

## Legislative recap – impacts to offices

June 8, 2021

3:24 p.m.

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, County Manager, Erik Martin, Jonathan Meyer, Becky Butler, Scott Tinney, Judge Wade Samuelson, Sherriff Rob Snaza, Arny Davis, Josh Metcalf, Dianne Dorey, Larry Grove, Steve Wohld

Guests: Nic Scott, Claudia Yaw, Frank Corbin

Recorder: Tammy Martin

Prosecuting Attorney Jonathan Meyer said a possible long-term impact to the budget will include purchasing body worn cameras for law enforcement, body camera issues and discovery. The Blake decision impacts include refunds and diversion requirements. The PA's office is looking into a diversion program coordinator. Washington State will reimburse \$23 million statewide for fees collected from drug possession convictions. Jonathan wanted the Board to be aware Thurston County established non-criminal financial reasons can no longer be used to suspend driver's licenses. This will be a statewide law in 2023. Suspended driver's licenses are the number one item prosecuted in District Court in Lewis County and this will impact monies collected from fines and/or fees.

Treasurer Arny Davis said HB #1271 allows for no fines associated with late payments of first-half taxes. He also said HB #1410 is effective in 2023. The interest charge associated with HB1410 will not change for 2022, but in 2023 residential property revenue collected in Lewis County should see an approximate reduction of \$43,000 compared to 2022 numbers. He said revenue collected for penalties will only apply to commercial properties and he said he expects reduced revenue for Lewis County's current expenses.

Sheriff Snaza said training due to new bills will be in place for the Sheriff's Office beginning July 2021. This training is in addition to the current workload the PA's office is currently creating to comply with recent mandates. Sheriff Snaza provided the following updates:

- HB #1054 Tactics Bill will be effective July 25, 2021. Classes will be completed prior to the bill date. This will affect K-9, tear gas deployment (this will require the chair of the BOCC to authorize use), military equipment.
- HB #1310 use of force will be effective July 1, 2022.
- Senate Bill #5051 - The Criminal Justice Training Center (CJTC) will have the ability to decertify an officer.
- SB #5066 requires peace officers to intervene.
- SB #5476 State vs. Blake. Sheriff Snaza still has questions about evidence collected, how long evidence is stored, how it will be processed. This decision makes possession of drugs a misdemeanor on the 3<sup>rd</sup> offense.
- HB #1223 states there must be uniform recordation and this must be audio and video forms of recording. If recordation is unavailable, evidence may not be admissible in court.

- HB #1140 states juveniles must have access to an attorney before an officer can speak with the juvenile. This is to be funded from money approved by the Legislature.
- HB #1320 deals with protection orders.
- SB #5259 talks about law enforcement data collection. There will be new requirements including a contract for law enforcement reporting regarding use of force. This may create a position requirement for additional public disclosure requests. Cameras will be needed and the expected cost range is \$400,000-\$600,000 every 5 years. This is a subscription.
- Medicaid reimbursement for up to 29 days of incarceration for persons in jail will now be able to stay on Medicaid.

Clerk Scott Tinney said the Blake decision won't affect needs to his office, but there will be funding that affects the County. The money awarded to Lewis County is expected to be depleted quickly. Lewis County leads the addressed impacted cases from the Blake decision for Washington State.

Judge Samuelson figures a large decrease in revenues from \$2.4 to 1.2 million. This is because of those who do not have assets to garnish, will no longer be motivated to pay fines. The bulk of the money comes from infractions and criminal court fine payments. Over 900 cases of the criminal court fines include suspended driver's licenses. Commissioner Swope asked if this incentivizes not carrying insurance. Judge Samuelson suggested having personal coverage to mitigate any uncovered costs. The State vs. Blake decision doesn't impact District Court too much. Judge Samuelson said his current expenses include upgrading court room technology.

Assessor Dianne Dorey said the state will allow extra medical expenses to be deducted from income in 2022. This should not impact budget. Any offset will be passed onto taxpayers.

Auditor Larry Grove said there were approximately 16 bills in the Legislature that may affect his office and he is waiting for the outcome. HB #1277 charges an additional \$100 in recording fees for the first page. Larry said the redistricting process relies heavily on Public Works and GIS. The date for completion is end of 2021 for offices that have current openings on the ballot and those not on the ballot will have until May 2022.

Meeting adjourned: 4:23 p.m.