

Whatcom County Council Committee of the Whole

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



Committee Minutes - Final

**VIRTUAL MEETING - MAY BEGIN EARLY; ENDS NO LATER
THAN 5 P.M.**

Tuesday, October 27, 2020

3:10 PM

Virtual Meeting

COUNCILMEMBERS

Rud Browne
Barry Buchanan
Tyler Byrd
Todd Donovan
Ben Elenbaas
Carol Frazey
Kathy Kershner

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

Call To Order

Roll Call

Present: 7 - Rud Browne, Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, Todd Donovan, Carol Frazey, Ben Elenbaas and Kathy Kershner

Absent: None

Committee Discussion

1. [AB2020-219](#) Discussion and update on strategies and other items related to COVID-19 (Council and Health Board)

Erika Lautenbach, Health Department Director, updated the Councilmembers on the following:

- Lower rates of COVID-19 cases in Whatcom County compared to the rates nation-wide but continued spread among households and social gatherings
- The outbreak at the Highlands Long Term Care Facility and that it has stabilized
- Most new COVID-19 cases being seen in the under 40 age group
- A meeting with the federal delegation about continuation of CARES Act funding for next year
- State plans for a COVID-19 vaccine
- An update in two weeks about efforts around behavioral and mental health in our community

Frazey thanked Lautenbach and her team and Elenbaas explained why the proposed updates to the Public Health Advisory Board (PHAB) Resolution about Racism are not yet ready.

Lautenbach and Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office, answered questions about the "DOH CARES Act \$4.5 M Spending Plan," as presented on packet page 334, what the school district contract amendments are for, getting a chart with columns for each allocation of CARES Act funding that the County has received and how it has been allocated, and whether this is just the Health Department's \$4.5 million.

This agenda item was DISCUSSED.

2. [AB2020-470](#) Introduction to the County Executive's recommended 2021-2022 Biennium Budget presented by Deputy Executive Tyler Schroeder

The following people presented from documents on the County's Finance Department's website and spoke:

- Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office
- Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
- Brad Bennett, Administrative Services Department

They answered questions about which departments the 22.5 unfunded frozen positions are in, whether those will just be un-filled positions as opposed to lay-offs, how hard or soft the budget lapse number is, who approves or disapproves the Additional Service Requests (ASRs), meeting with department heads that have unapproved ASRs, and why an ASR submitted by the Council Office was not approved.

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council, stated there is not a list yet of specific departments that Councilmembers would like to hear from so Councilmembers discussed which departments they would like to hear from and what dates they should be scheduled.

This agenda item was PRESENTED.

3. [AB2020-345](#) Discussion of proposed Cherry Point amendments

Councilmembers discussed how to proceed with the discussion.

The following people answered questions and discussed with Councilmembers progress on the work being done and changes they may want to propose:

- Eddy Ury, Re Sources (Joint Stakeholder Group)
- Matt Aamot, Planning and Development Services Department
- Mark Personius, Planning and Development Services Department Director

This agenda item was DISCUSSED.

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

The County Council approved these minutes on November 24, 2020.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

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