

## **BOCC Wrap-Up / COVID-19**

**November 19, 2020**

**3 p.m.**

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Fund, Commissioner Jackson (via Zoom), JP Anderson, Susan Caldwell, John Abplanalp, Becky Butler, Lara McRea, Lee Napier, Meja Handlen, Tammy Martin, Dr. Kevin Caserta, Amber Smith, Alison Puckett, County Manager Erik Martin (3:34 p.m.)

Guests: Commissioner-elect Dr. Lindsey Pollock, Claudia Yaw, Nic Scott, Commissioner-elect Sean Swope

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Dr. Kevin Caserta discussed concerns regarding increased COVID-19 case rates. He said one-fourth to one-third of incoming COVID-19 patients are requiring critical care. He said there are concerns that too many people are not taking the pandemic seriously. He urged the public to take steps to protect themselves and others.

Dr. Caserta left at 3:10 p.m.

JP Anderson said Lewis County has learned of 16 new COVID-19 cases, including one additional fatality. He said year to date is 990 cases, 14 deaths and 67 individuals requiring hospitalization. He provided additional updates:

- The area has enough ventilators but that staffing remains a concern.
- The hope is to avoid placing a moratorium on elective surgeries.
- Health is working on a new media plan.

He noted that county testing rates lag behind the state's testing rates. He also noted that Lewis County has taken back contact tracing work.

Becky Butler said the Jail isolation project will not be completed in time to use Coronavirus Relief Funding (CRF). She said the county can reallocate the roughly \$300,000 in funding.

Erik Martin joined at 3:34 p.m.

The group discussed possible reallocations. Commissioner Stamper said he'd like to see additional funding go to the PUD to help citizens struggling to pay their utility bills in the wake of COVID-19.

Erik Martin left at 3:44 p.m., and Commissioner Fund left at 3:45 p.m.

Commissioner Stamper said Thorbecke's owner Matt Noren has written to the county to urge the commissioners to ask Gov. Inslee to ease the state's restrictions on gyms.

Commissioner Stamper and Commissioner Jackson directed Becky Butler to draft a resolution increasing CRF contributions for the PUD.

Meeting adjourned at 3:51 p.m.