

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2020**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Friday, November 6, 2020, with Chair Ron Wesen, and Commissioner Lisa Janicki present. Commissioner Kenneth A. Dahlstedt absent.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Wesen called the proceedings to order at 1:01 p.m.

II. AGENDA:

- a) 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Commissioners may attend a Virtual Tour of the Didgwalic Wellness Center
- b) 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Skagit County Community Justice Center – Policy Discussion (Listen to the meeting by calling: 1 (872) 240-3212 Access Code: 864.547.445 or join by computer: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/864547445>).

Signers (Policy Makers) to the Facility Use Agreements/Interlocal Include:

City of Anacortes Mayor Laurie Gere, City of Burlington Mayor Steve Sexton, City of Mount Vernon Mayor Jill Boudreau, City of Sedro-Woolley Mayor Julia Johnson, Town of Concrete Mayor Jason Miller, Town of Hamilton Mayor Carla Vandiver, Town of La Conner Mayor Ramon Hayes, Town of Lyman Mayor Eddie Hills, Skagit County Commissioners Ron Wesen, Ken Dahlstedt, and Lisa Janicki.

Policy Makers or Representatives Present:

City of Anacortes Mayor Laurie Gere, Police Chief John Small, City of Burlington Mayor Steve Sexton, City Attorney Leif Johnson, Police Chief Mike Luvera and Finance Director Joe Stewart; City of Mount Vernon Mayor Jill Boudreau; City of Sedro-Woolley Supervisor Doug Merriman; Town of La Conner Administrator/Attorney Scott Thomas; Skagit County Commissioners Ron Wesen and Lisa Janicki, Sheriff Don McDermott, Chief of Corrections Don Marlow, Administrator Trisha Logue and Public Health Director Jennifer Johnson.

Other participants:

Financial Advisor Susan Musselman.

Chair Wesen introduced Sheriff McDermott and Chief of Corrections Don Marlow who thanked the policy makers and representatives who came together in an effort to find solutions to develop a new sustainable financial model for the Community Justice Center.

Financial Advisor Susan Musselman provided an overview of the financial model that had been looked at in the past. She shared a PowerPoint of updated information based on the latest version of the proposed 2021 budget that included revenue from sales tax, revenue from mental health sales tax, County contributions and other funds which included booking fees and miscellaneous revenue and investment earnings. For the model as currently put together, based on the proposed budget, a deficit of \$674,073 was anticipated.

Ms. Musselman shared that the Interlocal as currently written did not focus on the annual deficit amount in terms of making up for losses, instead, it was a look at the balance in the revenue stabilization account. Currently the minimum required funding was set at \$3.9 million. The Interlocal agreement stated that any shortfall would be made up by additional financial contributions.

Discussion was held regarding future operational expenses for the Community Justice Center, medical expenses and the upcoming expiration of the contract with Naphcare, which expires on February 1, 2021. Chief Marlow shared that the contract was renewable for a 2 year extension. He also provided an overview of the costs associated with contracting beds to agencies outside of Skagit County.

Further discussion was held about the goals and vision for the future of the Community Justice Center and possibilities of a future Diversion Center or Jail Expansion. Sheriff McDermott expressed the need for a shift in the system as jails and emergency rooms are not suitable band aids for behavioral health needs. Public Health Director Jennifer Johnson shared her concerns regarding behavioral health needs as well as housing stabilization.

Questions, answers and discussion followed. The group discussed a desire to hold separate meetings in the future regarding financial/policy discussion and goals/changes for the Community Justice Center to move forward productively. The consensus was to meet again in one month when Ms. Musselman would be able to provide the policymakers with funding model proposals and options to review.

Link to documents provided at the meeting:

<ftp://ftp.skagitcount.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/11022020/>

III. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Wesen adjourned the proceedings at 2:35 p.m.

*Note, to obtain an audio or video recording of this meeting; please contact the Skagit County Commissioners' office.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Ron Wesen, Chair

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

Lisa Janicki, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board