

Mayors' / Managers' Meeting

November 6, 2020

9:00 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Fund, Winlock Mayor Brandon Svenson, Centralia Port Commissioner Peter Lahmann, Steve Wohld, Becky Butler, Centralia Mayor Sue Luond, Jeremy Almond pro-tem for Winlock

Zoom: Commissioner Jackson, Toledo Mayor Steve Dobosh, Vader Mayor Joe Schey, Chehalis Mayor Dennis Dawes, Pe Ell Mayor Lonnie Willey, JP Anderson, Pam Peiper, Sarah Kohout, Christine Nhan, Wes Anderson of WSDOT Olympia, Chad Hancock of WSDOT Vancouver, Mossyrock Mayor Randall Sasser, Centralia City Manager Rob Hill, Lindsey Pollock, Sean Swope, Katie Conradi

Guest: Reporter Claudia Yaw

Recorder: Tammy Martin

2020 roundtable – December 11, 2020. Mayor Luond and Rob Hill are still looking for agenda items, and Commissioner Fund suggested flooding.

Chehalis Mayor Dennis Dawes said he'd like to address flooding. He doesn't want to create a lot of pet projects because they are still trying to cope with COVID-19. He would like for the city to stay within its means.

Toledo Mayor Dobosh agreed with Mayor Dawes. They have been working with their budget and haven't had the time to come up with other projects to focus on.

Pe Ell Mayor Willey has been in the same situation as others and primarily focusing on COVID 19, but would be willing to discuss flood mitigations.

Winlock Mayor Svenson said that Highway 505 is in major need of repair. This was one project that was cut due to budget cuts. There is a sinkhole beginning and a culvert that has no bottom to it that could cause problems in the near future.

Mossyrock Mayor Sasser said his biggest concern is what is going to happen in January 1. He is concerned about how the new president will impact the budget. One local business has closed its doors. CRF monies are being spent for PPE and they are managing ok. Local businesses have appreciated the grants that were handed out. The first round of funding was divvied by applications and the second round went to people that didn't turn money in from previous applications.

Centralia Mayor Luond said the city of Centralia worked with Downtown Centralia Association and utilized a script program. Gather Church still has rent assistance money to offer. Boys and Girls Club has been helping area children and the City of Centralia also awarded additional funds through the Chamber of Commerce for PPE.

Mayor Dawes said Chehalis awarded grants to the Chamber of Commerce, Lewis County Seniors, and Renaissance program.

Becky Butler announced that Lewis County has awarded utility assistance of \$100,000 through PUD, Lewis County Seniors \$40,000 for van purchases, \$250,000 for automated CPR devices for the fire departments, and \$150,000 in broadband assistance. The board is considering the best way to reallocate funds turned back. A few internal projects will need to be wrapped up by November 30, 2020.

Sarah Kohout from Senator Cantwell's Office wanted to let the audience know that they cosponsor the HEROES Act 2.0 House Bill and it is proposed for PPE for small businesses and nonprofits.

Christine Nhan cosponsors HEROES Act 2.0. The bill will also include small restaurants and similar places of business that need Coronavirus Relief Funds. The funds are to be used by 2021

Business health

COVID-19 – Lewis County is in Phase 3 of the Safe Start Program and cannot advance to the next phase based on the Governor's direction. Schools are beginning to reopen for in-school instruction. Mayor Luond expressed her thanks for working with schools to reopen.

Becky Butler has been working with EDC. Most award notifications have been sent out. \$500,000 was awarded to nonprofits and businesses, resulting in a substantial amount in grant funds going out to local areas.

Boundary Review Board –Tammy Martin read the letter submitted by Karen Witherspoon for the recommendation of Larry McGee.

Pam Peiper said the office goes back into session November 9, 2020, and they are looking for PPE funding.

Wes Anderson said that the 13th Street Bridge is schedule to be open next week. St. Rt. 6 is currently under construction. The contractor is doing ground improvement to form the brace for the footings. This will be in progress through summer 2021. WSDOT will be upgrading illuminaires in the areas between Rush Rd., Chehalis, through Vader in the spring of 2021. They are looking to partner with the city of Centralia to improve the median on St. Rt. 507 for 2021.

Winlock Mayor Svenson asked Wes Anderson from WSDOT about the St. Rt. 505. There are sink holes developing and a culvert with issues. There has been a lot of truck traffic with the construction of Mickelsen Parkway. Chad Hancock from WSDOT said that he could look into the project and look at the disrepair. Peter Lahmann said that he partners with volunteers from the Clean Team and wanted to ask if there was a way to ask whether the Department of Ecology could help with cleanup abilities. Chad said that unfortunately litter is not a high priority due to budget cuts.

Mayor Luond said that Centralia is having the Borst Light parade in Centralia. This will be the city's only event that will be on plan as normal. The lighted tractor parade will be at the fairgrounds this year as a static parade.

Dennis Dawes said budgets are tight. Penny Playground is finishing up last minute items. The ginger bread house will be up in time for the Christmas season. The city is still on schedule for the Santa Parade in December for the downtown area.

Mayor Dobosh said that a few streets have been finished up. The crossings have been updated and will light up. The park is now closed to drive-ins, Halloween had a great turn-out, the Santa quad parade is scheduled December 5, and local food-based businesses are doing great with take out. There haven't been any business close, but there has been one business really struggling. St. Rt. 505 is cracked and rough through the city and the high school is on plan to reopen in January.

Mayor Svenson said Winlock had a trunk-or-treat in the plaza. November 16 schools will go back on a modified scheduled. Grand Prairie is moving to phase 4 of construction. They currently have 66 homes finished. The new church footings are done and its plumbing is complete. The First Street project is almost complete, and the city is working on round two for business grants. Benaroya has finished paving and is coming along quickly. Mayor Svenson has asked his council not to take the 1% increase in taxes for the 2021 year. Most taxes are levied and needed to support services, but he would like to balance what he can for the citizens' sake. They will have their normal tree lighting in Zander Park this year.

Mayor Willey still looking for a Marshal and working on budgets.

Mayor Sasser said they are having a Christmas tree lighting December 5 and looking to have a New Year's celebration. Burntly Rd. has some dead trees that are a cause for concern. These are not within the city.

Peter Lahmann said there is a Port of Centralia budget hearing November 11. Peter also mentioned that on Saturday November 7th, there will be a historic display in honors of Veterans Day from 10-4. There will also be a static parade at the Veteran's museum on Saturday November 11. Peter wanted the group to know about the Clean Team. The Clean Team is a group of volunteers and they meet Saturday mornings for clean-up of city streets.

Commissioner Jackson said this has been a tough time for businesses and nonprofits. He has been grateful to be a part in distributing CARES funding and feels more will be coming.

Announcements:

There will be a flood damage reduction presentation November 10, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

The County Budget will be presented November 12 at 5:30 p.m.

Port of Centralia commissioner interviews on November 17 at 5:30 p.m.

There will be no Mayors' meeting December 4. Instead, there will be a Legislative Roundtable December 11, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

The Strategic Plan has been approved. Vision 2025 has a few new directives moving forward. This was based on community engagement. There will be streamlining processes with reorganization and positive things moving forward.

Adjourned 10:23 a.m.