

PA Update

September 1, 2020

2:05 p.m.

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Fund, Commissioner Jackson, County Manager Erik Martin, Brittani Bonahoom, Kaity Nissell, Katie Conradi, Suzette Smith, Eric Eisenberg, Cullen Gatten, Natalie Dunlap, Kevin McDowell, Natalie Dunlap, Becky Butler, Megan Eastman, Jonathan Meyer, Tailor Albright, Steve Wohld

Guests: Bill Serrahn

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Jonathan Meyer said he has submitted PAFs for the commissioners to review. He said he would like the commissioners to address pay in his office.

Erik Martin said Jonathan's proposed changes would cost \$500,000 to \$600,000.

Commissioner Stamper said he would like the commissioners to have a chance to review the request.

Jonathan said he sent the request Aug. 7.

Becky Butler said Gov. Inslee has announced there will be additional COVID-19 funding available. She said she heard back earlier in the day that COVID-19 funding could be used toward learning pods.

The commissioners directed staff to work on creating learning pods.

Jonathan suggested earmarking \$60,000 to \$65,000 for learning pods.

Kevin McDowell discussed the President Trump's executive order and outlined potential pros and cons regarding participating in the deferral:

County doesn't participate:

- Nothing changes.
- Employees continue to pay their share of the payroll tax at the normal rate at 6.2 percent.
- There is no increased risk to the county when an employee leaves employment.

County participates in the deferral:

- Employees' share of the payroll tax is not withheld from September 2020 through Dec. 31, 2020.
- County would withhold twice as much (12.4 percent) from Jan. 1, 2021, through April 30, 2021, to make up for the deferred payroll taxes.
- If an employee leaves prior to all deferred taxes being paid, the employer (the county) ultimately would be responsible for paying the taxes.

Kevin recommended the county decline to participate in the deferral program.

Commissioner Fund made a motion to decline participation in the deferral program.

Commissioner Jackson seconded.

Motion passed 3-0.

At 2:32 p.m., Commissioner Stamper announced that the Board would be going into Executive Session under RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) for 15 minutes to discuss pending or potential litigation related to two topics: Caldwell V. DOR and spotted owl litigation. Executive session began at 2:34 p.m.

Executive Session ended at 2:49 p.m. Commissioner Stamper noted that no decisions had been made.

Commissioner Fund made a motion to authorize county counsel to contact AFRC and other counties as well as anyone else associated with spotted owl litigation.

Commissioner Jackson seconded.

Motion passed 3-0.

Eric Eisenberg said he would contact Erik Martin with any updates the following week.

Meeting ended at 2:52 p.m.