

Peshastin Community Council
Regular Meeting, via videoconference
October 21, 2020

Council members present: Lauri Malmquist, chair; Leticia Vizcaino, Stan Winters, Cheryl Parsley, Steve Keene, Patricia Ortiz, Doug Clarke

Guests: Bob Bugert, Chelan County Commissioner; Tracey Beckendorf-Edou, Superintendent Cascade School District

Chair Lauri Malmquist called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Bob Bugert presented information that has developed through discussions with Mayor Florea of Leavenworth, to propose state legislation that would create a funding source for rural counties in need of increased housing for work force and low income residents. The current idea is that counties that are rural and also have 25% or more vacant housing (i.e. second homes) that is used for short term rental would be levied a lodging tax and the proceeds would be used for housing. The state but not the county has authority to levy taxes. Discussion was held; it was noted the median income in Chelan County is \$68,400, and that housing is an ongoing need. The council is in support of these efforts; Bob will keep the council updated as this proposal develops. Bob was thanked for his interest and efforts for increasing needed housing in the county, and left the meeting.

The minutes of the regular meeting September 16, 2020 and the special meeting September 24, 2020 were read and approved.

Treasurer's report: bank balance \$772.49, no outstanding bills.

Old Business:

Lauri reports she had a discussion with Ken Hemberry of Hi-up regarding the use of Hi-up property for parking of CVCH Connect mobile health clinic. He needs to bring this to the Hi-up board, and was given contact information for Johanna Ruelas so they can communicate directly. Lauri asked them to report any developments to the council.

New Business:

Cheryl Parsley and Steve Keene have each submitted a petition to run for re-election to the council. In the absence of any other applications, they will each be seated for a new term starting January 2021. No election is required in this instance.

Cheryl proposes garbage pickup for October 31; plan to meet in front of the post office at 10 am.

Brief discussion was held about the Santa Breakfast, traditionally held the first Saturday in December. Due to the uncertainty surrounding coronavirus pandemic progression by that time, it was agreed the breakfast be cancelled this year.

Lauri gave a report from the PRSA board: there is an ongoing recreational needs assessment for Chelan County. The PRSA requested input from the council to survey needs in the Peshastin area. After discussion, the council feels any survey is best done through the PRSA. Lauri will forward this to the PRSA board.

Superintendent Beckendorf-Edou gave a brief report from Cascade School District. The Covid 19 pandemic has made the school year very challenging to date, as students were initially completely remote, and now are moving into a hybrid in person/remote model. Enrollment has decreased by 97 students, primarily in the K-8 grades, now down to approximately 1200 students; the financial effects of this are significant. The teaching staff has been making adjustments as needed to adapt to the changing schedule, and are doing an outstanding job under very difficult circumstances.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday November 18 at 7 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Ortiz, Secretary