

Whatcom County Council Committee of the Whole

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



Committee Minutes - Draft Minutes

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

2:25 PM

Virtual Meeting

**VIRTUAL MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 4:45 P.M. (TO PARTICIPATE, SEE
INSTRUCTIONS AT www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil OR CALL
360.778.5010)**

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

Council Chair Barry Buchanan called the meeting to order at 3 p.m. in a virtual meeting.

Roll Call

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

Absent: None

Announcements

Special Presentation

1. [AB2021-608](#) LEAD and GRACE Annual Community Impact Report

The following people presented:

- Vanessa Martin, Prosecuting Attorney's Office
- Malora Christensen, GRACE & LEAD Program Manager
- Eric Richey, Whatcom County Prosecuting Attorney
- Tommy McAuliffe, LEAD Program Supervisor

They answered whether the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program is still grant-funded, whether there are only four case managers doing the work for each program, and supporting more case managers in the County.

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive, thanked the speakers for their work and stated a lot is happening behind the scenes.

This agenda item was PRESENTED.

Committee Discussion

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

The following people presented about COVID-19 trends and testing:

- Erika Lautenbach, Health Department Director
- Greg Thompson, Co-Health Officer

This agenda item was REPORTED.

2. [AB2021-395](#) Discussion and periodic update of the Shoreline Management Program

The following people briefed Councilmembers on the "Staff Memo for 10-26-21" (on file) and answered questions about proposed changes:

- Cliff Strong, Planning and Development Services Department
- Ryan Ericson, former Planning and Development Services Department

This agenda item was DISCUSSED.

3. [AB2021-209](#) Resolution regarding permanent affordability of childcare in Whatcom County Buchanan referred to the "CFWB Task Force Letter for 10.26.2021" (on file).

Judy Ziels, Health Department, briefed the Councilmembers.

Browne shared a spreadsheet (sent to Councilmembers via email during the meeting) in which he tried to quantify the cost of the proposed programs, and Councilmembers and staff discussed the information, whether programs that require an ongoing source of funding should be started, using the tool to work out what they want to allocate the non-recurring funding to then trying to find permanent funding for the other programs, and whether the Child and Family Well-Being Task Force is working on a parallel worksheet on financial impacts.

This agenda item was DISCUSSED.

4. [AB2021-610](#) Discussion with County Executive on options for aid to Point Roberts The following people briefed Councilmembers and referred to a memo (on file) and possible actions steps:

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

The speakers discussed the options with Councilmembers and answered how the situation is different in Point Roberts than in other border communities, what the people in Point Roberts say would be most beneficial to them, and what applications they would use for grant applications if they went with option three (Grants to impacted businesses ineligible for state grants).

This agenda item was DISCUSSED.

5. [AB2021-482](#) Presentation and discussion regarding Whatcom County's proposed American Rescue Plan Act funding priorities

Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office, briefed the Councilmembers.

This agenda item was REPORTED.

Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council

1. [AB2021-611](#) Discussion and possible motion to recommend rescinding a previous action of the Council that established a no shooting zone in Drayton Harbor

This item was not discussed.

This agenda item was NOT ACTED UPON.

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription