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ORDINANCE NO. 453 - AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING, FIXING, AND IMPOSING A CONTINUED ONE-TENTH OF ONE PERCENT SALES AND USE TAX FOR THE PURPOSES OF PROVIDING CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY AND MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT AND THERAPEUTIC COURT SERVICES AS ALLOWED PURSUANT TO RCW 82.14.460.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WALLA WALLA COUNTY, WASHINGTON

ORDINANCE NO. 453

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING, FIXING, AND IMPOSING A CONTINUED ONE-TENTH OF ONE PERCENT SALES AND USE TAX FOR THE PURPOSES OF PROVIDING CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY AND MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT AND THERAPEUTIC COURT SERVICES AS ALLOWED PURSUANT TO RCW 82.14.460.

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 82.14.460, a county legislative authority may authorize, fix, and impose a one-tenth of one percent sales and use tax for the purpose of providing for the operation or delivery of chemical dependency or mental health treatment programs and services and for the operation or delivery of therapeutic court programs and services; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for chemical dependency and mental health treatment that exceeds the programs and services that can be provided with other county resources; and

WHEREAS, chemical dependency and mental health treatment programs and services have been shown to be effective in reducing costs to society and increasing the productivity of individuals as members of the community; and

WHEREAS, the public mental health system, funded with state and federal dollars, does not have adequate resources to provide outpatient treatment to non-Medicaid eligible individuals; and

WHEREAS, additionally, the public mental health system does not provide adequate flexibility to provide chemical dependency and mental health treatment and services to meet the unique needs of the citizens of Walla Walla County; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, Walla Walla County enacted Ordinance 398, which, pursuant to RCW 82.14.460, imposed a one-tenth of one percent sales and use tax for the purposes of providing mental health and/or chemical dependency treatment services, as well as therapeutic court services; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 398 will expire on January 1, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are hereby made:

Findings of Fact:

- 1. On August 11, 2016, a Notice of Public Hearing was published in the Walla Union-Bulletin.
- 2. On August 29, 2016, the Board of County Commissioners held a public hearing regarding extending the tax imposed by Ordinance 398, and voted to extend the provisions of Ordinance 398 for an additional five years.

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Conclusions of Law:

- 1. The proposed amendments to Walla Walla County Code Title 3 are necessary to provide effective mental health services in Walla Walla County.
- 2. The County intends to notify and contract with the Department of Revenue for the collection of the sales and use tax.

WHEREAS, the Board of Walla Walla County Commissioners finds that the imposition of said sales and use tax, said tax rate to equal one-tenth of one percent of the selling price in the case of a sales tax, or value of the article used in the case of a use tax, for the purposes of providing mental health and/or chemical dependency treatment services and for use by therapeutic courts to be a public benefit; Now Therefore.

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Walla Walla County Board of Commissioners that:

Section 1. The tax authorized by RCW 82.14.460 is imposed and Walla Walla County Code Chapter 3.24 is amended as follows:

3.24.010 Levied.

There is authorized, fixed, and imposed a sales and use tax in accordance with RCW 82.14.460.

(Ord. No. 398, § 1, 10-10-2011)

3.24.020 Rate.

The rate of tax equals one-tenth of one percent of the selling price in the case of a sales tax, or value of the article used in the case of a use tax.

(Ord. No. 398, § 1, 10-10-2011)

3.24.040 Administration and collection.

The tax imposed by this chapter shall be administered and collected in accordance with RCW 82.14.050. The Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners is authorized and directed to execute any contracts with the Department of Revenue that may be necessary to provide for the administration or collection of the tax.

(Ord. No. 398, § 1, 10-10-2011)

3.24.060 Fund created.

The proceeds of the tax imposed by this Chapter shall be deposited in a special fund in Walla Walla County to be known as the "Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment Fund."

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3.24.080 Use of funds.

- A. Moneys collected under this chapter must be used solely for the purpose of providing for the operation or delivery of chemical dependency or mental health treatment programs and services and for the operation or delivery of therapeutic court programs and services. For the purposes of this section, "programs and services" includes, but is not limited to, treatment services, case management, and housing that are a component of a coordinated chemical dependency or mental health treatment program or service.
- B. All moneys collected under this chapter must be used solely for the purpose of providing new or expanded programs and services, which were created or expanded after January 1, 2012, as provided in this section, except a portion of moneys collected under this section may be used to supplant existing funding as follows: Up to fifty percent may be used to supplant existing funding in calendar year 2011-2012; up to forty percent may be used to supplant existing funding in calendar year 2013; up to thirty percent may be used to supplant existing funding in calendar year 2014; up to twenty percent may be used to supplant existing funding in calendar year 2015; and up to ten percent may be used to supplant existing funding in calendar year 2016.
- C. Notwithstanding Subsection B of this section, moneys collected under this chapter may be used to support the cost of the judicial officer and support staff of a therapeutic court.
- D. Nothing in this chapter may be interpreted to prohibit the use of moneys collected under this chapter for the replacement of lapsed federal funding previously provided for the operation or delivery of services and programs as provided in this chapter.

(Ord. No. 398, § 1, 10-10-2011)

3.24.100 Report by Director of Human Services-the Department of Community Health.

No later than July 1 of each year after the enactment of this chapter, the Director of Human Services the Department of Community Health shall report to the Board regarding: (1) the amount of the tax collected and expended; (2) the manner of expenditure; (3) the perceived effectiveness of the utilization of the funds; (4) any proposed changes to the tax or utilization of the tax.

(Ord. No. 398, § 1, 10-10-2011)

3.24.110 Severability.

If any provision of this chapter, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the chapter or the application of the provisions to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

(Ord. No. 398, § 1, 10-10-2011)

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3.24.120 Expiration date.

This chapter shall expire January 1, 2017–2022.

Section 2. Effective Date. This ordinance is effective on January 1, 2017, with the exception that the County shall immediately proceed with contracting with the Department of Revenue.

Section 3. Savings and Severability. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining parts of this ordinance.

Section 4. Publication. This ordinance will be published by an approved summary consisting of the title.

Section 5. Expiration. This ordinance and the imposition of its tax shall expire on January 1, 2022.

PASSED by the Walla Walla County Board of Commissioners in regular session at Walla Walla, Washington, then signed by its membership and attested by its Clerk in authorization of such passage this day of September, 2016.

Attest:

Connie R. Vinti, Clerk of the Board

James L. Duncan, Commissioner, District 3

Constituting the Board of County Commissioners of Walla Walla County, Washington

Chairman, District 1

Commissioner, District 2

Approved as to form

Jesse D. Nolte, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

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