

Coronavirus Relief Funding workshop

June 2, 2020

4:01 p.m.

Present: Commissioner Stamper (remotely), Commissioner Fund (remotely), Commissioner Jackson, County Manager Erik Martin, Becky Butler, Arny Davis, Suzette Smith (remotely), Matt Matayoshi, Larry McGee, Tamara Hayes

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Tamara Hayes reviewed results from a recent business survey.

Matt Matayoshi said the EDC received 160 applications over three days and had fewer than 20 grants to provide.

Larry McGee provided wifi updates:

- Packwood will have service by year's end
- Mossyrock will have service by year's end
- Morton will have service by 2021
- Centurylink is installing service in Pe Ell

Steve Wohld said he has asked a wire-to-wire service provider how many unserved or underserved households per district could get point-to-point wireless service if the county distributed \$50,000 per district.

Commissioner Fund and Commissioner Stamper expressed concern about using the funding by the Oct. 31 deadline.

The commissioners discussed possibly setting aside \$150,000 and to further explore the possibility of point-to-point wireless. Commissioner Fund stressed the need to include the PUD and Toledo Tel's Dale Merten in conversations. Becky said she would look into procurement guidelines.

The group discussed providing support for:

- Rental assistance
- Utility assistance
- PPE
- Sanitation

Tamara Hayes said she will develop a list of what PPE is available, the basis for possible rent / mortgage grants.

Larry McGee said Lewis County Together has the following:

- 15,000 masks

- 480 refillable bottles of hand sanitizer
- 380 small bottles of hand sanitizers

Treasurer Arny Davis said businesses that have received a Payroll Protection Loan should not be excluded from potential county grants.

Tamara left at 4:54 p.m.

Commissioner Stamper said he feels the county should be looking at other organizations – the East County Chamber of Commerce, the Chehalis-Centralia Chamber of Commerce, the CCRT and others – if they ask for support.

Larry McGee said he hopes the county will set aside:

- \$150,000 for wifi
- \$50,000 for sanitizer and masks

Becky said the county should contract directly with any other groups separate from the EDC funding if the county decides to provide funding to any of the other nonprofits.

Deliverables for the group's next meeting:

- Information about point-to-point broadband
- Draft contract / MOU with EDC
- Draft grant application
- Review PPE needs.

Meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m.