

**Whatcom County
Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee**

COUNTY COURTHOUSE
311 Grand Avenue, Ste #105
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038
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Committee Minutes - Final

VIRTUAL MEETING - VIEW ONLINE

Wednesday, August 5, 2020

9:30 AM

Virtual Meeting

COUNCILMEMBERS

Rud Browne
Tyler Byrd
Kathy Kershner

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

Call To Order

Committee Chair Tyler Byrd called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. in a virtual meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Rud Browne, Tyler Byrd and Kathy Kershner

Absent: None

Also present: Barry Buchanan, Carol Frazey, and Todd Donovan

Announcement

Committee Discussion

1. [AB2020-329](#) Discussion regarding potential Washington State Department of Commerce CDBG CVI consortium grant to address COVID-19 impacts in Whatcom County (public hearing and approval for the County Executive to submit an application scheduled for this evening)

The following people briefed the Councilmembers:

Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office
Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

They answered questions about whether this is leftover CARES Act dollars that the State has not appropriated, when the application must be submitted, when the money must be spent, and whether there is a better chance for receiving the grant if the application includes specific uses for the funds.

This agenda item was DISCUSSED.

Special Presentation

1. [AB2020-322](#) Report from the Health Department on the Behavioral Health Program Fund - School Services

Joe Fuller, Health Department, gave a presentation (on file) and answered whether there is a plan for how these services will take place if schools go virtual next year.

This agenda item was PRESENTED.

Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council

1. [AB2020-211](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Nooksack Valley School District to provide behavioral health services, in the amount of \$120,000

Browne moved that the Interlocal be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

2. [AB2020-220](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Lynden School District to provide behavioral health services, in the amount of \$111,000

Browne moved that the Interlocal be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

3. [AB2020-231](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Blaine School District to provide behavioral health services, in the amount of \$131,400

Browne moved that the Interlocal be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

4. [AB2020-235](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Meridian School District to provide behavioral health services, in the amount of \$108,000

Browne moved that the Interlocal be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

5. [AB2020-236](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Ferndale School District to provide behavioral health services, in the amount of \$120,000

Browne moved that the Interlocal be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

6. [AB2020-237](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Bellingham School District #501 to provide behavioral health services, in the amount of \$138,000

Browne moved that the Interlocal be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

7. [AB2020-244](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Mount Baker School District to provide behavioral health services, in the amount of \$108,000

Browne moved that the Interlocal be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

8. [AB2020-309](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District and Reichardt & Ebe Engineering, Inc., for engineering design services for the Ferndale Levee Improvement Project (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

Browne moved that the Contract be recommended for authorization.

Paula Harris, Public Works Department gave a staff report.

Browne's motion that the Contract (FCZDBS) be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

9. [AB2020-297](#) Ordinance amending the 2020 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 15, in the amount of \$716,503

Browne moved that the Ordinance be recommended for adoption.

Kathleen Roy, Health Department, gave a staff report and answered questions about how many positions the grant funding is providing for, what the epidemiologist specialist will do for the County, and whether the two positions will be temporary and linked to the availability of grant funding.

Browne's motion that the Ordinance be RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

10. [AB2020-301](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs for the Registered Sex Offender Address Verification Program, in the amount of \$139,263.00

Browne moved that the Interlocal be recommended for authorization.

Doug Chadwick, Undersheriff, answered what this actually does for the County and how many registered sex offenders live in Whatcom County.

Browne's motion that the Interlocal be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

11. [AB2020-313](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Health to provide funding for the delivery of various public health programs and services in the amount of \$408,842 for a total amended contract amount of \$4,928,000

Browne moved that the Interlocal be recommended for authorization.

Kathleen Roy, Health Department, gave a staff report and answered questions about how shellfish and marijuana are in the same grant amendment as COVID-related items, whether the County wants to accept this money to hire more staff to deal with the COVID-19 crisis rather than putting it into the particular service areas that the money is allocated to, whether the money listed for the syringe service program is included in the total contract amount, whether the funding would be used for the two positions listed in AB2020-297, and how often this contract comes to the Council for approval.

Browne's motion that the Interlocal be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

12. [AB2020-315](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Point Roberts Park & Recreation District Number 1 for use of Lighthouse Marine Park to establish a kayak program

Browne moved that the Interlocal be recommended for authorization.

Mike McFarlane, Parks and Recreation Department Director, gave a staff report and answered whether the Point Roberts Park and Recreation District pays rent for the use of the park, whether campers and park users pay to use the program, how many other parks and recreation districts there are in the unincorporated areas, whether the Lynden Parks and Recreation District is in the City, and whether these are taxing districts.

Browne's motion that the Interlocal be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

13. [AB2020-317](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Commerce to provide resources to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic among individuals and families who are homeless or receiving homeless assistance, in the amount of \$494,112

Browne moved that the Interlocal be recommended for authorization.

Anne Deacon, Health Department, gave a staff report and answered where the State is getting this money, and whether this will repurpose any of the previous funds that have been allocated to this.

Browne's motion that the Interlocal be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

14. [AB2020-318](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Fire Protection District #7 to cover the costs for students to attend the paramedic training program in the amount of \$218,640

Kershner moved that the Interlocal be recommended for authorization.

Mike Hilley, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Manager, gave a staff report and answered whether this is part of what was already budgeted for the EMS levy, when the EMS levy expires, whether the levy fund is still healthy, the cost to the County and to the students of the program and whether that should be shared, what students get paid for, the application process and who the program attracts, whether students are required to work in Whatcom County for a period of time after they graduate, and whether any of the mechanisms for pay and training are included in any of the labor agreements.

Kershner's motion that the Interlocal be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION carried by the following vote:

Aye: 2 - Browne and Kershner

Nay: 1 - Byrd

Absent: 0

15. [AB2020-319](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and North Whatcom Fire Authority to cover the costs for students to attend the paramedic training program in the amount of \$206,000

Browne moved that the Interlocal be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 2 - Browne and Kershner

Nay: 1 - Byrd

Absent: 0

17. [AB2020-321](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham to extend the current What-Comm Agreement through 12/31/23

Clerk's note: The committee skipped AB2020-320 and went back to it after this item.

Browne moved that the Interlocal be recommended for authorization.

The following people answered a question about how much flexibility there is for using Emergency Medical Services (EMS) dollars.

Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office
Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

Browne's motion that the Interlocal be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

16. [AB2020-320](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an Interlocal Agreement between Whatcom County and Bellingham Fire Department to cover the costs for students to attend the paramedic training program including class administration costs and supplies in the amount of \$642,503.07

Clerk's note: This item was discussed out of order after AB2020-321

Browne moved that the Interlocal be recommended for authorization.

The following people spoke about the length of the training, how many people will go through it, and the cost per student.

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
Mike Hilley, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Manager

Browne's motion that the Interlocal be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION carried by the following vote:

Aye: 2 - Browne and Kershner

Nay: 1 - Byrd

Absent: 0

Council "Consent Agenda" Items

1. [AB2020-191](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Washington State University to continue the jointly shared costs for faculty positions and program support for WSU Extension in the amount of \$239,047 for a total amended contract amount of \$2,238,323.90

Browne moved that the Memorandum of Agreement be recommended for authorization by consent.

Michael Wallace, Washington State University Extension, gave a staff report and answered questions about data points related to involvement in the 4-H program, whether the contract will be backdated for seven months and why it was not approved in advance, what fund the dollars for this come from, whether the programs have still been running the last several months, and where the money comes from for the Master Composter Program.

Browne's motion that the Memorandum of Agreement be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT carried by the following vote:

Aye: 2 - Browne and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 1 - Byrd

2. [AB2020-295](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an agreement between Whatcom County and Sun Community Services to lease the property known as Sun House, located at 515 E Chestnut Street in Bellingham

Browne moved that the Contract be recommended for authorization by consent.

Anne Deacon, Health Department, gave a staff report and answered whether Sun Community Services is paying the County for rent.

Browne's motion that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

3. [AB2020-302](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and City of Bellingham for actions to support the Aquatic

Invasive Species Program, in the amount of \$28,800

Kershner moved that the Agreement be recommended for authorization by consent.

Doug Chadwick, Undersheriff, gave a staff report.

Kershner's motion that the Agreement be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

4. [AB2020-303](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and San Juan Cruises to provide temporary passenger ferry service to Lummi Island, in the amount of \$83,328

Kershner moved that the Contract be recommended for authorization by consent.

Councilmembers discussed whether the funding comes from road funds.

Kershner's motion that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

5. [AB2020-305](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and the State of Washington Office of Crime Victims Advocacy to continue to fund the VGAL Program Coordinator to grow the VGAL program, in the amount of \$74,998.00

Kershner moved that the Contract be recommended for authorization by consent.

Dave Reynolds, Superior Court Administrator, gave a staff report and answered how many youths would be represented by a guardian ad litem, how many volunteers there are in the program, how many children the program touches all together, whether utilizing volunteers saves money and how much is saved.

Kershner's motion that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

6. [AB2020-306](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and U.S. Department of Justice for Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF), in the amount of \$2,500.00

Browne moved that the Interlocal be recommended for authorization by consent.

Doug Chadwick, Undersheriff, gave a staff report.

Browne's motion that the Interlocal be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

7. [AB2020-307](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Opportunity Council to administer the Washington State Department of Commerce Housing and Essential Needs Program in the amount of \$608,211 for a total amended contract amount of \$2,037,324

Browne moved that the Contract be recommended for authorization by consent.

Kathleen Roy, Health Department, answered whether this is a pass-thru to the Opportunity Council from the State, where the money is coming from, whether the criteria for what the funding can be used for is only housing assistance, how housing assistance is defined, and whether people move off of this program into more stable housing where they need less help.

Browne's motion that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT carried by the following vote:

Aye: 2 - Browne and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 1 - Byrd

8. [AB2020-311](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Washington State Military Department to support the ongoing

COVID-19 response, in the amount of \$25,397

Kershner moved that the Contract be recommended for authorization by consent.

Doug Chadwick, Undersheriff, gave a staff report and answered whether this is money outside of the COVID-19 CARES Act and State money that was originally sent to counties to deal with the COVID-19 crisis.

Kershner's motion that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

9. [AB2020-323](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Opportunity Council to provide reimbursement for COVID-19 related operations and prevention expenditures, in the amount of \$273,500

Browne moved that the Contract be recommended for authorization by consent.

Anne Deacon, Health Department, and Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office, answered whether this is CARES Act money that the County has already received and is in the process of allocating, whether every contract over \$40,000 within those CARES Act buckets will come to the Council for approval, whether these dollars are a reimbursement to the Opportunity Council for expenses that have already been incurred or for future expenses, what is associated with the cost for private security and the types of facilities it is used for, whether invoices and receipts have already been received by the County from the requesting agencies, and whether contracts should be terminated before the October deadline for spending the CARES Act money.

Browne's motion that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

10. [AB2020-324](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Northwest Youth Services to provide reimbursement for COVID-19 related operations and prevention expenditures, in the amount of

\$53,791

Kershner moved that the Contract be recommended for authorization by consent.

Anne Deacon, Health Department, answered how many organizations or agencies applied for this that did not meet the \$40,000 threshold, whether hazard pay is a line item that can be reimbursed, and what some of the specific requests were for and how they were related to COVID-19.

Councilmembers discussed and the following staff answered questions about why heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) upgrades is a COVID-related request and whether there are plans to upgrade the HVAC system at the Courthouse:

Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office
Anne Deacon, Health Department

Kershner's motion that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT carried by the following vote:

Aye: 2 - Browne and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 1 - Byrd

11. [AB2020-325](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Catholic Community Services to provide reimbursement for COVID-19 related operations and prevention expenditures, in the amount of \$51,510

Kershner moved that the Contract be recommended for authorization by consent.

Anne Deacon, Health Department, and Perry Mowery, Health Department, answered a question about the differences in the dollar amounts listed for personal protection equipment (PPE) supplies for each agency and whether the County knows what all the expenses are at this time.

Kershner's motion that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

12. [AB2020-326](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and James P. Richmond, attorney, for legal services related to the Assessor's appeal in the amount of \$80,000

Browne moved that the Contract be recommended for authorization by consent.

Rebecca Xczar, Whatcom County Assessor, gave a staff report. She and George Roche, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, answered questions about what the appellant is saying their assessed value should be, what amount the appellant purchased the property for, what the County would get back in taxes if it won its case, whether the County would get money back for legal fees, whether an attorney through the County's Prosecuting Attorney's Office is working on this, why \$80,000 is needed to continue this until next spring if it should have been ready to go in July, the normal process for appealing a property valuation, the reason for the appeal in this case, the amounts that have been contested, the amount of tax for the intangible assets, how far the two parties are from coming to an agreement, whether Whatcom County has a good chance of winning the case, and whether the company could move a different product.

Councilmembers and staff continued to discuss the item.

Browne's motion that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Tyler Byrd-via email 8/19/2020

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Tyler Byrd, Committee Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

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