks discussed the Packwood Brewery. Mindy said there are a zero set-back for the businesses. This will be part of the plan and will be presented September of 2025. Mindy's concern is the zero-set back is not currently part of county code and is afraid this will set a precedence. The current code for Packwood doesn't allow for Packwood to grow at the rate it is. The parking is an issue at this time for

the Packwood Brewery. Mindy said all the parking is currently in the right of way. Geoff Soderquist asked for setback documentation to allow for parking for the brewery. The Board asked for this topic to be placed on the Nov. 4, Wrap-Up.

Becky Butler said all departments have access in OpenGOV to make final changes to their 2025 budgets. Becky has a workshop with the Citizens Budget Committee and a workshop with the Board this week as well. Final changes are due Nov. 15. Budget has a permanent place holder on agendas.

Meeting adjourned 11:04 am