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1 WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
2 **Finance and Administrative Services Committee**
3

4 October 7, 2003
5

6 The meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m. by Committee Chair Sam
7 Crawford in the Council Chambers, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, Washington.
8

9 Present:

10 L. Ward Nelson
11 Sharon Roy
12

Absent:

None

13 Also Present:

14 Seth Fleetwood
15 Laurie Caskey-Schreiber
16 Barbara Brenner
17 Dan McShane
18

19 **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**
20

21 **1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT PROGRAM APPLICATION**
22 **AND RECOMMENDATION (AB2003-333)**
23

24 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated this is the first application for
25 the new Economic Development Investment (EDI) program that was instituted a
26 few months ago. The Port of Bellingham submitted an application to do
27 infrastructure development to support the expansion of a local business called
28 Wood Stone. The original application was for a \$500,000 grant. The Rural Sales
29 Tax Committee recommended that the County Council consider approving a grant
30 for \$166,000 and a loan to be paid back over a period of 20 years in the amount of
31 \$334,000. This is in keeping with the character of the EDI program the County
32 Council approved. This is a \$4.8 million project. Other State grant and loan
33 funding has been acquired for this project. The Port of Bellingham will bond to
34 cover the additional cost of expansion. The project is physical infrastructure on
35 public property to allow Wood Stone Manufacturing to expand significantly.
36

37 ***Nelson moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council. Nelson asked if
38 the County would hold the fund, in terms of liability. Desler stated the County
39 would loan money to the Port of Bellingham, and the Port of Bellingham would be
40 responsible for paying the loan amount back to the County.
41

42 Nelson stated it is a great idea and a good example of partnering to help
43 economic development and provide jobs in the community. He's concerned about
44 the ability for reconstruction over the 20-year loan. He asked if the County would
45 be part of any expansion project. Desler stated this grant and loan would only
46 cover this project. If there were a future project for which the Port asks for more
47 County funds, the County Council would be involved in that decision at that time.

1 The EDI program is only designed to work with other public entities to invest in
2 public infrastructure.

3
4 Brenner asked if the committee considered a loan for all the requested
5 amount instead of just a partial amount. Desler stated it did. The Port originally
6 requested a 100 percent grant. The committee members considered a series of
7 options. The committee recommends a one-third grant and two-third loan, which
8 follows the County Council guidelines, which intended that the majority of the funds
9 be in a revolving fund. There was no motion at the committee to make the request
10 a total loan, but there was some discussion about it.

11
12 Crawford asked about the committee decision to make it a two-thirds loan
13 and one-third grant. Desler stated it was a unanimous decision on the part of the
14 committee members present. The first five years of the loan would be paid back on
15 the interest only. Interest and principal would be paid during years six through
16 twenty.

17
18 Fleetwood asked the process they objectively gauge whether or not this
19 particular application is good or not. Desler stated there are a series of questions in
20 the application relating to the number of jobs created, the value of the jobs, and
21 other questions. The intent of the EDI Program is to foster economic development,
22 strengthen both existing activity and foster new economic activity. The committee
23 included mayors, directors of different organizations, and others who reviewed and
24 recommend this application.

25
26 Nelson asked if a County councilmember is on the committee.

27
28 McShane stated he was unable to attend the second meeting, but attended
29 the first meeting. The application letter said EDI funds would be dedicated to
30 sewer, road, water, and related infrastructure. He asked what that related
31 infrastructure might be and how broadly defined it is.

32
33 Bill Hager, Port of Bellingham Director of Properties, stated it would go for
34 infrastructure improvements. As the County and City reviews their plans it will
35 include sewer, water, street, and storm improvements.

36
37 McShane stated there was discussion of dealing with stormwater on the west
38 side of the runway. He questioned that at the time. He asked if that is being
39 considered. Hager stated it is not. The stormwater facility on the southwest basin
40 will be reserved for airport dependent uses only because of its capacity. For Wood
41 Stone, they will have to create either underground vaults or open water storage if
42 they can get approval from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

43
44 McShane stated the Port has criteria for return on investment. He asked the
45 return rate. Hager stated it is eleven percent for land and improvements, or nine
46 percent for land only. The return for this project is about three percent, which is
47 why the Port is looking for other sources to help Wood Stone.

1
2 McShane asked if the other sources would make up for the return being less
3 than the normal amount. Hager stated that with those other sources, there is a
4 three percent return. It's a transaction that the Port would normally not do
5 according to standard policy. The Port is reducing its return for Wood Stone and is
6 helping to get other agencies to contribute.
7

8 McShane asked if there is a policy in writing for reducing that standard
9 return. Hager stated there is not. If they do not meet the standard of return, only
10 the Port Commission can reduce it. Once the funding package is put together, it
11 will have to go back to the Port Commission who will make a determination to
12 proceed. The Commission understands and is aware of the project, but has not
13 given final approval to the lease package yet.
14

15 McShane asked if the Commission has a policy that it follows when making
16 the decision for approval. Hager stated Wood Stone needs to demonstrate that it is
17 a stable and growing company.
18

19 McShane stated he's watched companies grow and be purchased by larger
20 companies. He asked if there is some assurance that these jobs would stay local or
21 become a subsidiary of a larger company. Hager stated the Port would look for a
22 long-term lease with Wood Stone.
23

24 Brenner stated the Wood Stone project is a good one. She's concerned
25 about the proposed financing. The jobs are one thing, the people who take those
26 jobs are another thing. The County cannot guarantee that people from outside the
27 county won't come into the county and take those jobs. The jobs may exist, but
28 that doesn't mean these efforts will reduce the County's unemployment level.
29

30 Roy stated one concern is about rural sales tax money being given to the
31 Port for a non-rural project. She's also concerned about application questions D9
32 and D10. She's concerned about the amount of public money going into this
33 enterprise. They are taking taxpayer money and giving it to the Port, another
34 taxing agency to which the citizens pay taxes. The private investment is minimal.
35 Desler stated the rural sales tax money is collected in a number of rural counties.
36 The rural sales tax fund comes from all the economic activity throughout the
37 community. The County would like to focus on activity in the northern and eastern
38 tiers of the county. He's also heard that there's an desire to have economic
39 development where new jobs are created at existing companies. The advisory
40 committee asked the question a number of times of whether Wood Stone can afford
41 this. The Port said Wood Stone contributed a significant amount of money to the
42 project initially, along with the rent it will pay over time that will make the EDI
43 payment. This investment only goes to roads, water, sewer, and storm. It will
44 benefit other adjacent properties as the Port finds other economic activity that will
45 be a part of the improvements.
46

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1 Roy asked if the reason the Port sets the return goal is so that it can support
2 this kind of infrastructure on its own. Desler stated the Port finds tenants,
3 improves the property through a bond, and pays the bond with the tenants' rents.
4 The Port is asking the County to be a partner, along with the State of Washington in
5 this effort.
6

7 Dodd Snodgrass, Port of Bellingham Economic Development Specialist,
8 stated the Port is constructing a manufacturing facility. These funds are going
9 toward the infrastructure to serve that facility. The company doesn't own the
10 building, so it can't count the value of the building. However, the company is
11 putting in equipment, supplies, and other types of investment.
12

13 There are questions in the application about criteria and evaluation. There's
14 economic impact related to the project that the application doesn't ask. The jobs
15 that are being created include 44 direct jobs and 57 indirect jobs. The employee
16 base is in Whatcom County. Many of the employees are from unincorporated
17 Whatcom County. The expansion will generate \$3 million annually in additional
18 economic impact in terms of wages, benefits, and other values to Whatcom County.
19 The number of businesses in the county that work with the company is remarkable.
20 He anticipates an additional \$1 million in local business contracts. There was no
21 question in the application that reflected the amount of additional economic impacts
22 in the county.
23

24 Brenner stated she would like this be a complete loan. The County is not
25 dealing with Wood Stone. It's dealing with the Port of Bellingham. She has a
26 problem with the County giving the Port of Bellingham a grant. They are dealing
27 with a government entity that has its own ability to raise taxes and other things like
28 that. When the Council is entrusted with this kind of money, she would be more
29 inclined to give a grant to a private company. The two-thirds/one-third split sounds
30 arbitrary.
31

32 Crawford asked for information on how this was changed from full grant
33 request to a partial loan. He asked the terms of the loan. He would like to know
34 from Wood Stone and the Port what makes or breaks this deal. Desler stated the
35 initial thought with the EDI Program was that 40 percent of the money would be
36 assigned to County infrastructure issues to sustain economic development in the
37 community. About 40 percent would be available in a revolving loan program and
38 20 percent would be available for grants for public infrastructure. The 40/20
39 percentages equal to a one-third/two-third split. The terms recommended by the
40 committee are that the payment be phased over twenty years; the first five years
41 payment would go to interest only at a rate of 1.5 percent; the payments during
42 years six through 20 would go to interest and principal. The 1.5 percent interest
43 rate is low, but they were trying to offer a modest rate to make the application
44 attractive to people.
45

46 Caskey-Schreiber stated she agrees that this hits the taxpayers twice for
47 economic development. Wood Stone is a fabulous company. They are going to do

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1 quite well. She has a problem that they are creating 44 jobs at a cost of \$4 million.
2 This is a good investment for the Port. It will get its money back in the property
3 investment. She asked if the County will get it's money back via the property tax
4 the business doesn't pay. The Port doesn't give the County anything. This is not
5 an ideal project. There are bigger issues in the county needed to address the
6 overall economic picture, such as the communications issue. Whatcom County was
7 unavailable to the outside world for six hours. She hoped to resolve that issue
8 soon.
9

10 Snodgrass stated the Port is a public agency. They don't assess property
11 taxes for their tenants. However, they pay a leasehold excise tax, which is 12.84
12 percent of the rent. When those funds are collected, they go to the State. The
13 State retains 53 percent, and 47 percent comes back locally. About \$43,000 per
14 year is going to Whatcom County from Wood Stone for the Whatcom County taxing
15 districts. This project is outside the City of Bellingham, and the funds are returned
16 to the county jurisdictions. There is a revenue benefit to the County.
17

18 Hager stated the Port allocates all the property taxes it collects towards
19 public access, environmental cleanup, and projects or programs that don't have a
20 return. The Port relies on the eleven percent return to do expansion. Whenever
21 the Port goes below the set levels, it influences the Port's ability to finance in the
22 future. That's why it was important to look to other sources for the Wood Stone
23 project. Without the County's help, this project will impact the Port's degree to
24 continue investing in the future. The difference between a grant of one-third and
25 an entire loan is about \$2,000 per month to the Wood Stone Corporation. Once
26 they know all the funding pieces, they still have to get approval.
27

28 Keith Carpenter, Wood Stone Corporation, stated Wood Stone gets offers to
29 sell the company every week. They've never even entertained the idea. The
30 reason they do that is because this is where they want to live. It's not easy to do
31 this from Whatcom County. It would be easier to do it from a port city because
32 they have a world market. When Wood Stone leased the building from the Port, he
33 didn't know that expansion would involve so many other government agencies. He
34 simply wants to stay competitive in a world market. If he was to take Wood
35 Stone's available cash resources and invest them into real estate, he would not be
36 able to reinvest in the company in ways it has to do to stay competitive. The world
37 market doesn't care where he lives or who finances him. Having the Port be his
38 real estate partner enables him the engineering manufacturer he needs to be to
39 grow. The market won't wait for him to keep his place in the market. About 80
40 percent of the money his company generates stay in Whatcom County. Wood
41 Stone gets offers to be purchased from companies all over the United States and
42 Europe. He also gets offers from other counties in Washington State and Oregon
43 that want him to move the company. He chooses to stay in Whatcom County. This
44 is a great opportunity for the government agencies to support economic
45 development in Whatcom County, which is a place that needs some support. The
46 future of most communities will be with small manufacturers like his company.
47

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1 Nelson thanked Wood Stone. This is the best business he's seen provide the
2 living wage jobs they always talk about. The County has spent \$500,000 on
3 preserving agricultural lands that already have the jobs. Here, the County is
4 getting back \$334,000 with interest and is only spending out around \$160,000 for
5 44 jobs that exceed the minimum wage. He is in favor of supporting infrastructure
6 for businesses. The County needs to be more proactive in encouraging companies
7 to stay in this community. The County needs to be more proactive in enticing
8 businesses to locate here. This is an appropriate and judicial way to support that.
9

10 Caskey-Schreiber asked how private businesses that aren't leasing Port
11 property or dependent on another public entity compete with the ones the County
12 is subsidizing. That's the issue she wrestles with.
13

14 Nelson stated they have to look at how it helps the entire community. That's
15 why the Economic Development Council (EDC) was tasked with looking at projects
16 to bring them forward, so the County can help with infrastructure and land supply
17 issues. There are many ways to help the community. There is always competition
18 between government and the private sector.
19

20 Crawford stated the Port would be amenable to any private sector business
21 approaching them.
22

23 Caskey-Schreiber stated that's her point. It drives the businesses away from
24 being a property tax payer to being subsidized.
25

26 Crawford stated that's the reason for the Port. The Port exists for economic
27 development.
28

29 Roy stated Wood Stone is not investing capital in the project. This is a large
30 government subsidy. She asked if that is the County's way to help the local
31 economy.
32

33 Nelson stated Wood Stone is investing \$500,000 in equipment and materials
34 through its bank.
35

36 Roy stated the ratio between public and private money is lopsided. This is
37 the first project they've looked at. She asked if this is going to be their policy in
38 the future. She's concerned about the amount of money being spent for 44 jobs.
39

40 Nelson stated that's the same concern he has when they spend \$500,000 for
41 agricultural preservation.
42

43 Roy stated they already know that the agricultural industry brings in \$250
44 million per year.
45

46 Nelson stated the individual farms they spent money on don't contribute
47 \$250 million.

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1
2 Caskey-Schreiber stated they need a certain amount of acreage to keep the
3 industry.
4

5 Brenner stated she has a problem comparing this to agricultural land. When
6 the County spends money on agricultural land, it supports a total industry, not just
7 one individual. This request is to support an individual business. The business is
8 terrific, but the County is giving a grant to the Port. The Port is what will realize a
9 financial benefit. This property will be improved and stay improved into the future,
10 whether or not Wood Stone stays.
11

12 Nelson stated this does meet the criteria for supporting an industry, which is
13 manufacturing. Whether or not Wood Stone is there, the infrastructure will remain
14 for other businesses in the future. He's in favor of agriculture. With this request,
15 there will be a return on the investment.
16

17 Brenner stated the infrastructure will be there for whatever moves in, which
18 may not be manufacturing. It supports an individual business, not the
19 manufacturing industry. They're not the same thing.
20

21 *(Clerk's Note: End of tape one, side A.)*
22

23 **Roy moved** to recommend to the full Council to amend the request and
24 change the loan structure to a 100 percent loan.
25

26 Nelson stated he needed to know if that would be agreeable to the parties.
27 These are contracts that are worked out ahead of time. Either they do the deal or
28 not.
29

30 McShane stated it was clear to him that, whatever the grant is, this isn't a
31 done deal. The Port Commissioners still have to evaluate and approve the package.
32

33 Roy stated the details of this have not been finalized. If this is the way the
34 Council wants to go, the next step is to work out the detail. They can get a sense
35 of where the Council is before they have the details.
36

37 **Motion to amend failed 1-2 with Roy in favor.**
38

39 **Motion to recommend to the full Council carried 2-1 with Roy**
40 **opposed.**
41

42
43 **COUNCIL "CONSENT AGENDA" ITEM**
44

- 45 **1. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
46 **CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS AND THE**
47 **WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY CONSERVATION**

1 **CORPS FOR SALMON ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITIES COUNTYWIDE WITH**
2 **AN EMPHASIS ON THE TEN MILE CREEK AND BERTRAND CREEK**
3 **WATERSHEDS FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 8, 2003 THROUGH**
4 **JANUARY 31, 2004, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$28,400 (AB2003-334)**
5

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

7
8 Crawford asked if this is fully funded.

9
10 John Thompson, Resources Planner/Endangered Species Act, stated it is.

11
12 *Motion carried unanimously.*
13

14 **2. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
15 **CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND THE HOME PORT**
16 **LEARNING CENTER TO PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION TO**
17 **YOUTH IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM, IN THE AMOUNT OF**
18 **\$66,000 (AB2003-335)**
19

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

21
22 *Motion carried unanimously.*
23

24 **3. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
25 **CONTRACT AMENDMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND**
26 **WHATCOM LAND TRUST FOR CONTINUATION OF PARTICIPATION IN**
27 **THE WHATCOM COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PURCHASE OF**
28 **DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS PROGRAM, EXTENDING THE CONTRACT TO**
29 **OCTOBER 31, 2004 (AB2003-336)**
30

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

32
33 Kraig Olason, Senior Planner, stated this is the same contract and is for a
34 new year. They haven't spent any dollars to date.

35
36 Crawford asked the County Council provided funding to the Planning
37 Department for the work on this program. Olason stated they've assigned a
38 planner to work on it.

39
40 *Motion carried unanimously.*
41

42 **4. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO AN**
43 **AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND SUDDEN VALLEY**
44 **COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, CITY OF BELLINGHAM, AND WATER**
45 **DISTRICT 10 TO ASSIST IN THE PURCHASE OF SUDDEN VALLEY**
46 **PARCELS THROUGH THE 2003 WHATCOM COUNTY TAX FORECLOSURE**
47 **AUCTION, IN AN AMOUNT OF UP TO \$8,250 (AB2003-337)**

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

4 Crawford asked if this is similar to the purchase of Sudden Valley parcels it's
5 done in the past and continue to do.
6

7 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated that's correct. The amounts
8 were slightly decreased.
9

10 Erika Stroebel, Resources Planner, stated they are still working on the joint
11 agreement. There may be some modifications as people are removing their parcels
12 from the auction list. She is also working with other jurisdictions that are also
13 reviewing the joint agreement. If there are any more changes to the distribution of
14 funds from each jurisdictions, she will come back to the Council.
15

16 Crawford stated the City of Bellingham didn't want to fund this. Stroebel
17 stated that was two or three years ago. The City participated last year and is
18 considering participation this year. In the past, they felt they didn't have adequate
19 time to review the proposal.
20

21 Roy asked why people are withdrawing their lots. Stroebel stated the people
22 are paying their back taxes and being removed from the auction list.
23

24 Nelson stated the total cost for the foreclosure is \$30,676, yet the purchase
25 price is for \$33,000. Stroebel stated the amounts should be the same.
26

27 Crawford stated there is language that says the contributions from the
28 jurisdictions will be proportionally reduced if the total purchase price is less than
29 whatever amount they approve. Stroebel stated the foreclosure costs are one
30 portion of the costs. The minimum bid is the total cost. Two lots currently have
31 homes and have a higher minimum bid. The County will not bid on those two
32 parcels. The highest amount they'll go is \$33,000.
33

34 **Motion carried unanimously.**
35

36 **5. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
37 **JOINT FUNDING AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND THE**
38 **UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS) FOR ONGOING**
39 **STREAM FLOW GAGE NETWORK OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FOR**
40 **THE EARLY FLOOD WARNING PROGRAM, IN THE AMOUNT OF**
41 **\$44,775, OF WHICH \$33,775 WILL BE THE COUNTY'S SHARE AND**
42 **\$11,000 WILL BE FUNDED BY THE USGS (AB2003-338)**
43

44 **Nelson moved** to recommend approval to the full Council. It is a great
45 program.
46

47 **Motion carried unanimously.**

1
2 **6. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
3 **LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WHATCOM COUNTY SHERIFF'S**
4 **OFFICE AND CASCADE BUSINESS PARK FOR NEIGHBORHOOD OFFICE**
5 **RENTAL, FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,600**
6 **(AB2003-339)**
7

8 **Roy moved** to recommend approval to the full Council.
9

10 Crawford asked if this is a new location, in lieu of the Slater Road location
11 they discussed a month or two ago.
12

13 Dustin Hurlbut, Chief Civil Deputy, stated that's correct. They initially
14 negotiated for the Slater Road project. It was free, but they were going to pay the
15 taxes on the property. They lost that site because they took too long. They found
16 this site, which is smaller but more centrally located. They need a central office
17 where they can have the sergeants set up and have shift briefings. They are saving
18 between a half hour and hour per day per deputy by not having the shift briefings
19 in Bellingham. The offsite offices they've identified are small, one-room offices.
20 They need a place with a conference table and offices for the sergeants. They've
21 identified this site. It's a little small, but it is large enough. They can use the
22 money from the previous supplemental budget request, but he will put in an
23 additional services request (ASR) for next year's rent.
24

25 Crawford asked the square footage. Hurlbut stated it is about 1,000 to 1,200
26 square feet. They are getting the location for a good price.
27

28 Roy stated she appreciated the data sheet from the Sheriff's Office related to
29 the areas of the county that are the source of calls to the Sheriff's Office. She
30 asked if this location is a permanent solution to the problem, and if it's close
31 enough to their areas of highest need. Hurlbut stated this fills an interim need at
32 this point. They are moving forward with the offsite offices. A number of them are
33 up and running now. They're working very well. The problem with the site is that
34 the location is centrally located, but it also enters onto the Guide Meridian, and the
35 deputies will have trouble with access because of the traffic. Also, the location is
36 too small for their ultimate need. As they look at the offsite jail study they are also
37 looking at co-locating office functions there. The city is too congested for the
38 deputies to be located. It takes 20 minutes to get out of town. This is an interim
39 site for two years until they can identify another site that is big enough and serve
40 locational needs.
41

42 Nelson asked if this is strictly for meetings, or if there is capacity for
43 evidence storage. Hurlbut stated there is no capacity for evidence storage because
44 of all the criteria required for secure storage. There is an evidence storage site at
45 Smith and Northwest that the deputies can use without coming into town.
46

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1 Brenner stated she doesn't support a jail at Smith and Northwest because of
2 the school and playgrounds in the area. She asked if they considered the Smith
3 and Northwest site for something like this, instead of Cascade. Hurlbut stated it
4 came up during the facilities study. The Smith and Northwest site was their first
5 choice for location. They wanted to put a building on that site, but it was cost-
6 prohibitive. He didn't want to ask for a large amount of money to set it up. They
7 knew they could do it for less money to start with. They really want to study this to
8 begin with to make sure it works well. Over the next two years, they will work out
9 the problems with setting up a site and ultimately settle at a facility. They would
10 like to be at Smith and Northwest because of the infrastructure that's already there.
11 It's a perfect location.

12
13 ***Motion carried unanimously.***

14
15
16 **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

17
18 **1. RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE WHATCOM COUNTY 2004 ANNUAL**
19 **ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM (AB2003-332)**

20
21 Brenner stated this item is supposed to be scheduled in the Public Works
22 Committee.

23
24 Joe Rutan, County Engineer, stated this is a budgetary issue, and was told it
25 needed to come before the Finance Committee. He agreed that there are issues
26 that could be referred to the Public Works Committee, including Frost Road, gravel
27 road conversions, and other items.

28
29 Brenner stated the resolution is not a budgetary issue. When the contracts
30 come forward is when it comes before the Finance Committee. Traditionally, this
31 has been brought to the Public Works Committee. She would like it forwarded to
32 the Public Works Committee.

33
34 Rutan stated the Council packet includes a fact summary sheet for every
35 project funded for construction in 2004.

36
37 Crawford asked if this item will be scheduled in the Public Works Committee
38 in two weeks, and how referring it to the Public Works Committee would affect the
39 timeline.

40
41 Jeff Monsen, Public Works Director, stated the normal process is simply to
42 introduce the item and then deal with it during and following the public hearing.
43 Approval of the annual construction program is a budget matter. However, there
44 are elements of the project deserving of discussion. Referring to the Public Works
45 Committee in two weeks still affords opportunity to act after the public hearing in
46 two weeks. It simply needs to be adopted prior to or at the same time as the
47 budget.

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1
2 Brenner stated there was plenty of controversy on the last round of this.
3 There are several issues she would like to deal with in more detail.
4

5 Crawford asked if the County is done with Park Road. Rutan stated there are
6 minor things to be completed.
7

8 McShane stated he hesitates going forward with the Frost Road culvert
9 bridge replacement project. Consider closing the road at that location.
10

11 Jim Karcher, Engineering Manager - Design/Construction, stated they are
12 done with Park Road.
13

14 Crawford stated this will be referred to the Public Works Committee in two
15 weeks.
16

17
18 **OTHER BUSINESS**

19 There was no other business.
20
21

22
23 **ADJOURN**

24
25 The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.
26
27

28
29 _____
30 Jill Nixon, Minutes Transcription
31

32 ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

33
34
35
36
37 _____
38 Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Sam Crawford, Committee Chair