

Update with County Manager

September 21, 2020

11:04 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Fund (by phone), Commissioner Jackson, County Manager Erik Martin, Lara McRea, Steve Wohld, Janelle Lindsey, Becky Butler, Eric Eisenberg, Steve Wohld, Kaity Nissell, Katie Conradi, Suzette Smith, Megan Eastman, Daleyn Coleman

Guests: Frank Corbin, Claudia Yaw, Dr. Lindsey Pollock

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Budget

County Manager Erik Martin said budget work is ongoing.

Strategic planning

Erik urged to commissioners to review the draft Strategic Plan before their Sept. 30 workshop.

Benaroya update

Erik said he is meeting with Benaroya weekly to review upcoming steps and to identify any potential pitfalls. Erik said Benaroya committed \$1.2 million for the Mickelsen Parkway project. He said bids came in roughly \$500,000 less than anticipated and that Benaroya has requested permission to shift any overages to the city's sewer project.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to allow Benayora Company, which has pledged \$1.2 million to the Mickelsen Parkway project, to be last-in for the project and to allow Benaroya to shift any remaining funds to the city of Winlock's sewer extension project serving the Winlock Industrial Park. Commissioner Fund seconded.

Motion passed 3-0.

Commissioner Fund commended Steve Wohld and Discovery Lewis County for helping Benaroya with its marketing materials.

Internal Services update

At 11:19 a.m., Commissioner Stamper announced that the Board was going into Executive Session under RCWs 42.30.110(1)(i) and 42.30.110(1)(b) for 5 minutes to discuss lease acquisition and potential evictions. Executive Session started at 11:20 a.m.

At 11:25 a.m., the Board extended Executive Session for 3 minutes.

At 11:28 a.m., the Board extended Executive Session for 2 minutes.

Executive Session ended at 11:30 a.m. Commissioner Stamper noted that no decisions had been made.

Internal Services Chief Steve Wohld provided the following updates:

HR Director: Applications will be reviewed over the next two days.

Capital projects: Projects going out to bid, and county reaching out about possible street vacation.

Historic Courthouse: Lighting and painting projects in the works on the basement floor. Bathrooms remodel planned to create single-use employee bathrooms on the third floor.

SW Washington Fairgrounds: Repainting projects have been successful. Blue restroom project is complete. New PA system has been installed. Homeless shelter is expected to open Nov. 1. County will create an isolation center for quarantine. Some events now being allowed under newest Health Orders.

WSU Weed construction: Project is underway to the old Mrs. Clean office, allowing DEM to move to the basement.

Law and Justice: Façade repair was approved by insurance, which also approved repainting the building. He said the project had been estimated at seven figures and that the county has a \$5,000 deductible.

Courtroom video: Some grant funding available for “room kits,” and that the project is expected in October.

At 11:46 a.m., the commissioners announced they would go into Executive Session under 42.30.140(4)(b) for 10 minutes to discuss labor negotiations. Since that discussion is not subject to provisions of the OPMA, the group opted to instead recess for 10 minutes, beginning at 11:49 a.m.

At noon, the Board extended recess 5 minutes. At 12:05 p.m., the Board extended recess an additional 5 minutes.

Recess ended at 12:10 p.m.

Steve Wohld said the county is negotiating a contract with a consultant to conduct a salary study. He said the consultant expects to have to survey completed by Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Fund said she'd like to have all three commissioners sign a letter regarding the county's diversity policies and procedures.

Meeting ended at 12:14 p.m.