

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**INVITATING OTHER LOCAL JURISDICTIONS TO COLLABORATE  
TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR TAXPAYERS**

**WHEREAS**, most, if not all, local governments within Washington State are predicting significant revenue shortfalls which is placing them under significant financial stress. Whatcom County is one of them; and

**WHEREAS**, all local governments within Whatcom County are looking at ways to maintain, even increase certain services to our communities at the same time as we are being forced to reduce costs to balance our budgets; and

**WHEREAS**, some government functions have already been consolidated and managed by one branch of government because it is more efficient, providing better services at reduced cost than it would if each jurisdiction duplicated the same function. Existing examples are Treasury management, Jail services and the Health Department; and

**WHEREAS**, it worth exploring to see if it may make sense to consolidate further government functions such as Cyber Security / IT, Equipment/Materials procurement, Financial Software systems etc.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Whatcom County Council respectfully requests the participation of the Councilmembers from the Cities of Bellingham, Lynden, Ferndale, Blaine, Sumas, Nooksack and Everson, and the Lummi and Nooksack Tribal Councils to join us to explore opportunities to further collaborate and increase the value of the services offered by each of us at equal or less cost than we are doing presently; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Whatcom County Council respectfully requests the County Executive to hire a facilitator with financial management experience to conduct research on ideas successfully employed in other counties and use these as an agenda to lead a series of six joint council discussions, and present a report with a list of joint councils recommendations for possible areas for collaboration, no later than October 31<sup>st</sup> 2020; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, as the fiscal crisis we are now facing is a direct consequence of COVID-19 the Council respectfully recommends the cost of which should be paid for by a portion of the CARES Act. funding.

**ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Civil Deputy Prosecutor