

Budget Update

September 1, 2020

3:06 p.m.

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Fund, Commissioner Jackson, County Manager Erik Martin, Lara McRea, Becky Butler, Steve Wohld

Guests: Frank Corbin, Larry McGee, Bill Serrahn

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Becky Butler said the Implicit Price Deflator (IPD) will fall to 60 percent. If inflation falls below 1 percent, she explained, a jurisdiction with a population of 10,000 or more may adopt a resolution of “substantial need” allowing it to increase the levy (or bank the excess capacity) up to the full 1 percent. She said the Board will have to decide whether to bank the excess capacity. She said she will set up a meeting with the Assessor’s Office.

Becky said the Coroner’s Office is looking at full-time positions instead of casual / on-call employees. She said five FTEs would cost nearly \$350,000 (including benefits) more than the current staffing level.

District Court attorneys are proposing a per-unit cost for 2021 for indigent defense.

Erik Martin asked if the commissioners want to offset costs associated with the commissioners’ salary increases, as approved by the Salary Commission. The commissioners said they would like to absorb the costs in their budget rather than increase the budget.

Becky said Andy Caldwell is working on rental assistance for a doctor’s office on the east end. The commissioners approved providing funding totaling roughly \$2,300. Becky said the Sheriff’s Office has asked for permission to purchase protective equipment. The commissioners approved of the purchase.

Becky said each county across the state will receive at least \$300,000 in a new round of Coronavirus funding. She discussed funding available for Health.

Becky said the deadline for nonprofits to apply for the Lewis County Together / EDC grant COVID-19 is Sept. 3.

Becky discussed 2020 revenues and expenditures, including sales and use tax. She said the Auditor and Treasurer are working with the Department of Revenue regarding the wind farm refund.

Becky discussed an upcoming budget amendment hearing.

Erik Martin said the commissioners will be asked the following day to discuss Community Development staffing linked to permit revenue fees.

Becky said PEBB has announced its 2021 rates.

Meeting adjourned at 3:51 p.m.