

Whatcom County Council Public Works & Health Committee

**COUNTY COURTHOUSE
311 Grand Avenue, Ste #105
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038
(360) 778-5010**



Committee Minutes - Final

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

10:40 AM

Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers

**HYBRID MEETING - MAY BEGIN EARLY - ADJOURNS BY 11:50 AM
(PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT
www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil, OR CALL 360.778.5010)**

COUNCILMEMBERS

Kaylee Galloway
Jon Scanlon
Mark Stremmler

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

Call To Order

Committee Chair Jon Scanlon called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m. in a hybrid meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Kaylee Galloway, Jon Scanlon, and Mark Stremmler

Also Present: Barry Buchanan, Todd Donovan, and Ben Elenbaas

Announcements

Special Presentation

1. [AB2024-550](#) Presentation by Whatcom County Health and Community Services Prevention Program Staff

The following people read from a presentation (on file) about Behavioral Health Prevention Services Highlights and Youth Cannabis & Commercial Tobacco Prevention Program (YCCTPP) Highlights:

- Joe Fuller, Health and Community Services
- Alyssa Pavitt, Health and Community Services

Fuller answered questions about the source of their data and whether all the schools participate. He stated all seven school districts have participated in the Healthy Youth Survey for close to 20 years. Some of the data they use is collected through the schools and some is community-based. There are probably one hundred different metrics that they look at. He spoke about an upcoming medication take-back event that is happening this month.

This agenda item was PRESENTED.

2. [AB2024-692](#) Presentation from Whatcom County Health and Community Services and The Imagine Institute on funding landscape

The following people read from a presentation (on file) and answered questions.

- Ann Beck, Health and Community Services
- Erika Lautenbach, Health and Community Services Director

Beck answered a question about the drop-in childcare project and stated it would not be just one facility but several providers that are on board with one central access point online.

Beck and Lautenbach summarized the amounts of Healthy Children's Fund (HCF) money that are already contracted or awarded, in process, or in planning (non-committed) and answered whether the \$5 million childcare subsidy is included in that. Beck stated it is part of the \$10,332,942 that is still in development. They answered whether there is a goal to keep a fund balance in the fund or to spend as much of each year's revenue as they can, and Beck stated they are hoping to spend out as much as they can while keeping the fund balance that they need to maintain.

Lautenbach stated they are hoping to learn how Council would like them to prioritize these funds, and whether they are they aligned with Council's desires for moving the funds into the community. That will help them determine how they can best spend down some of that fund balance. They showed points five and six from Ordinance 2022-045 regarding the Implementation Plan's allocations of the levy revenue in the first two years and beyond, and stated they are on track with that.

Lautenbach stated they are starting the Implementation Plan for the next two-year cycle and would like to know what the Council's priorities are and to get policy direction.

Donovan stated he would like to look over the Implementation Plan, what they were actually telling people when this was on the ballot, and what those priorities were, but childcare comes to mind. He stated the discussion with the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money was broadly that it would be for capital and that the Proposition 5 money would be for operating.

Stremmer asked about the \$3 million rollover from 2023 to 2024 and Lautenbach stated they spent very little in 2023 because it was an implementation and planning year.

Galloway stated she would be interested in continuing to think about what the role of capital is in the Healthy Children's Fund and stated this is a job well done.

Scanlon spoke about how this topic and the first agenda item are tied together.

This agenda item was PRESENTED.

Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council

1. [AB2024-656](#) Resolution approving the revised Samish Water District Comprehensive Sewer Plan
- Doug Ranney, Public Works Department, briefed the Councilmembers and stated Council had previously approved this plan, then it went to the Department of Ecology who gave input. That was incorporated, and the revised plan is now here for Council approval. He answered whether approval by the Council is a State law since they know very little about sewer plans, and stated that is correct.

Kirsten Smith, Council Office Staff, stated the language about who approves the plan was changed to say that *Whatcom County* approves as opposed to the County Council.

Ranney answered what community outreach looks like with these kinds of processes, and stated he is not sure what level of outreach the district does.

Scanlon moved that the Resolution be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

2. [AB2024-703](#) Letter of support for Washington State Parks' Recreation and Conservation Office grant application

Scanlon briefed the Councilmembers and state this grant provides snow removal so people can access winter recreational opportunities in the county. When applying for a grant, you get a leg up when you get support from local jurisdictions (Council).

Councilmembers discussed what access the snow removal and trail grooming provide and whether it is for access to parking.

Cathy Halka, Clerk of the Council, read from a September 30, 2024 email from Corey Tolar, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, which stated, "This grant would help fund snow removal and snowmobile trail grooming at existing Sno-parks and trails on United States Forest Service land around Mt Baker. The grant would help provide winter recreational opportunities to residents and visitors alike while contributing to the local economy."

Galloway moved that the Request for Motion be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.

Councilmembers voted on the item (see below) and then the discussion

continued.

Corey Tolar, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, briefed the Councilmembers on the letter of support and stated it helps them with getting approved for the grant.

Galloway's motion that the Request for Motion be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremmer

Nay: 0

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Jon Scanlon-via email 11/7/2024

Cathy Halka, Council Clerk

Jon Scanlon, Committee Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

SIGNED COPY ON FILE