

County Manager update

November 9, 2020

11:13 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Fund, Commissioner Jackson, County Manager Erik Martin, Steve Wohld, Becky Butler, Chris Panush, Janelle Lindsey, Taylor Albright

Guests: Commissioners-elect Dr. Lindsey Pollock and Sean Swope

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Budget

County Manager Erik Martin reminded the group that 2021 decisions will be made later in the day.

Internal Services

Steve Wohld said the county has reached an agreement to amend the county's agreement with the Eugenia Center. He said Erik Martin will sign the amendment. He said another tenant has moved out.

Steve said the Salary study continues to move forward. He provided updates on repair projects and technological improvements.

Human Resources

Employee handbook and onboarding process: Chris Panush said HR is working to streamline and standardize the employee handbook as well as the county's onboarding process.

Public Health & Social Services update

Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) / Department of Health (DOH) funding: Erik discussed changes regarding CRF / DOH funding. He said CRF allocations will be discussed later in the day.

Staffing: Erik said he will review Health's staffing needs later in the day.

COVID-19: Erik recapped COVID-19 discussions that took place earlier in the day.

911 update

Infrastructure funding: Erik said Scott Smitherman and Commissioner Jackson are looking into potential legislative funding for infrastructure improvements. He said Rep. Orcutt is supportive of the county making a funding request.

Feasibility study: Erik discussed a DELTAWRX meeting that took place the previous meeting. He said details with Thurston 911 Communications (TCOMM) would need to be ironed out before deciding whether to continue exploring a move to TCOMM. He said the county likely will meet with TCOMM by December to determine TCOMM's interest and Lewis County's interest in a consolidation effort. He said the BOCC could send a representative or could instead set it up as a quorum meeting.

Staffing: Erik discussed recruitment efforts in 911.

Community Development update

Permit stats: Erik reviewed CD's permits year-to-date.

Public Works/DEM update

Vader Water update: Erik said two new pumps are being installed and should fix reservoir problems.

Airports update: Erik said Josh Metcalf is working on five-year plan for Packwood and Toledo. He said Josh has indicated an underground storage tank will need to be replaced. Commissioner Fund discussed a Lodging Tax request that had been made regarding paving at the Toledo airport. She suggested looking elsewhere for funding. Becky Butler said it's odd to have Vision Toledo spearhead the project for a county-owned property. Becky said she is reaching out to the State Auditor's Office to determine whether the paving would be an acceptable use of lodging tax funds.

Staffing: Erik said Public Works is struggling to fill an onslaught of vacancies due to promotions, retirements, etc.

Middle Fork Water System: Erik said the county will meet with Ecology the following week to discuss the Birchfield water rights, which were not acquired to serve the entire area. Erik said discussions with Water Sewer District 2 are on hold. Erik said WSD2 has said it will perform a rate study but only if the county pays for it. He said the rate study would cost \$42,000. He said the study would go beyond what's needed.

Calendars

Erik said he will be out of the office the day before Thanksgiving as well as the week of Christmas.

Commissioner Jackson said he will be out of the office the week of Dec. 3.

Meeting ended at 11:43 a.m.