

PA Update

December 15, 2020

2 p.m.

Present: Commissioner Stamper (2:04 p.m.), Commissioner Fund, Commissioner Jackson, County Manager Erik Martin, Cullen Gatten, Eric Eisenberg, Becky Butler, Brittani Bonahoom, Amber Smith, Jonathan Meyer, Katie Conradi, Steve Wohld, Taylor Albright

Guests: Claudia Yaw

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Jonathan Meyer discussed the Board's previous approval for a Trimble equipment and software. He said the Sheriff's Office is looking to purchase a drone in tandem with the PA's Office purchase.

Becky Butler noted that anything that was not received by year's end would have to come out of another fund.

Becky noted that the request totals \$100,000 and that the amount is included in a budget amendment to take place during a Dec. 21 hearing.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to permit the Lewis County's Prosecuting Attorney's Office to fund the purchase of a drone for the Lewis County Sheriff's Office, with the source of the funds to be determined at a later date.

Commissioner Stamper seconded.

Motion passed 3-0.

Jonathan Meyer noted that he has been installed as WAPA president. He said he learned at a recent WAPA meeting that there may be a bill proposed to decriminalize third-degree driving with a suspended license.

Amber Smith said the county has reached out to a water law consultant to provide expertise regarding the Department of Ecology legal issues related to the county's Middle Fork and Vader water systems. She said the individual charges \$350 per hour. She said similar rates are in the \$475 per hour rate.

The group discussed the possible fund from which the water law consultant would be paid.

Eric Eisenberg clarified that the consultant would give county staff strategies the county could pursue to protect the water rights the county has acquired through the water-sewer districts.

Amber estimated the billable hours at 10.

Becky said the water systems have very tight budgets and may not be able to afford the \$3,500. She and Eric discussed the possibility of a general fund loan.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to instruct the PA's office to move forward with the hiring of a water law consultant.

Commissioner Stamper seconded.

Motion passed 3-0.

Eric and Amber indicated that Lewis County had not provided any Coronavirus Relief Funding to Mossyrock.

At 2:40 p.m., Commissioner Fund announced that the Board would be going into Executive Session under RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) for 10 minutes to discuss the Hampton Lumber tax cases. Executive Session began at 2:41 p.m.

Executive Session ended at 2:51 p.m. Commissioner Fund noted that no decisions had been made.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve having Eric Eisenberg seek a continuance of the Board of Tax Appeals hearing regarding the Hampton Lumber tax cases.

Commissioner Stamper seconded.

Motion passed 3-0.

Meeting adjourned 2:54 p.m.