

BOCC Wrap-Up

July 19, 2022

9 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, Commissioner Grose, County Manager Erik Martin, Meja Handlen, Becky Butler, Doug Carey, Chief Chris Sweet, Sheriff Snaza, Undersheriff Rethwill, Lee Napier, Jenn Libby-Jones, Lara McRea, Mindy Brooks, Daleyn Coleman, Josh Metcalf, Grace Jimenez, John Clark (9:07 a.m.), Connie Riker (9:07 a.m.), Michelle Sauter

Guest(s): Nic Scott

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Public comment: None.

Commissioner Swope made a motion to add to the July 19, 2022, BOCC Business Meeting agenda the following:

- **Resolution 22-214:** Authorize an interfund loan from Capital Facilities Plan Fund No. 3100 to COVID-19 Response Fund No. 1410.
- **Resolution 22-215:** Civil Service secretary Authorization to establish the rate of pay for a non-union extra help Civil Service secretary.
- **Resolution 22-216:** The proposed acquisition of additional right of way for Logan Hill Road in Chehalis.

Becky Butler discussed the interfund resolution, Rieva Lester discussed the Civil Service secretary resolution and Josh Metcalf discussed the Logan Hill Road resolution.

Commissioner Grose seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Mental Health tax request: Chief Chris Sweet requested \$79,688 in mental health tax funding to serve as a funding bridge through the end of the year.

John Clark and Connie Riker joined at 9:07 a.m.

Chief Sweet said grant funding likely will be available to offset the request retroactively.

Commissioner Swope said Jonathan Meyer reached out to express support for the mental health services being provided at the jail using the mental health funds.

The group noted that the county already allocated \$100,000 for the mental health services for 2022. They said the bridge funding would provide an additional 80,000 for the remainder of 2022 and that additional funds would be needed for 2023.

Commissioner Pollock discussed potentially looking at other service providers by putting the project out to bid. Commissioner Grose and Commissioner Swope said they'd like to fund the program through 2023, partnering with Cascade Mental Health, through 2023.

Sheriff Snaza said Cascade has been a fantastic partner over the past seven years.

Commissioner Swope made a motion to approve the funding request through 2023. Commissioner Grose seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Veterans' peer-to-peer funding request: Becky Butler said she, Heidi Palmer and Meja Handlen have been discussing possible funding for the peer-to-peer project at the Veterans' Memorial Museum. Becky said she would provide an update in a week.

Commissioner Grose discussed his frustration with watered-down plans for a local mobile clinic for veterans.

Budget amendment: Becky discussed the notice of hearing for the budget amendment. Becky said she also shared with the commissioners a document Coroner Warren McLeod had provided. She noted

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) applications: Becky said she sent the commissioners read-aheads for the applications received.

Citizens Budget Committee: Becky and Rieva Lester discussed the applications received for the Citizens Budget Committee. They said the commissioners would be asked to identify two appointees per commissioner district the following.

Casual pay clarification: Daleyn Coleman asked for clarification regarding casual pay. She asked if the commissioners would allow the offices and departments to hire additional help, not just fill vacancies.

Public Health and Social Services casual positions: Meja Handlen said she had read the updates to the casual policy to mean that additional casual employees could be brought on at higher rates even when it's not for a vacated position. For example, she said, she needs to hire additional food inspectors for the area's many festivals and fairs.

Erik Martin asked if the commissioners would like offices and departments to request via resolution authorization to pay casual employees at rates higher than the casual grid. The commissioners said they'd like feedback regarding casuals hired at higher rates but that they would allow offices and departments to make those decisions if they have budget authority.

Historic Courthouse Rehabilitation Grant letter of support: The commissioners agreed to sign the letter of support.

Long-range strategic planning: Erik Martin said a workshop is planned for the afternoons of Aug. 9-10.

Correspondence: Commissioner Grose said he would like the county to issue monthly press releases regarding fire danger.

Announcements / new business: Erik said the new Public Information Specialist will start Aug. 1.

Meeting ended at 9:50 a.m.