

County Manager Update

September 20, 2021

11 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, County Manager Erik Martin, Becky Butler, Austin Majors, Eric Eisenberg, Chris Panush, Chief Chris Sweet, Steve Wohld, Grace Jimenez, Graham Gowing, Larry Grove, Tammy Martin, Tom Stanton

Guests: Nic Scott, The Chronicle, Bill Serrahn

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Budget

Becky Butler

Jail American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) request

Chief Chris Sweet discussed how jail cell microchips in the Jail's ARPA application work. Chris said the company's website has demos the commissioners can watch online.

The commissioners said they would review the entire application packet Sept. 29.

Board of Equalization member salaries

Erik Martin said it's been nearly 25 years since the BOE members received a stipend increase. He said he is requesting a \$25 increase to the members' stipends. The commissioners provided verbal approval to move forward with a resolution.

Blake contract and process

Eric Eisenberg said the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (WAPA) have drafted a contract regarding Blake funding. He said there is \$500,000 available to offset fine reimbursements and that there will be additional funding for administrative and other costs. He said he will draft a resolution to accept the grant funding.

Eric suggested the county created a separate fund for the money related to the Blake cases.

Eric briefly discussed two lawsuits that have been filed regarding the Blake decision.

The group indicated the grant will be approved via resolution and that the resolution will list the County Manager as the approved signer.

Internal services

Parks and Facilities: Steve Wohld discussed testing models for the fairgrounds and parks plan. He noted that the Fairgrounds is now considered a park. He said camping rates, RV rates, building rentals, etc., are being reviewed. He said the group likely will present its findings to the board in October.

Capital projects: Steve Wohld discussed moving IT to the old McDaniel building. He said Health needs IT's current location and that the move to the McDaniel building would allow for the needed server update. He said construction on the new building can begin in a few weeks. Steve said the county has secured \$800,000 in grants to help pay for improvements and will continue to pursue additional grant funding. Steve said he plans to use \$1.5 million from already-approved capital project funding to build the new IT site. He discussed other projects in the proposal, noting that Central Shop and other projects are being removed from consideration.

Steve said the plan for the campus is as follows:

- Provide a "one-stop-shop" for county operations
- Demo worn or no-value buildings
- Acquire needed property
- Paint the Law and Justice Center
- Create a new Community Development site
- Create a new Public Works site
- Create a new IT site
- Expand Health to all floors
- Update Juvenile
- Improve parking
- Create a mural on the old Star Tavern site

Steve reviewed plans to improve and expand the Juvenile Detention center.

Erik Martin discussed the need to address naming conventions.

Steve Wohld suggested naming the buildings after mountains and the rooms after trees. The commissioners approved.

Steve noted that the building "soft-scapes" will include seating and improved lighting. He said painting crews will use colors that complement each other across the campus.

Community Development

Permits: Erik said Community Development has processed 1,255 permits year-to-date, a large increase over the 1,030 approved year-to-date in 2020.

Personnel

Erik said he will submit memos regarding requests for additional staffing at motor pool.

Commissioner Swope said he plans to attend WSAC's County Leaders meeting in Spokane in November, and Commissioner Pollock said she plans to attend virtually if possible.

Meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.