

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, June 21, 2022
2 PM
Hybrid Meeting**

**HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 2:45 P.M. (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE
REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil, OR
CALL 360.778.5010)**

COUNCILMEMBERS

Barry Buchanan
Kaylee Galloway
Kathy Kershner

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

Call To Order

Committee Chair Kathy Kershner called the meeting to order at 2 p.m. in a hybrid meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Barry Buchanan, Kaylee Galloway, and Kathy Kershner

Absent: None

Also Present: Tyler Byrd, Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, and Carol Frazey

Announcements

Special Presentation

1. [AB2022-104](#) Presentation of draft recommendations for the COVID-19 Pandemic Response Review project

Cathy Halka, Council Legislative Analyst, introduced the agenda item and the following people presented:

- Brian Murphy, Berk Consulting
- Katherine Goetz, Berk Consulting
- Eric Holdeman, Berk Consulting

Byrd requested that former Councilmember Rud Browne be able to join the discussion.

Kershner stated that Browne sent the Council a letter (on file) with concerns and recommendations that they should take a look at concerning this issue.

Kershner moved that Councilmember Browne's letter to the Council is included in the record and forwarded on to Berk and Associates for further review and incorporation into the final report.

Rud Browne, Former Whatcom County Councilmember, addressed the Council and read from his letter.

Erika Lautenbach, Health Department Director, answered whether we are constrained by State law in terms of what the composition of the Health Board would be if we make any change, and whether it has to be the 15 members or specific composition or whether they have some flexibility in

what that could look like.

Elenbaas stated he appreciates what Browne put together and pointed out that if you read his memos from March 12, 2020 they may have been cautioning the same exact type of thing that Browne brought up, and there were also emails that he sent to Unified Command around April 1 seeking some clarity on leadership roles and responsibilities and whether they needed to amend the Code to make sure they had the correct people in place.

Kershner stated she would like to give the consultants direction so Councilmembers can email Halka with questions, concerns, or additional items.

The motion to accept Councilmember Browne's letter as part of the record and include it with the final report and send it on to Berk carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Buchanan, Galloway, and Kershner

Nay: 0

This agenda item was DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED.

Motion approved that Councilmember Browne's letter to the Council is included in the record and forwarded on to Berk and Associates for further review and incorporation into the final report.

Items Added by Revision

There were no items added by revision.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Kathy Kershner-via email 6/27/2022

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Kathy Kershner, Committee Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

SIGNED COPY ON FILE