

**Central Kitsap Community Council**  
**October 7, 2020 Virtual Meeting- Zoom Platform**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Present:**

Council Members:

Hughes (Chairman), Aho, Downen, Eagleson- Mentor, Fabry, Holmes, Lawrence, Myers, Newell, Overath, Sell, Stitt, Soper, Wimmer

Commissioner(s)

Ed Wolfe

Guest Presenters:

Gib Morrow, MD – Kitsap County Public Health

Amber D'Amato – Kitsap County

Kris Carlson- Kitsap County

Dave Flint- Kitsap County

Amy Campbell- Kitsap County

Meeting called to order at 5:01 PM PST

Motion to approve minutes and agenda as presented.

Motion – Myers

Second - Stitt

Motion carried

**Commissioner's Comments:**

Commissioner Wolfe updated committee on COVID and the effect it is having on schools and small businesses.

He explained how the CARES funding is being used by the county.

He also confirmed that the Bayshore construction project has started.

**Guest Presenters Comments:**

**Gib Morrow, MD, Kitsap County Public Health Department**

Dr. Morrow stated the current COVID crisis is the most stressful and challenging that he has had to deal with in his career.

He also mentioned that the Governor has listed the conditions for which sports may resume based on the sports risk. He referred the public to the website for the guidelines and regulations.

He went over the website and pointed out areas of interest to the public in how to keep track of the cases and locations.

The current cases for Kitsap County are not decreasing and we are seeing cases rise among the 18-39-year-old population.

Questions posed to Dr. Morrow from participants:

Commissioner Wolfe – is Kitsap backsliding due to lack of testing?

Dr. Morrow- Testing is important but it is the whole package that needs to be of concern- mask wearing, social distancing and hand washing. The county will be adding another fixed testing station on 10/19/20 for those having symptoms.

Council Member Overath- What type of tests are the best at determining the virus?

Dr. Morrow – The best test for detecting is PCR. It is done in labs with specific instruments that are looking for the RNA of the virus. It is not perfect but to date is the most effective but is expensive at approximately \$150.00 per test.

Fabry – Please comment on the article stating the health department could lose five million in grants if it is not used before the deadline.

Commissioner Wolfe answered the question- Under the rules of the funding the funds are used for specific purposes and it is not as easy as it sounds to spend the money. The county is working with our representatives to ask for an extension on the use of the funds.

**Kitsap County Budget Committee Representatives:**

Amber D'Amato – Kitsap County

Kris Carlson- Kitsap County

Dave Flint- Kitsap County

Amy Campbell- Kitsap County

Ms. D'Amato went through the County's Budget slide presentation. Explaining where the tax dollars come from and the which departments use the funds.

Mr. Carlson went through the county's website dashboard giving members a high overview of what the budget looks like for the end of this year and going into 2021. Currently County has ten-million-dollar deficit and thus all departments are having to make a five percent decrease in spending. Most departments were able to meet this by keeping positions empty and not hiring replacements. The county took quick measures after lesson learned from the previous downturn. The 2021 budget will reflect a ten percent reduction from the 2020 budget.

Questions to Committee:

Commissioner Wolfe- the county is actually doing better than was anticipated four months earlier.

Council Member Sell- Why is the Sherriff's department decrease larger than the rest of the county?

Mr. Carlson – The Sherriff's department represents the largest portion of the budget therefore its cuts based on percentage would be a larger number.

Council Member Myers- speaking on behalf of himself only is worried about the number of cuts being experienced by the Sherriff's Department. It calls into question the safety of the community and the officer's themselves.

No further questions. Ms. D'Amato closed with the information on when the next public meetings would be held on this year's budget.

Public comments:

Central Kitsap Fire Department Chief John Oliver – Informed the committee of the increase in calls over the last three years and the state of the current fire stations and how important it is to vote in favor of Proposition One on the November Ballot. The Fire District will be holding Town Hall meetings through their Website.

Commissioner Wolfe complimented the department on the good work they are doing and appreciates it.

Marley Long- Member of the Community posed two questions to the Committee:

1. Does the County's Budget Plan address Environmental Sustainability?

2. What is the County doing to educate and provide counselors to de-escalate violence and having to involve the police?

The county referred Ms. Long to the Department of Community Development for the first question and then provided her contact information to the county so they could provide her with direct resources for her second question.

Commissioner Wolfe was saddened to state that during the meeting he was informed that Kitsap County had confirmed two more COVID-19 deaths bringing our total to 15 at this time.

No further comments.

The meeting adjourned at 6:23 PM PST

Respectfully Submitted

Angela Sell

Angela Sell, Committee Secretary,

NOTE: All comments are paraphrased and are representative to the best of the secretary's ability.