

ASOTIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 18, 2020

Regular Meeting

The Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Asotin, State of Washington, met this date. Present was Jim Jeffords, Chairman; Chris Seubert, Vice Chair and Brian Shinn, Member.

Claims approved and ordered paid:

#001	Current Expense	\$134,598.00
#101	County Road	\$ 15,418.80
#107	Veterans Relief	\$ 633.40
#110	Auditor's O&M	\$ 4,639.58
#115	DUI County	\$ 171.33
#117	Anatone Comm Bldg	\$ 123.14
#126	Building & Planning	\$ 203.02
#129	Community Services	\$ 5,047.22
#410	Landfill	\$ 4,793.09
#501	ER&R	\$ 46,258.93
#502	Central Services	\$ 2,638.04

The following voucher (warrant) numbers are approved for payment:

296278 through 296408 for \$214,524.55

Executive session held at 9:10 a.m. for approximately twenty-seven minutes regarding contract negotiations per RCW 42.30.140(4).

Board recessed at 9:37 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. for a workshop with the County Assessor.

Board reconvened at 10:00 a.m. with all members present.

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Board met with Jenny Rynearson, County Assessor to discuss the affects on entities with regard to Tri-State Hospital's tax status. Also present was Chris Kemp, COO; Holly Steiner, County Treasurer; Monika Lawrence, City of Clarkston Mayor; Steve Austin, City of Clarkston Clerk/Treasurer; Ryan Baskett, Interim Fire Chief; Todd Richardson, City of Clarkston Attorney; Russ Davis, Clarkston School District Board member and Donald Wee, Tri-State Chief Executive Officer and staff.

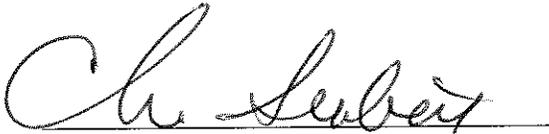
Group discussed the affects it will have on the community and entity budgets if Tri-State Hospital is granted tax exempt status and if they follow through on requesting the three year tax refund they would be eligible for it approved by the Department of Revenue (DOR).

Assessor Jenny Rynearson said she wanted to look at Tri-State Hospital's tax exempt status in two parts; the current year and the 2017-18-19 years. The DOR allows properties of exempt entities misclassified as "for profit" to go back three calendar years and reclaim taxes incorrectly paid along with interest. In discussion, it was revealed that while it is the DOR who directed the 3 year charge back, or refund of taxes incorrectly paid, it is within the ability of Tri-State to "opt out" of collecting refunds for the last three years. Mr. Wee said there was a hospital board meeting coming up on Thursday, 2/27 and his board would be discussing a possible compromise on back payments. Mr. Wee

February 18, 2020 - Asotin County Commissioner's Regular Proceedings - Continued

also said that an "idea" would be that Evergreen Estates, the hospital's for profit entity, could perhaps "not pay tax going forward in exchange for opting out of the three years of refunds to Tri-State. Rynearson said that was not legal. Rynearson said she should get an update from DOR on whether what tax exemptions there will be, either by the end of this week or the beginning of next week. It was noted that, in the future, any reclassifications of property to tax exempt status should be communicated well in advance to the Assessor, who would in turn notify all effected taxing districts. This advance notice would allow time for appeal and negotiations. Wee said he would get back to us after his board meeting on what the board thinks can be done to mitigate the effect and timing of the property tax exemption.

Board adjourned at 10:55 a.m. until their next regular scheduled meeting at 9:00 a.m. February 24, 2020.



Jim Jeffords, Chairman
Chris Seubert, Vice Chair



Vivian Bly, Clerk of the Board

February 24, 2020