



Snohomish County Council

Committee: Finance
ECAF: 21-0090
Proposal: Mot. 21-232

Analyst: Heidi Beazizo
Date: July 8, 2021

Consideration

The Executive’s Office requests Council consider approving Proposed Substitute Motion 21-232, which would approve and authorize a budget transfer to reimburse the Conservation District and Surface Water Management for a portion of the charges billed in 2020 by the Treasurer’s Office.

Background

[RCW 89.08.405](#) authorizes Conservation Districts to receive special assessment revenues and allows the County Treasurer to deduct from these revenues to cover the costs of billing and collecting special assessments on the districts’ behalf; the deducted amount is not to exceed the actual costs of such work. In 2020, the County approved a charge of \$296,702 to the Snohomish Conservation District (District) for billing and collecting special assessments.

Surface Water Management (SWM) also utilizes the Treasurer’s office to collect fees and is charged for these services in a manner similar to the Conservation District; In 2020, SWM was charged \$208,291.20.

The Washington State Auditor’s Office Exit Memo dated November 30, 2020 determined that the fees charged to the district did not appear to be equitable or supported by a reasonable basis and recommended the Treasurer’s Office credit the District a portion of fees charged in 2020. As the method for billing SWM is similar, that recommendation is also being applied to SWM charges from 2020.

Beginning in 2021, the County will utilize a new methodology for the collections of costs related to the work; this methodology was formed by conducting a two-year lookback of actual costs associated with billing and collecting property taxes and allocating those costs across the maximum tax credit areas on the property tax statement to arrive at a per-parcel cost.

Current Proposal

Scope: Proposed Substitute Motion 21-232 approves a budget transfer from non-departmental (Personnel Cost Contingency) into the Treasurer’s Office (Miscellaneous Expense) in order to reimburse both the District and SWM.

	2020 Charges	2020 Revised Charges	2020 Credit
SWM	\$208,291.20	\$132,955.37	\$75,336.63
District	\$296,702.40	\$215,441.35	\$81,261.05
TOTAL			\$156,596.67

Duration: N/A

Fiscal Implications: Total transfer of \$156,596.67 (all in GF)

2021 Budget: N/A

Future Budget Impacts: N/A

Handling: NORMAL.

Approved-as-to-form: N/A

Risk Management: N/A.

Executive Recommendation: APPROVE.

Analysis: This action is consistent with the recommendation from the State Auditor

Attachments: NONE

Amendments: NONE

Request: Move to GLS on July 21, 2021 for Council to consider taking action.