

BOCC Wrap-Up / COVID-19

August 6, 2020

3:01 p.m.

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Fund, JP Anderson, John Abplanalp, Becky Butler, Tawni Shepherd, Gary Fredricks, Lara McRea, Andy Caldwell, Matt Jaeger

Guest(s): Matt Matayoshi

Recorder: Tailor Albright

COVID-19 updates, discussions and action(s)

John Abplanalp updated the board with case counts and noted that Lewis County has 12 new cases. He reviewed a Powerpoint and reviewed testing numbers and key metrics as of 7/28/2020. There are 215 total cases at this time. Reviewed the rate of newly reported cases which has increased in last 14 days. At this time about 6,400 Lewis County residents have been tested.

The group discussed rising numbers in positive cases, mask requirements, recoveries, and hospitalized patient statistics.

J.P. Anderson met with school superintendents and is continuing to speak with schools in regard to the fall term.

Andy Caldwell mentioned the distribution of masks intended for low-income families that were distributed to the Food Bank Coalition.

Becky discussed AOC funding for technology for the courts.

Becky said there will be interviews for the rural broadband grant proposals next Tuesday.

Matt Jaeger discussed WSU broadband and the WSU mobile wifi system. He noted that WSU would like to use the county's existing internet connection. But from a security and security aspect they are hesitant to do this as the courts are using so much more video conferencing. If someone from the public were streaming it could take away a critical service for the courts. He said a Comcast connection may be suitable. Further discussion was held.

Gary Fredricks said he will push for the equipment to get here sooner.

Becky gave details about negotiations happening in Washington D.C. regarding possible lifts of restrictions on COVID relief funding, and how that will distribute to local governments. These details are important to our local businesses as they continue to struggle during COVID with a possibility that funding runs out after Oct. 1st.

Matt Matayoshi said there will be an EDC committee meeting tomorrow and he discussed grant funds from the Department of Commerce being distributed to small businesses.

Commissioner Stamper discussed broadband and wants to make sure to look at funding sources to ensure all school-aged kids have internet access.

Matt Jaeger discussed hotspots as an alternative for internet access.

Group discussion was held on usage of internet hotspots.

Commissioner Stamper also discussed issues with childcare due to schools not reopening.

Commissioners discussed their calendars.

Meeting adjourned at 3:51 p.m.