

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL
Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.
COUNTY COURTHOUSE
311 Grand Avenue, Suite #105
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038
(360) 778-5010



RECEIVED

DEC 20 2017

WHATCOM COUNTY
COUNCIL

COUNCILMEMBERS
Barbara Brenner
Rud Browne
Barry Buchanan
Todd Donovan
Ken Mann
Satpal Sidhu
Carl Weimer

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO FILL AT-LARGE,
POSITION B, VACANCY ON THE WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Patricia Dunn
RESIDENCE ADDRESS: 3312 Sunrise Cove
CITY: Lummi Island, WA ZIP CODE: 98262
MAILING ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT THAN RESIDENCE): _____

DAY TELEPHONE: 206.321.0433 EVENING TELEPHONE: 206.321.0433 CELL PHONE: 206.321.0433

E-MAIL ADDRESS: patriciaedunn@gmail.com

ARE YOU A REGISTERED RESIDENT VOTER OF WHATCOM COUNTY? Yes

ARE YOU A US CITIZEN? (YES NO ())

OCCUPATION (IF RETIRED, PLEASE INDICATE FORMER OCCUPATION): See Attached

PROFESSIONAL/COMMUNITY BACKGROUND*: See Attached

EDUCATION*: BS, Accounting, Central Washington University
Continuing Education in government, finance, business, IT, management

BRIEFLY EXPLAIN WHY YOU WISH TO SERVE ON THE COUNTY COUNCIL*: See Attached

REFERENCES (PLEASE INCLUDE NAME AND DAYTIME TELEPHONE NUMBER): See Attached

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT: [Signature] DATE: 15 Dec 2017

*YOU MAY ATTACH A RESUME OR DETAILED SUMMARY OF EXPERIENCE, QUALIFICATIONS, AND INTERESTS

THIS IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT. THE ABOVE INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL, COUNTY EXECUTIVE, AND THE PUBLIC.

December 19, 2017

Whatcom County Council
311 Grant Ave Ste 105
Bellingham, WA 98225

Whatcom Council Members,

I am applying for appointment to the Whatcom County Council At-Large Position B Vacancy. My experience in government, both on county committees and as a government financial executive, provide the ability to "hit the ground running" as an interim council member. I was born in Bellingham, and my family roots in Whatcom County go back to the 1800s. Every time I hike Mt Baker or kayak Lummi Island I consider myself blessed to call Whatcom County home. I am especially passionate about education and opportunities for disadvantaged students. I've lectured at Bellingham Technical College and WWU and have been on advisory boards at Western Washington University and Whatcom Community College. I also teach elementary school financial literacy through Junior Achievement, support the amazing EOD Wounded Warrior Ski to Sea team and volunteer at the local library.

My qualifications include:

- Financial/Citizen representative on the Whatcom County EMS Oversight Board (2014-2016). My focus was to ensure Whatcom County citizens received value for their taxes spent on EMS services. I led the BLS/ALS subcommittee that explored cost cutting measures and efficiencies in the EMS systems.
- Member of the Whatcom County Lummi Island Ferry Task Force (2011). Researched and analyzed ferry costs, potential efficiencies, and cost cutting measures.
- Senior financial executive with 20+ years government experience. CPA, CGMA.
- Acquainted with Whatcom County economy, government, tax/grant sources, unions, government accounting & procurement, and general government constraints.
- Data and evidence based decision-maker.
- No political affiliations or ambitions.

I look forward to discussing how I can serve the citizens of Whatcom County through the County Council.

Sincerely,

/s/ Patricia Dunn

Patricia Dunn

patriciaedunn@gmail.com

cell 206.321.0433

SUMMARY

Executive with solid technical skills and proven strengths in finance, analysis, leadership, project management, communication, and problem-solving. Industry expertise includes government, transportation (rail, transit and trucking), aerospace defense engineering, industrial construction, and public accounting.

EXPERIENCE

2006 - 2016

Sunrise Cove Consulting, Lummi Island, WA

Provide consulting services to a variety of clients in transportation, housing, pharmaceutical, Alaska Native, and aviation businesses. Projects include CFO coaching, fiduciary risk analysis, finance 911, SBA 8a application packages, SOX compliance, and DOD proposal development.

2009 - 2014

Whatcom Transportation Authority, Bellingham, WA

Director of Finance

Led Accounting, Finance, IT, and Procurement departments. Transformed vintage practices into repeatable, efficient, processes to reflect agency strategy, compliance requirements, and user ease. Revamped procurement policy was adopted by other transit agencies and used as an example by FTA auditors. Led IT to proactive, data driven, strategic organization focused on customers and agency mission through strategic hiring. Introduced Lean and Project Management to organization with subsequent agency wide adoption of concepts and practices. Implemented decentralized budget strategy and system providing team approach to agency goals. Coordinated agency fiscal sustainability during 2009's severe economic downturn.

2008 Spring Qtr

Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA

Lecturer, Accounting Dept, College of Business & Economics

Created and presented financial accounting lectures to students with wide range of majors. Ensured instruction was relevant and interesting to non-accounting students.

2003 - 2006

Shee Atiká Technologies, LLC, Kirkland, WA and Sitka, AK

Interim General Manager/Chief Financial Officer

Created and implemented systems, policies, procedures for start-up aerospace defense industry firm. Successful creation and compilation of extensive SBA Alaska Native Corporation 8(a) application package including business plans, modeling, forecasts, and analysis. Analyzed project opportunities. SAT had common ownership with Black Ram, Viper, and Corsair Engineering Companies.

Black Ram Engineering, Viper Engineering, Corsair Engineering, Kirkland, WA

Chief Financial Officer

Created strategic and tactical plans for these related start-up aerospace defense engineering firms. Implemented and continually modified systems, policies, procedures to facilitate rapid growth. Created strategic plan for reorganizing and recruiting a flexible support staff for multi-state employee group. Modeled complex pricing rate structure with subsequent successful DCAA audits.

1998 - 2002 **NEPCO (parents: Enron, then SNC Lavlin), Bothell, WA**
Senior Director, Finance & Administration
 Senior Financial Officer for \$2.5b international power plant design/build business unit with 5k+ employees. Led Accounting, Information Systems, Administration, and Facilities. Grew these departments from 10 to 250+ employees to accommodate 1,000% revenue increase in 3 years. Business Unit Project Manager for Enron SAP implementation. Designed and implemented internal audit process. Standardized field accounting. Coordinated financial portions of international projects. Led massive 5 week systems implementation after Enron bankruptcy.

1985 - 1997 **Alaska Railroad Corporation, Anchorage, AK**
Vice President, Finance & Administration
 Chief Financial Officer for state owned regional railroad with freight, passenger, and real estate revenues of \$80 million. Led Accounting, Finance, Information Services & Telecom, Human Resources, Procurement & Contracts, Warehouse, and Administration Departments. Initiated strategic plans. Ensured effective resource deployment. Coordinated Railroad projects with local and state governmental agencies and state legislature.

Controller, Assistant Controller-Revenue, Assistant Controller-Expenditures, Payroll Supervisor, Systems Accountant
 As Controller, led Accounting, Purchasing, and Warehouse functions. Managed budget and long range planning processes. Project Manager for financial and HR systems implementation. Reduced monthly close from 10 to 3 days. Key accomplishments in other accounting positions included re-engineering systems with 20% cost savings. Project Manager of on time and on budget HR/PR systems implementation. Created efficient user focused reporting systems. Converted federal government accounting systems to corporate (State of Alaska) systems.

1980 - 1985 **CPA firms in Washington and Alaska: Audit, tax, software selection & implementation, management advisory services.**

PROFESSIONAL CPA, CGMA. Member WSCPA, GFOA (former), AICPA. WSCPA scholarship review volunteer.

EDUCATION B.S. Accounting, Central Washington University, after 2 years at WWU. Continuing Professional Education in accounting, business, management, and technical topics.

OTHER WWU: College of Business & Economics Advisory Board, Accounting Advisory Board Vice Chair, Virtual Mentor. Private Pilot. DOD Top Secret Clearance (expired). Teach financial literacy through Junior Achievement.
 Past: Whatcom County Emergency Medical Service Oversight Board member, Lummi Island Ferry Task Force, WCC Accounting Advisory Board, BTC Guest lecturer. Washington State Transit Association Finance Committee Chair, Washington State Transit Insurance Pool Board. Denali Credit Union credit committee. Civil Air Patrol: Admin Pilot, SAR - DEA, emergency services, & Arctic Survival training.

Patricia Dunn References

Pete Stark
General Manager, WTA
Bellingham, WA
petes@ridewta.com
(360) 676-7433

Audrey Taylor, PhD
Accounting Dept Chair
College of Business & Economics
Western Washington University
Bellingham, WA
Audrey.Taylor@wwu.edu
(360) 303-8269

Pete Kremen
Whatcom County Council Member (2012 – 2016)
Whatcom County Executive (1995 – 2012)
pkremen@comcast.net
(360) 739-1676



Complete

Referrer

Date Taken 2017-12-29 20:13

Location US - WA

1 Name

Patricia Dunn

2 Which of the five Council districts do you live in?

5

3 If you are selected to fill this one year At-Large position do you plan to run for election for this position in 2018?

No, I am only offering to do this for the one year

4 Lake Whatcom is the drinking water source for about half of the County, and the County has entered into an plan to cleanup the lake to ensure it remains a good source of water far into the future. That plan is slated to take about 50 years to complete. Which statement best represents your thoughts on this effort?

I support the professional expertise of the 50 year plan. I would not be willing to divert funding from other county programs or raise taxes to speed up the plan unless water quality deteriorates significantly. Any cheaper, proven, effective alternatives should be considered in the 2020-2024 plan.

5

There are many human needs in our community. Please check below all the areas that you believe need greater effort.

Long-term affordable housing

Mental health programs

Substance abuse programs

Incarceration prevention programs

Other (Please Specify): Prefer an integrated approach (GRACE) as many of these are interrelated.

6 If on question #5 you said any efforts need to increase, which of these statements best represents your belief in the County's role in funding such efforts.

County funding should focus on long term outcomes for critical human needs in coordination with organizations with proven histories of results. Priority should go to programs that positively impact disadvantaged children and promote their long term emotional, intellectual and physical well-being. Input, especially in the form of data and proven outcomes, from the Opportunity Council, WAHA, EMS, St Joe's, WC staff, and other affected entities is essential. Consider what other government entities have done, both successful and not so successful. Prioritize these needs by digging into the data and determining which county investments will have the greatest long term impact. Evaluate short and long term outcomes, costs, and administration. Spending outcomes, in a "Lessons Learned" forum, should be freely shared to promote wise spending in the future. It's ok to acknowledge that a program doesn't work as well as expected. We learn from these experiences. Accountability is critical to refining future spending.

7

Voters recently rejected a ballot measure to fund a new County jail. What do you think the County should do now to address this situation?

The Whatcom County Incarceration Prevention and Reduce Task Force, Phase III (December 5, 2017) document contains sound recommendations for County Council consideration. Moving forward with GRACE (Ground-level Response and Coordinated Engagement) program and investing more in the WC drug court are types of investments that not only improve lives, but also can curb future jail and social services costs. Also consider a restorative justice program.

8 Individual's property rights are an important issue in Whatcom County. What are your thoughts on how current governmental rules regarding land use and environmental protection impact a person's property rights

Respect the environment. Respect the science. Respect the law. Keep emotion and storytelling out of the issues.

9 The recent "Hirst" decision from the Supreme Court has affected many people's ability to drill wells to develop their property, and has caused the County to take a broader look at water rights and in-stream flow protections. Do you have any thoughts on how the Council should proceed on this issue?

I support the Senate position in SB 5239 which restores the ability for local government to rely on Ecology's water rules as a basis for available water in land use and permitting actions. Most counties don't have the resources to scope out water resources. Thirty nine different water policies in Washington are 38 too many.

10 Whatcom County sits in a unique geographical position and has one of the last undeveloped deep water ports on the west coast. In 2017 the County Council entered into a contract with an outside legal firm to gain information about what authority the County does, and does not have, regarding dealing with the various potential impacts from an increase in exports of fossil fuels from Cherry Point. Do you believe spending County money on such a legal analysis was a good idea?

I'd prefer to spend money on infrastructure or human services needs and reach out to (or coordinate with) other Ports for findings they may have on these issues.

11

There is always an argument about what role the County plays in job creation and economic development, and how much County funding should be devoted to those things. What is your opinion on the County's role in this area?

I'd like to see the County identify "workforce of the future" jobs that would be appropriate for our area and focus economic and infrastructure development around these opportunities. The County could work with local cities and business communities to identify obstacles, then work to streamline processes or otherwise reduce hurdles that may be identified. Utilize REET and EDI funding, if needed.

