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WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
**Finance and Administrative Services Committee**

January 28, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 12:06 p.m. by Committee Chair Sam Crawford in the Council Chambers, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, Washington.

Present:

L. Ward Nelson  
Sharon Roy

Absent:

None

Also Present:

Barbara Brenner  
Dan McShane  
Laurie Caskey-Schreiber  
Seth Fleetwood

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**1. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIR (AB2003-023)**

***Nelson nominated*** Councilmember Crawford.

***Motion carried unanimously.***

**COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

**1. RESOLUTION AMENDING THE WHATCOM COUNTY 2003 ANNUAL ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM TO INCLUDE THE JACKSON ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT (AB2003-045)**

Jeff Monsen, Public Works Department Director, stated it is unusual to amend the annual road program. He proposes to amend the program to proceed with required construction. He only wanted to make sure the Council is aware of the item. Because they are lengthening the bridge, it is considered replacement and not maintenance.

Roy stated they should enhance the sidewalk to allow more room. Houses are going in above the bridge. Monsen stated he would address that at the time of the public hearing.

Brenner stated this item belongs in the Public Works Committee, even if there are dollars attached to it. The issues they want to discuss are Public Works

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1 issues. Schedule on the Public Works Committee before or in addition to the  
2 Finance Committee.

3  
4 Crawford stated there would be a public hearing in two weeks.  
5  
6

7 **COUNCIL "CONSENT AGENDA" ITEM**

8  
9 **1. RESOLUTION SETTING THE HEARING DATE TO DECLARE PROPERTY**  
10 **SURPLUS (AB2003-046)**

11  
12 *Nelson moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.

13  
14 *Motion carried unanimously.*  
15

16 **2. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO EXTEND**  
17 **CURRENT CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND DR. GARY**  
18 **GOLDFOGEL FOR MEDICAL EXAMINER SERVICES FOR AN**  
19 **ADDITIONAL THREE MONTHS (AB2003-048)**  
20

21 *Nelson moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.  
22

23 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated the administration is  
24 negotiating three different arrangements. He provided background on the leases.  
25 He is not prepared to bring all three new leases before the Council yet. The  
26 existing medical contracted ended December 31, 2003. This is only for the medical  
27 examiner portion. Dr. Goldfogel wants to link all three agreements, but the County  
28 doesn't want to do that. Until they get the arrangements worked out with Dr.  
29 Goldfogel, Dr. Goldfogel is unwilling to extend any of the contracts for a long  
30 period of time.

31  
32 *Motion carried unanimously.*  
33

34 **3. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
35 **CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND THE**  
36 **BELLINGHAM WHATCOM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY FOR**  
37 **SUPPORT OF THE ANNUAL SKI TO SEA FESTIVAL IN THE AMOUNT OF**  
38 **\$29,000 (AB2003-049)**  
39

40 *Roy moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.  
41

42 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated the County has been doing this  
43 for a number of years. Funding comes from the hotel/motel tax.  
44

45 Brenner asked how much the County contributed last year. Desler stated  
46 the County provided \$25,000 last year. The Chamber wanted more this year, and  
47 the County and Chamber negotiated to \$29,000.

1  
2 Brenner stated she has a problem with increasing it by \$4,000 in a year  
3 where they are in one of the worst money crunches they've been in. Desler stated  
4 this is not general fund money. It is money from the Convention Center fund. The  
5 County has been collecting \$30,000 to \$35,000 more per year than what is spent  
6 from the fund. This is not the Public Facilities District fund.  
7

8 Roy asked if the County supports other kinds of community festival activities  
9 around the county. Desler stated the Executive today met with people in the  
10 tourism and promotion industry locally. The Executive will appoint a tourism  
11 advisory committee for the hotel/motel tax. They are working with Birch Bay and  
12 the Foothills community on tourism efforts.  
13

14 Roy stated they need to focus more on the county and less on Bellingham  
15 activities.  
16

17 Brenner asked how much is left in the fund to support other activities.  
18 There are other county annual events. She asked if those events are funded out of  
19 this fund. Desler stated he didn't think they are.  
20

21 Nelson stated he has not seen a request come in from an organization or  
22 agency that the County did not contribute to. He would like to see requests come  
23 in.  
24

25 Roy stated she would like to reach out and work with communities in the  
26 county. She's happy the County is not waiting for the communities to come to the  
27 County with a request.  
28

29 Crawford asked how they arrived at the \$4,000 increase. Desler stated they  
30 responded to a proposal by the Chamber of Commerce. The new tourism advisory  
31 committee will make recommendations on more programs in the future, including  
32 the Ski to Sea program.  
33

34 ***Motion carried unanimously.***  
35

36 **4. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
37 **CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND**  
38 **WHATCOM COUNTY VOLUNTEER CENTER TO PROVIDE VOLUNTEER**  
39 **SERVICES TO A NUMBER OF COUNTY DEPARTMENTS AS WELL AS**  
40 **COMMUNITY NON-PROFITS, SCHOOLS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT**  
41 **AND HEALTHCARE-RELATED WORKSITES IN THE AMOUNT OF**  
42 **\$35,000 (AB2003-050)**  
43

44 ***Nelson moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.  
45

46 ***Motion carried unanimously.***  
47

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1 **5. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
2 **CONTRACT WITH WOMENCARE SHELTER TO PAY ONE YEAR'S RENT**  
3 **FOR WOMENCARE'S ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE SPACE AND FOR**  
4 **CLEANING AND MAINTAINING THE FACILITY ITSELF IN THE**  
5 **AMOUNT OF \$21,000 (AB2003-051)**  
6

7 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated this is an increase. It comes  
8 from the Alcoa grant funding. The County negotiated with Alcoa about funding this  
9 program. It is budgeted for 2003.

10  
11 Brenner asked if the total rent and maintenance costs are more than  
12 \$21,000. Desler stated they are.

13  
14 ***Nelson moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.

15  
16 ***Motion carried unanimously.***  
17

18 **6. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
19 **CONTRACT WITH THE BELLINGHAM WHATCOM COUNTY**  
20 **CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU TO PROVIDE VISITOR**  
21 **INFORMATION SERVICES AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN THE**  
22 **AMOUNT OF \$75,000 (AB2003-052)**  
23

24 ***Roy moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.

25  
26 Crawford asked the administration to consider groups such as the  
27 Foothills/East County Chamber of Commerce for participation on the new tourism  
28 advisory committee.

29  
30 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated the administration just started  
31 discussion on the formation of the advisory group. They are trying to balance  
32 representation from west side/Birch Bay, Kendall/Glacier area, and other areas.  
33

34 Nelson asked if this committee would end December 31, 2003. Desler  
35 stated it would be ongoing.

36  
37 Nelson stated he is reluctant to begin another committee. Desler stated  
38 State law now requires this advisory committee. The administration will not assign  
39 County staff to this committee.  
40

41 McShane stated this is funding they send to the Convention and Visitor's  
42 Bureau, which will coordinate the efforts. The County has some interest in how  
43 they spend that money.  
44

45 Crawford stated there is some concern that the Convention and Visitor's  
46 Bureau has focused on Bellingham, and people have been left out of the benefits.

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1 Having the Executive's Office facilitate a committee would bring those people into  
2 the issue.

3  
4 ***Motion carried unanimously.***

5  
6 **7. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO AN**  
7 **INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL OF**  
8 **GOVERNMENTS IN SUPPORT OF A COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION**  
9 **ADVISORY GROUP TO PROVIDE AN ORGANIZED FORUM REFLECTING**  
10 **THE INTERESTS OF A BROAD SPECTRUM OF WHATCOM COUNTY**  
11 **INTERESTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$41,000 (AB2003-053)**  
12

13 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated that in 2001, there was an all-  
14 day forum on the future of transportation in Whatcom County. Out of that, a  
15 group of people worked together for a number of months to develop the next steps  
16 on how they approach transportation in the community. The resulting proposal  
17 included asking the Council of Governments (COG) to focus on some long range,  
18 broad view issues around transportation and to get a number of citizens involved in  
19 that effort. Alcoa and the County agreed to use Alcoa funding for only two years  
20 for a joint effort including COG, the County, the City of Bellingham, and the Port of  
21 Bellingham. If the project goes longer than two years, COG would be the sole  
22 sponsor of this effort. This money was included in the budget. The City of  
23 Bellingham, Port of Bellingham, and COG are also providing funding.

24  
25 ***Nelson moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.

26  
27 Desler stated \$41,000 is for a two-year contract.

28  
29 Brenner stated they should not set a precedent of staffing the group with a  
30 staff person. She asked if the Council was told during budget time that staff time  
31 would be involved. Desler stated the staffing would come from COG. He doesn't  
32 remember all the discussions held during the budget discussions.

33  
34 Brenner stated the Council just denied funding a staff person for the Law  
35 and Justice Council. The transportation effort is not more important than that.

36  
37 Roy stated she has the same concern. Language implies that they will  
38 consider funding for the years following the first two years. She asked if there is  
39 an end product or date. Desler stated the end date is December 31, 2004. If the  
40 County wants to continue, they have that option, but there has been no discussion  
41 of extending beyond that date.

42  
43 Roy asked that a future Finance Committee meeting look at all the County  
44 advisory committees as a whole and how much money is going into the advisory  
45 committees. Have a discussion about the County's obligations.  
46

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1 Crawford asked if the administration is clear and willing to do what is asked.  
2 Desler stated it is. He preferred to do a summary of the things that are in the  
3 County Code and the resolutions passed by the County over the past ten years.  
4 They can also provide ways in which they support those various bodies.  
5

6 Nelson stated there is not a coordinated effort to meet the transportation  
7 needs of the county in the future.  
8

9 Brenner stated this is a top-heavy government committee. She's not  
10 comfortable also funding a staff person.  
11

12 ***Motion carried 2-1 with Roy opposed.***  
13

14 **8. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO APPROVE AN**  
15 **ADDENDUM TO THE CURRENT LEASE BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY**  
16 **AND LAKE WHATCOM RESIDENTIAL AND TREATMENT CENTER**  
17 **(AB2003-054)**  
18

19 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, described the history of the lease. The  
20 Board of Directors has asked the County to modify the lease to eliminate the  
21 option for the County to purchase the property in exchange for a conservation  
22 easement of the entire 75 acres to protect the land for the future.  
23

24 ***Roy moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.  
25

26 Crawford stated this is a win-win situation for everyone.  
27

28 ***Motion carried unanimously.***  
29

30 **9. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
31 **CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND WASHINGTON**  
32 **DENTAL SERVICE FOUNDATION TO ASSURE MEDICAID-ELIGIBLE**  
33 **CHILDREN HAVE ACCESS TO DENTAL CARE AND ORAL HYGIENE**  
34 **EDUCATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$45,000 (AB2003-055)**  
35

36 ***Nelson moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council. The County has  
37 done this in the past, and it is very valuable in taking care of child dental health  
38 before issues arise.  
39

40 ***Motion carried unanimously.***  
41

42 **10. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
43 **CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND WASHINGTON STATE**  
44 **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR THE DELIVERY OF PUBLIC HEALTH**  
45 **SERVICES IN WHATCOM COUNTY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,202,441**  
46 **(AB2003-056)**  
47

1           **Nelson moved** to recommend approval to the full Council.  
2

3           Roy stated the contract is less than it has been. She asked if there is a  
4 contingency plan, or if they are confident the money will come in.  
5

6           Terry Hinz, Deputy Director, stated this contract is amended quite frequently  
7 to add additional money.  
8

9           **Motion carried unanimously.**

10  
11   **11. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
12   **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY**  
13   **AND THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR THE**  
14   **WHATCOM COUNTY COMMISSION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN**  
15   **THE AMOUNT OF \$44,500 (AB2003-057)**  
16

17           **Roy moved** to recommend approval to the full Council.  
18

19           Crawford asked if the amount is the same as last year.  
20

21           Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated the amount is an increase. The  
22 City and County have an agreement for funding staff support. This year, the City  
23 is increasing its support to \$44,500. The County's support remains the same. This  
24 is an agreement to collect the \$44,500, which goes into the Health Department.  
25

26           *(Clerk's Note: End of tape one, side A.)*  
27

28           Brenner asked if the position requires a qualified background to resolve  
29 domestic violence issues. Desler stated the Commission does not provide clinical  
30 services. Whatcom Crisis Services is the corporate entity with which the County  
31 will contract.  
32

33           Brenner stated she is not interested in providing clerical staff support to  
34 commissions and boards.  
35

36           Crawford asked the administration to schedule an update on the Commission  
37 before the Finance Committee.  
38

39           **Motion carried 2-0 with Nelson out of the room.**

40  
41   **12. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO APPROVE AN**  
42   **AMENDMENT TO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN**  
43   **THE WHATCOM COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND THE ARC OF**  
44   **WHATCOM COUNTY – PARENT COALITION EXTENDING THE**  
45   **DURATION AND TERMS FOR AN ADDITIONAL 12 MONTHS, AND**  
46   **ADDING \$1,000 TO THE TOTAL COMPENSATION FOR THIS NEXT 12**  
47   **MONTHS (AB2003-058)**

1  
2       **Roy moved** to recommend approval to the full Council.  
3

4       Terry Hinz, Deputy Director, stated the contract for 2002 was for \$24,000.  
5 The contract for 2003 is for \$25,000.  
6

7       **Motion carried unanimously.**  
8

- 9       **13. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO APPROVE A**  
10       **CONTRACT AMENDMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND DSHS**  
11       **CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL REVENUE**  
12       **OF \$23,433 AND EXTEND THE TERM OF THE AGREEMENT FOR AN**  
13       **ADDITIONAL SIX MONTHS - AMENDED CONTRACT AMOUNT IS**  
14       **\$192,928 AND THE TERM OF THE AGREEMENT IS JULY 1, 1999**  
15       **THROUGH JUNE 30, 2003 (AB2003-059)**  
16

17       **Nelson moved** to recommend approval to the full Council.  
18

19       **Motion carried unanimously.**  
20

- 21       **14. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO APPROVE A**  
22       **CONTRACT AMENDMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND DSHS**  
23       **PASSPORT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL REVENUE OF \$25,397 AND**  
24       **EXTEND THE TERM OF THE AGREEMENT FOR AN ADDITIONAL SIX**  
25       **MONTHS - AMENDED CONTRACT AMOUNT IS \$199,248 AND THE**  
26       **TERM OF THE AGREEMENT IS JULY 1, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2003**  
27       **(AB2003-060)**  
28

29       **Roy moved** to recommend approval to the full Council.  
30

31       **Motion carried unanimously.**  
32

- 33       **15. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
34       **CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND CHAMBERS AND**  
35       **WELLS COUNSELING, INC. TO PROVIDE EVALUATION AND DRUG**  
36       **AND ALCOHOL SERVICES TO YOUTH REFERRED AND SENTENCED**  
37       **UNDER THE CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY DISPOSITION ALTERNATIVE**  
38       **(CDDC) IN THE JUVENILE COURT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,000**  
39       **(AB2003-061)**  
40

41       **Nelson moved** to recommend approval to the full Council.  
42

43       Brenner stated she recalled that they decided they weren't going to use  
44 private providers to do evaluations when it comes to alcohol problems.  
45

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1 Steve Paus, Juvenile Court Administrator, stated that was for District Court.  
2 The State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) funds this. The  
3 money comes to Whatcom County. A qualified provider must do the assessments.  
4

5 Donna Wells, James and Wells Counseling Executive Director, stated they  
6 are talking about two different populations. The history with driving under the  
7 influence (DUI) alcohol assessments is that people would shop the treatment  
8 providers, going from one provider to the next to get the least amount of  
9 treatment. That's not the case with juveniles.

10  
11 Brenner stated it is not about shopping for providers. It was about there not  
12 being any private providers that were doing accurate evaluations and getting  
13 evaluations in on time. There were even allegations of criminal problems.  
14

15 ***Motion carried unanimously.***

16  
17 **16. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO APPROVE THE**  
18 **PURCHASE OF A VARIETY OF ROAD MAINTENANCE PRODUCTS**  
19 **USING THE WASHINGTON STATE CONTRACT FOR ROAD STRIPING**  
20 **PAINT AND BEADS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$375,000; HERBICIDES IN**  
21 **THE AMOUNT OF \$90,000; TIRES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000;**  
22 **GUARDRAILS AND MATERIALS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000; AND**  
23 **RUBBERIZED ASPHALT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$40,000 (AB2003-062)**  
24

25 ***Nelson moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.

26  
27 Roy asked why the County is still buying herbicides.

28  
29 Caskey-Schreiber asked how a property owner would request non-  
30 application of herbicides for their area.  
31

32 Mike Roberts, Assistant County Road Engineer, stated the herbicide program  
33 is an annual program. It's a renewal from last year. He expects leadership from  
34 the Council on whether or not the County will use herbicides.  
35

36 Roy stated her inclination is to agree to stay away from the herbicides.  
37 There may be a rationale for using the herbicides that she would like to hear.  
38 Roberts stated he would be happy to schedule a hearing at a later date.  
39

40 Brenner stated a presentation in Public Works Committee would work.  
41

42 Jeff Monsen, Public Works Director, stated they could withdraw the herbicide  
43 element until the discussion.  
44

45 ***Crawford moved*** to amend to remove the funding for the herbicides in the  
46 amount of \$90,000 pending a presentation in the Public Works Committee.  
47

1           ***Motion to amend carried 2-0 with Nelson absent from the room.***

2  
3           ***Motion to approve the motion as amended carried unanimously.***

4  
5   **17. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO APPROVE THE**  
6   **PURCHASE OF LIGNOSITE FROM SOLE SOURCE MEENDERINCK LLC**  
7   **FOR DUST CONTROL ON COUNTY ROADS IN THE AMOUNT OF**  
8   **\$80,000 (AB2003-063)**

9  
10          ***Nelson moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.

11  
12          Crawford asked if there is a limit to how much lignosite Meenderinck got  
13 from Georgia Pacific.

14  
15          Mary Green, Equipment Rental Division Manager, stated that is correct.  
16 Meenderinck gets it from another location in Oregon when the Georgia Pacific  
17 supply runs out.

18  
19          Roy asked why the County is battling dust. Green stated people who live on  
20 the gravel roads really like this service to control the dust.

21  
22          Mike Roberts, Assistant County Road Engineer, stated dust is a nuisance. It  
23 gets on cars. People breath it. This is a service the County has been offering.

24  
25          ***Motion carried unanimously.***

26  
27   **18. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO APPROVE**  
28   **CONTRACT REVISIONS TO SYMPRO SOFTWARE LICENSE AGREEMENT**  
29   **DELETING REFERENCE TO XRT-CERG AS CASH MANAGEMENT**  
30   **PROVIDER AND RECOGNIZING THE SYMPRO CASH MANAGEMENT**  
31   **LICENSE FEE, AND TRAINING AND IMPLEMENTATION FEES**  
32   **INCURRED IN 2002 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,500 (AB2003-064)**

33  
34          ***Nelson moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.

35  
36          Karen Thomas, Cash Management Administrator, stated XRT-CERG is a  
37 group that provides cash management software, enabling the County to invest as  
38 soon as possible. XRT-CERG will no longer support its software. To remain with  
39 XRT-CERG and upgrade would have cost about \$25,000. The investment software  
40 provider offers cash management services, so they added their cash management  
41 module instead of going with XRT-CERG. In reviewing the contract, staff realized  
42 they need to do this. The Council approved this in its 2002 budget.

43  
44          ***Motion carried unanimously.***

45  
46   **19. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO APPROVE A**  
47   **CONTRACT AMENDMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND THE**

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1        **CITY OF BLAINE TO PROVIDE CONTINUING SMALL CITIES CAUCUS**  
2        **SUPPORT IN THE WRIA 1 WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROJECT FOR**  
3        **THE YEAR 2003 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000 (AB2003-065)**  
4

5        *Roy moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.  
6

7        Nelson stated there was a concern about small cities having their own  
8 funding support for their caucus. He asked what is going on with that.  
9

10       Bruce Roll, Water Resources Division Manager, stated there is a  
11 representative for all the cities. This contract is being administered through the  
12 City of Blaine on behalf of all the small cities. It was funded in the same amount  
13 last year. It is included in the Water Resources budget for this year.  
14

15       *Motion carried unanimously.*  
16

17       **20. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO APPROVE**  
18       **AMENDMENT #2 TO THE CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY**  
19       **AND KERR WOOD LEIDAL ASSOCIATES FOR THE JONES CREEK**  
20       **ALLUVIAL FAN RISK ANALYSIS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$53,200**  
21       **(AB2003-066)**  
22

23       Roy stated this was discussed during the Natural Resources Committee  
24 meeting. This amount will evaluate a critical area on an alluvial fan in terms of  
25 property and life loss. The study will analyze a 500-year flood event and give the  
26 County some options for managing the risk. *Roy moved* to recommend approval  
27 to the full Council.  
28

29       Crawford asked if the Flood Control Zone District Advisory recommended  
30 this item.  
31

32       Paula Cooper, River and Flood Division Manager, stated the advisory  
33 committee has and has made this recommendation.  
34

35       *Motion carried unanimously.*  
36

37       **21. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
38       **CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND BELLINGHAM MARINE**  
39       **INDUSTRIES TO DESIGN, BUILD AND DELIVER SIX WOOD PLATFORM**  
40       **SALT WATER FLOATS TO BE USED DURING THE ANNUAL DRY DOCK**  
41       **IN THE AMOUNT OF \$74,907 (AB2003-067)**  
42

43       *Nelson moved* to recommend approval.  
44

45       Crawford asked why they need six floats.  
46

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1 Mary Green, Equipment Rental Division Manager, stated they had two on  
2 each side that were bigger, harder, and heavier to place. Based on weight, they  
3 put together three. When there are different passenger ferries that bid, they will  
4 all be able to work on those floats.  
5

6 Caskey-Schreiber asked how long they would last. Green stated the only  
7 things that will break down in 20 to 25 years are the tubs. Now they use tires with  
8 foam that have lasted 50 years.  
9

10 ***Motion carried unanimously.***

11  
12 **22. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO APPROVE A**  
13 **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND**  
14 **WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY TO IMPLEMENT A NUTRIENT**  
15 **MANAGEMENT EDUCATION AND RESEARCH PROJECT IN THE**  
16 **AMOUNT OF \$63,000 (AB2003-068)**  
17

18 ***Nelson moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.  
19

20 Craig MacConnell, Cooperative Extension, stated this is an ongoing effort  
21 funded through the flood fee, and is designed to protect water resources rather  
22 than clean them up. It has to do with excess nitrates and other nutrients in water.  
23 He provided a summary of past and future activities (*on file*). One big issue is  
24 phosphorus. Continue to work on biogas.  
25

26 Caskey-Schreiber complimented Mr. MacConnell on the recent farm forum  
27 presentation.  
28

29 Roy agreed with Councilmember Caskey-Schreiber.  
30

31 McShane asked if they have looked at ammonia at all. MacConnell stated  
32 they know ammonia is being released. It hasn't approached a regulatory  
33 significant issue.  
34

35 McShane asked the balance of ammonia that would be released from  
36 manure lagoons and applications anyway. He understands that ammonia is an air  
37 quality concern over British Columbia. He would be interested in hearing more on  
38 that issue. MacConnell stated that is correct.  
39

40 ***Motion carried unanimously.***

41  
42 **23. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO APPROVE A**  
43 **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND**  
44 **WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY TO IMPLEMENT AN INTEGRATED**  
45 **PEST MANAGEMENT EDUCATION AND RESEARCH PROJECT IN THE**  
46 **AMOUNT OF \$75,000 (AB2003-069)**  
47

1           **Roy moved** to recommend approval to the full Council.  
2

3           Nelson asked if they are working with the starling program.  
4

5           Craig MacConnell, Cooperative Extension, stated it is separate. They are not  
6 coordinating with that program.  
7

8           He submitted a summary of what they have done and will do (*on file*). They  
9 are working with the Health Department to have a public forum on the West Nile  
10 virus. There is concern about excessive use of pesticide due to the West Nile virus.  
11 He recently received two grants to look at prophylactic pesticides produced by the  
12 Swiss governments. Two-thirds of the raspberry fields are sprayed regardless of  
13 whether or not they have pests. Now, they are on the verge of identifying whether  
14 those fields need to be sprayed at all.  
15

16           Crawford stated this West Nile virus is going to be a big issue locally as the  
17 season hits. He is concerned about the timing of the presentation. MacConnell  
18 stated his agency and the Health Department have identified a number of high  
19 priority audiences for this workshop. People who aren't in some kind of affected  
20 area are lower down the priority list. The Public Works Department is a high  
21 priority for the audience.  
22

23           Brenner stated the Master Gardner program and other programs offer good  
24 workshops on integrated pest management (IPM).  
25

26           **Motion carried unanimously.**  
27

28   **24. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO AN**  
29   **INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND THE**  
30   **CITY OF BELLINGHAM TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**  
31   **THROUGH THE E.M.S. LEVY (AB2003-047)**  
32

33           Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated there is an ordinance for setting  
34 a levy. Policy questions include the levy rate and date of election. State law  
35 requires that any levy needs to be concurred with by any city with a population  
36 over 50,000. The City of Bellingham asked for a number of things. An agreement  
37 that discusses the way the City and County will work together to operate the levy  
38 is before the Council for its consideration.  
39

40           Crawford asked if the City and County being equally responsible for claims  
41 against the program is an issue. Desler stated it is a significant issue. They tried  
42 to develop an agreement that limited or eliminated any County exposure.  
43

44           Crawford stated the City has total operational control of the program, and  
45 wants the County to share liability 50-50. Desler stated that is correct. That  
46 doesn't mean the City will get that shared liability. It has been negotiated that the  
47 City will acquire insurance to cover any kind of exposure in addition to their self-

1 contained insurance funds. Anything that surpasses that, the County would agree  
2 to jointly share. There have been no such claims in the past 27 or 28 years,  
3 although they should always assume some exposure. After review, the exposure is  
4 limited by this language to an acceptable level. This was an issue the City was  
5 adamant about.

6  
7 *(Clerk's Note: End of tape one, side B.)*

8  
9 Desler stated that if this passes, it would be a countywide County  
10 government service. As such, the County must account for the money. It has to  
11 be appropriated by the County Council and accounted for in its financial reports.  
12 The City didn't think the County has that kind of responsibility. This is the system  
13 they jointly set up. A joint board, including the County Executive and Bellingham  
14 Mayor, would build the budget, which would be presented to both County and City  
15 councils for review and approval.

16  
17 Crawford asked if the City has given any indication that it agrees to this  
18 agreement. Desler stated there was an agreement, but the Mayor decided he  
19 wanted to add more things. It is a matter now that has to be discussed at the  
20 level of the councils.

21  
22 Crawford stated they are talking about an agreement when they haven't  
23 reached an agreement on the levy. On the other hand, reaching an agreement on  
24 the levy to make it functional would require an operational contract such as this.  
25 He asked if the City is coming from the perspective where they would like this  
26 operational agreement approved before they know the details of the levy. Desler  
27 stated the City wanted the County to agree on virtually every major decision that  
28 would occur over a six-year period, as of today. The County is not prepared to  
29 commit the administration for the next six years. The City was clear that it does  
30 not trust the County. The administration is going to do what it believes is in the  
31 interest of the people of the county. The County currently pays \$1.35 million for  
32 Medic One per year. That cost is scheduled to rise over time. This tax, if set at  
33 \$.39, would generate about \$4.2 million in total. The County is not prepared to  
34 commit to the additional cost for Medic One for the years 2004 through 2006. The  
35 County prefers to annually review the program, because it has been concerned  
36 about accountability. There has been some resistance to that. If the Council has  
37 questions, it deserves to have answers.

38  
39 The City originally wanted to have an election in March, but the County  
40 didn't agree. The next option for an election was in April. The City would like to  
41 know the outcome in the summer, although the Mayor is amenable to an election  
42 in September.

43  
44 Brenner asked what the Executive recommends for a levy amount and  
45 election date. Desler stated the Executive recommends September for an election  
46 date. The issue is the cost of the election. The disadvantage of November is that  
47 it would happen so late into the budget process, and the administration would have

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1 to build a budget based on the assumption that the levy fails. The levy amount is  
2 something the Council decides, depending on the level of service and what they  
3 receive for the money. To continue the current service, the City needs a levy rate  
4 of \$.25 to \$.26 per \$1,000 of assessed value. As they add other services, such as  
5 additional dispatch support and equipment and the fifth medic unit, the cost of the  
6 levy goes up to \$.33 or \$.34. The cost of Point Roberts and support for the district  
7 is about another \$.02. Assistance to the fire districts is from \$.01 to \$.04. The  
8 Executive would recommend a rate in the neighborhood of \$.38. This would allow  
9 the County to support medic one, including the additional services.

10  
11 Crawford stated one option would be for the administration to present two  
12 budgets, one with the levy and one without, if the vote on this item is held in  
13 November.

14  
15 Nelson stated he wouldn't support this until it is clear that the levy rate will  
16 generate an amount that is above what the cost is now. Desler stated this  
17 agreement provides the vehicle with which the County Council would deal annually  
18 with the City. It sets some priorities. The County Council sets a given budget.  
19 They would then determine the necessary rate to support that budget for the given  
20 year. The first priority of this agreement is Medic One. The second priority is Point  
21 Roberts. The third priority is the levy replacement of the fire districts. The fourth  
22 priority is the additional basic life support costs. That is all included in the  
23 agreement.

24  
25 **Roy moved** to continue discussion of this agreement to the next Finance  
26 Committee meeting in two weeks unless the Council takes action tonight.

27  
28 Nelson moved to recommend to the full Council that the Council set the  
29 election date for November and set the levy rate at \$.37.

30  
31 ***Motion to hold this item in committee carried unanimously.***

32  
33 ***Nelson withdrew*** his motion.

34  
35  
36 **OTHER ITEMS**

37  
38 Crawford stated the County currently compensates its employees a per diem  
39 amount of \$36 per day when traveling. The State and federal government adjust  
40 its reimbursement rate for inflation and location. The rate, in most cases, exceeds  
41 that daily per diem amount. He asked for a cost analysis if the County went from  
42 its current rate to the current State and federal rate.

43  
44  
45 **ADJOURN**

46  
47 The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

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Jill Nixon, Minutes Transcription

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sam Crawford, Committee Chair