

# **Whatcom County Council (Special)**

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



## **Minutes - Draft Minutes**

**Tuesday, June 25, 2024**

**10 AM**

**Hybrid Meeting**

**HYBRID MEETING (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN  
INSTRUCTIONS AT [www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil), OR CALL  
360.778.5010)**

### **COUNCILMEMBERS**

Barry Buchanan  
Tyler Byrd  
Todd Donovan  
Ben Elenbaas  
Kaylee Galloway  
Jon Scanlon  
Mark Stremler

### **CLERK OF THE COUNCIL**

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

## Call To Order

Council Chair Barry Buchanan called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. in a hybrid meeting.

## Roll Call

**Present:** 6 - Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, Ben Elenbaas, Kaylee Galloway, Jon Scanlon, and Mark Stremler

**Absent:** 1 - Todd Donovan

## Announcements

### Committee Discussion and Action

[AB2024-428](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) to expand the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Program, in the amount of \$420,000

Erika Lautenbach, Health and Community Services Director, briefed the Councilmembers. She stated this action will allow them to accept the funding and then Council will see a supplemental request later in the summer to approve two additional Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program staff using the funding.

Malora Christensen, Health and Community Services, read a letter from a client that was helped by the LEAD program.

***Galloway moved*** and Scanlon seconded that the Contract be AUTHORIZED.

Christensen answered how many staff they have right now in the program, and stated they currently have five intensive case managers, three outreach coordinators, and a supervisor, and they plan to expand the caseload with the two additional positions as well as just the administrative load.

Vanessa Martin, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, answered what the longer-term commitment is from the State for funding for the two positions.

Lautenbach spoke about why they needed a special meeting today and stated the Health Care Authority (HCA) would like to further fund the LEAD program so it can expand, and indicated to the County that they were going to provide additional funding. However, the HCA did not have the contract language in time for the June meetings. It was scheduled to go before the

Council in July, but the contract had to be executed and signed by the Executive by June 30 or the County would relinquish \$110,000 of the \$420,000. This special meeting allows the Executive to sign the contract before June 30.

Galloway and Buchanan spoke about their support for the LEAD program.

**Galloway's motion that the Contract be AUTHORIZED carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 6 - Buchanan, Byrd, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** 1 - Donovan

**Other Business**

There was no other business.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:11 a.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

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Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

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Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription