

DISCLAIMER: This document contains the Whatcom County Council or Committee minutes, as approved. However, unless an attested signature page is attached, they are not the final approved minutes.

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

4 January 13, 2004
5

6 Committee Chair Sam Crawford called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. in
7 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

20 **COUNCIL "CONSENT AGENDA" ITEM**
21

- 22 **1. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
23 **CONSOLIDATED CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM**
24 **COUNTY AND DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES**
25 **(DSHS) FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER**
26 **CONSOLIDATED JUVENILE SERVICES, SPECIAL SEX OFFENDER**
27 **DISPOSITION ALTERNATIVE, COMMUNITY JUVENILE**
28 **ACCOUNTABILITY ACT, AND THE CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY**
29 **DISPOSITION ALTERNATIVE, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$642,448**
30 **(AB2004-030)**
31

32 ***Roy moved*** to recommend approval.
33

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

- 36 **2. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO AN**
37 **AMENDMENT TO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN**
38 **WHATCOM COUNTY AND WHATCOM COUNSELING & PSYCHIATRIC**
39 **CLINIC TO ENGAGE HOMELESS PEOPLE WITH CO-OCCURRING**
40 **DISORDERS IN MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE**
41 **TREATMENT, AND TO ASSIST THEM IN OVERCOMING BARRIERS FOR**
42 **HOUSING, IN THE AMOUNT \$60,000 FOR A TOTAL CONTRACT**
43 **AMENDED AMOUNT OF \$102,122 (AB2004-031)**
44

45 ***Nelson moved*** to recommend approval.
46

47 Roy asked about the number of people served.

1
2 Andy Byrne, Human Services Manager, stated that from May to December,
3 136 homeless people were screened. Thirty-six people opted out. One hundred
4 people are in the caseload. One objective was to get 66 percent into active
5 treatment. They got all but two into treatment.
6

7 Roy asked if they compare results year to year. Byrne stated they would.
8 This was the first year.
9

10 Fleetwood asked how they define a co-occurring disorder. Byrne stated a
11 co-occurring disorder is a diagnosis of both a mental disorder and a substance
12 abuse problem.
13

14 ***Motion carried unanimously.***

- 15
16 **3. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO AN**
17 **AMENDMENT TO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN**
18 **WHATCOM COUNTY AND THE ARC OF WHATCOM COUNTY – PARENT**
19 **COALITION TO SUPPORT A BROAD-BASED COMMUNITY COALITION**
20 **OF PERSONS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, AND THEIR**
21 **PARENTS, GUARDIANS, AND CAREGIVERS, IN THE AMOUNT OF**
22 **\$25,000 FOR A TOTAL CONTRACT AMENDED AMOUNT OF \$74,000**
23 **(AB2004-032)**
24

25 ***Roy moved*** to recommend approval.
26

27 ***Motion carried unanimously.***
28

- 29 **4. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
30 **CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND NORTH**
31 **SOUND MENTAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION TO PROVIDE ONGOING**
32 **REVENUE FOR MENTAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, PLANNING,**
33 **QUALITY ASSURANCE AND SPECIFIC CONTRACTUAL SERVICE IN**
34 **WHATCOM COUNTY, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275,203 (AB2004-033)**
35

36 ***Nelson moved*** to recommend approval. He asked if the changes are with
37 the quality review and emergency services.
38

39 Andy Byrne, Human Services Manager, stated that is a contract with the
40 providers. This contract is with the County. There are minor changes to clarify
41 expectations of work.
42

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

- 45 **5. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
46 **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY**
47 **AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES TO**

1 **SUPPORT THE COMMISSION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE**
2 **AMOUNT OF \$44,500 (AB2004-034)**

3
4 *Roy moved* to recommend approval.

5
6 *Motion carried unanimously.*

7
8 **6. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
9 **CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND**
10 **WHATCOM VOLUNTEER CENTER TO PROVIDE VOLUNTEER SERVICES**
11 **TO A NUMBER OF COUNTY DEPARTMENTS AS WELL AS COMMUNITY**
12 **NON-PROFITS, SCHOOLS AND OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AND**
13 **HEALTHCARE RELATED WORKSITES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$35,000**
14 **(AB2004-035)**

15
16 *Nelson moved* to recommend approval. He asked if this is a new contract.

17
18 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated it is not a new contract.

19
20 Nelson stated there is a statement in the paperwork that says it's a new
21 contract. Desler stated they have a year-to-year contract. The 2003 contract
22 expired, so this could be construed as a new contract.

23
24 Nelson asked for a statement in the future that says whether or not the
25 contract is brand new, or a renewal from a previous year. There was a statement
26 on Exhibit A that the national volunteer value per hour is over \$16. That is high
27 for the local area. Include information that is more appropriate to Whatcom
28 County.

29
30 *Motion carried unanimously.*

31
32 **7. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
33 **CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND LAKE**
34 **WHATCOM RESIDENTIAL & TREATMENT CENTER TO PROVIDE FOR**
35 **THE RENT SUBSIDY PROGRAM, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$56,856**
36 **(AB2004-036)**

37
38 *Roy moved* to recommend approval.

39
40 Nelson asked if this is also a renewed contract.

41
42 Andy Byrne, Human Service Manager, stated that technically the last
43 contract ended and this is a new contract.

44
45 *Motion carried unanimously.*

DISCLAIMER: This document contains the Whatcom County Council or Committee minutes, as approved. However, unless an attested signature page is attached, they are not the final approved minutes.

1 **8. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
2 **CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND THE**
3 **BELLINGHAM WHATCOM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY TO**
4 **PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR THE MARKETING AND PROMOTION OF THE**
5 **ANNUAL SKI TO SEA FESTIVAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$29,000**
6 **(AB2004-037)**

7
8 *Nelson moved* to recommend approval.

9
10 Crawford asked if this amount is more, less, or the same as last year.

11
12 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated it is the same as last year.

13
14 *Motion carried unanimously.*

15
16 **9. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
17 **CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND THE**
18 **BELLINGHAM/WHATCOM COUNTY CONVENTION AND VISITORS**
19 **BUREAU TO PROVIDE VISITOR INFORMATION SERVICES AND**
20 **TOURISM DEVELOPMENT FOR THE WHATCOM COUNTY AREA IN THE**
21 **AMOUNT OF \$75,000 (AB2004-038)**

22
23 *Roy moved* to recommend approval.

24
25 Nelson asked if this is from the hotel/motel tax.

26
27 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated it is.

28
29 Roy asked about the involvement of other chambers of commerce and
30 tourism interests in the county. She asked if they are involved. Desler stated they
31 are involved.

32
33 Roy asked if there is an active push to include people and areas outside of
34 Bellingham. Desler stated the administration has had meetings with all interested
35 groups in the last year and a half. Those meetings have resulted in better
36 communication. The administration will form a county tourism group that involves
37 all those parties in a more deliberate manner. That hasn't happened yet.

38
39 Roy stated that's important. Communities are struggling to establish a
40 tourism base.

41
42 Nelson stated he supported the concern. One problem is with the Kendall
43 and Foothills areas. They need emphasis placed on support in getting an
44 organization in place and maintained.

45
46 Crawford stated that the Foothills area would be happy with the branding
47 that has taken place.

1
2 Caskey-Schreiber stated she agrees with all the comments. She's been
3 contacted by the Mt. Baker Visitor's Center about it closing because they don't
4 have the funds for it. She asked how the County could support that agency.
5 There's a small group of people working to promote tourism. They haven't been
6 able to tap into any grant funds.
7

8 Desler stated the County Council approved a series of small grants to assist
9 outlying communities last year. They can anticipate something like that happening
10 again. They'd hoped the organizations would become more self-sufficient through
11 their own fundraising efforts. The administration is hoping to approach annual
12 appropriation through a committee they hope to form this year. It would include
13 membership throughout the county that is interested in tourism. If there is a need
14 for some funds related to tourism promotion, people should contact the Executive's
15 Office, which would facilitate help that would come before the Council for approval.
16

17 Roy asked if it is appropriate for the Convention and Visitor's Bureau to work
18 with communities on getting grants. It's really tough for these small communities.
19 Create a link between the two.
20

21 ***Motion carried unanimously.***
22

23 **10. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
24 **CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND MAWSON, ET AL., FOR**
25 **REPRESENTATION OF INDIGENT PARENTS IN DEPENDENCY CASES**
26 **IN WHICH A CONFLICT OF INTEREST EXISTS WITH THE PUBLIC**
27 **DEFENDER (AB2004-039)**
28

29 Crawford stated the committee would discuss items ten through 17
30 concurrently.
31

32 N.F. Jackson, Superior Court Clerk, stated these are annual contracts at the
33 same rate as the past five years. In 2003, they spent \$278,000 on these services.
34 He has budgeted \$250,000 for 2004. There are 17 criminal defense attorneys and
35 four attorneys for the dependency contract.
36

37 Crawford stated the public defender asked for more attorneys in his office.
38 He asked if there is a trade-off between that and the \$278,000 that is spent, or if
39 they would have to spend this money regardless. Jackson stated the 2003 figures
40 reflect unavoidable conflicts of interest. The case overload cases from the Public
41 Defender's Office included contracting out some civil contempt cases. If Mr.
42 Ostlund's office gets another attorney, he would not see much reduction in these
43 services. Establishing a separate Public Defender's Office for these conflict items
44 would mitigate these costs, but that option has costs of its own.
45

46 He proposes recouping indigent defense costs from individuals who uses
47 conflict of interest attorneys through the Public Defender's Office. They have ten

DISCLAIMER: This document contains the Whatcom County Council or Committee minutes, as approved. However, unless an attested signature page is attached, they are not the final approved minutes.

1 years to collect the defense cost from these people. They are sending those costs
2 to collections.

3
4 ***Nelson moved*** to recommend approval of Consent Agenda items ten
5 through 17.

6
7 ***Motion carried unanimously.***

8
9 **11. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
10 **CRIMINAL INDIGENT DEFENSE SERVICES CONTRACT BETWEEN**
11 **WHATCOM COUNTY AND SCOTT M. CHOATE, FOR DEFENDANTS**
12 **WHERE THERE EXISTS A CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH THE PUBLIC**
13 **DEFENDER; SUPERIOR, JUVENILE AND DISTRICT COURTS (AB2004-**
14 **040)**

15
16 See Consent Agenda item ten.

17
18 **12. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
19 **CRIMINAL INDIGENT DEFENSE SERVICES CONTRACT BETWEEN**
20 **WHATCOM COUNTY AND BRIAN ZANOTELLI, FOR DEFENDANTS**
21 **WHERE THERE EXISTS A CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH THE PUBLIC**
22 **DEFENDER; SUPERIOR, JUVENILE AND DISTRICT COURTS (AB2004-**
23 **041)**

24
25 See Consent Agenda item ten.

26
27 **13. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
28 **CRIMINAL INDIGENT DEFENSE SERVICES CONTRACT BETWEEN**
29 **WHATCOM COUNTY AND ANDREW L. SUBIN, FOR DEFENDANTS**
30 **WHERE THERE EXISTS A CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH THE PUBLIC**
31 **DEFENDER; SUPERIOR, JUVENILE AND DISTRICT COURTS (AB2004-**
32 **042)**

33
34 See Consent Agenda item ten.

35
36 **14. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
37 **CRIMINAL INDIGENT DEFENSE SERVICES CONTRACT BETWEEN**
38 **WHATCOM COUNTY AND CARL S. PAGAC, FOR DEFENDANTS WHERE**
39 **THERE EXISTS A CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH THE PUBLIC**
40 **DEFENDER, SUPERIOR, JUVENILE AND DISTRICT COURTS (AB2004-**
41 **043)**

42
43 See Consent Agenda item ten.

44
45 **15. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
46 **CRIMINAL INDIGENT DEFENSE SERVICES CONTRACT BETWEEN**
47 **WHATCOM COUNTY AND PAULA MCCANDLIS, FOR DEFENDANTS**

DISCLAIMER: This document contains the Whatcom County Council or Committee minutes, as approved. However, unless an attested signature page is attached, they are not the final approved minutes.

1 **WHERE THERE EXISTS A CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH THE PUBLIC**
2 **DEFENDER, SUPERIOR, JUVENILE AND DISTRICT COURTS (AB2004-**
3 **044)**

4
5 See Consent Agenda item ten.
6

7 **16. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
8 **CRIMINAL INDIGENT DEFENSE SERVICES CONTRACT BETWEEN**
9 **WHATCOM COUNTY AND MCGREEVY, ET AL., FOR DEFENDANTS**
10 **WHERE THERE EXISTS A CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH THE PUBLIC**
11 **DEFENDER, SUPERIOR, JUVENILE AND DISTRICT COURTS (AB2004-**
12 **045)**

13
14 See Consent Agenda item ten.
15

16 **17. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
17 **CRIMINAL INDIGENT DEFENSE SERVICES CONTRACT BETWEEN**
18 **WHATCOM COUNTY AND PAGE, ET AL., FOR DEFENDANTS WHERE**
19 **THERE EXISTS A CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH THE PUBLIC**
20 **DEFENDER, SUPERIOR, JUVENILE AND DISTRICT COURTS (AB2004-**
21 **046)**

22
23 See Consent Agenda item ten.
24

25 **19. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
26 **CONTRACT AMENDMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND THE**
27 **STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE**
28 **DELIVERY OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES IN WHATCOM COUNTY, IN**
29 **THE AMOUNT OF \$250,392 (AB2004-048)**

30
31 **Roy moved** to recommend approval.
32

33 Caskey-Schreiber stated the Pierce County smoking ban was promoted by
34 their health department. She asked if the Whatcom County health department
35 would propose to do the same.
36

37 Terry Hinz, Assistant Director, said the staff is talking about it. It would
38 have to go to the Public Health Advisory Board for discussion. A tobacco coalition
39 is forming now. It might be one of the recommendations from that coalition that
40 would go to the Public Health Advisory Board.
41

42 Roy asked if the amounts are the same. Hinz stated they are amending the
43 2004 amounts similar to the money they received in the past.
44

45 **Motion carried unanimously.**
46

1 **18. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
2 **CONTRACT AMENDMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND THE**
3 **CITY OF BELLINGHAM TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR SUBSTANCE**
4 **ABUSE SERVICES, INCLUDING CRISIS SERVICES-ALCOHOL**
5 **PROTECTIVE CUSTODY CONTRACT WITH ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL, IN**
6 **THE AMOUNT OF \$57,529 (AB2004-047)**

7
8 *Nelson moved* to recommend approval.

9
10 *Motion carried unanimously.*

11
12 **20. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
13 **GRANT CONTRACT ACCEPTING \$75,000 FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF**
14 **COMMUNITY, TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO HELP**
15 **COMPLETE THE REVIEW OF THE WHATCOM COUNTY**
16 **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE**
17 **REQUIREMENTS OF THE GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACT AND AMEND AS**
18 **NEEDED THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, SHORELINE MANAGEMENT**
19 **PLAN PROGRAM, ZONING AND SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS, AND**
20 **THE CRITICAL AREAS ORDINANCE (AB2004-049)**

21
22 Sylvia Goodwin, Planning Division Manager, stated this is a State grant to
23 fund 100 percent of consultant services needed to update the County critical areas
24 ordinance, which has to be done by the end of 2004. They will set up a public
25 involvement process and hold public hearings in the fall. The original ordinance
26 was adopted in 1997, and there were several court challenges.

27
28 Crawford asked why they have to make changes. Goodwin stated there are
29 changes to the State law. The County's site-specific approach is not consistent
30 with the State regulations.

31
32 Roy asked if they also have 100 percent funding to update the shoreline
33 management plan. Goodwin stated she doesn't know yet. They received a
34 \$600,000 grant from the State Department of Ecology, but she doesn't know yet if
35 it will fund 100 percent of the costs. A lot of existing staff will have to put time
36 into it. The grant will fund all the consultants and two temporary staff persons to
37 coordinate that program. The two efforts are related, but separate.

38
39 *Crawford moved* to recommend approval.

40
41 *Motion carried unanimously.*

42
43 **21. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
44 **GRANT CONTRACT ACCEPTING \$600,000 FROM THE STATE OF**
45 **WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY TO COMPLETE AN UPDATE**
46 **OF THE WHATCOM COUNTY SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM (AB2004-**
47 **050)**

1
2 **Roy moved** to recommend approval.

3
4 Nelson asked if this would be done by 2004.

5
6 Sylvia Goodwin, Planning Division Manager, stated this has to be done by
7 2005, which is a very ambitious schedule.

8
9 Nelson stated it seems most of the work is done by staff people from various
10 jurisdictions first, before it goes to the public.

11
12 Jeff Chalfant, Senior Planner, stated there are early public involvement
13 strategies, including workshops and open houses. There will be a series of six
14 monthly workshops in the beginning of the process.

15
16 **Motion carried unanimously.**

17
18 **22. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO APPROVE THE**
19 **AWARD OF BID #03-91 FOR THE ANNUAL SUPPLY OF RIP-RAP ROCK**
20 **TO THE APPROPRIATE VENDOR AS DICTATED BY THE SPECIAL**
21 **CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PARTICULAR JOB, IN AN ANTICIPATED**
22 **AMOUNT OF MORE THAN \$35,000 (AB2004-051)**

23
24 **Nelson moved** to recommend approval.

25
26 **Motion carried unanimously.**

27
28 **23. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO APPROVE THE**
29 **AWARD OF BID #03-92 FOR THE ANNUAL SUPPLY OF MINERAL**
30 **AGGREGATES TO THE APPROPRIATE VENDOR AS DICTATED BY THE**
31 **SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PARTICULAR JOB, IN AN**
32 **ANTICIPATED AMOUNT OF MORE THAN \$35,000 (AB2004-052)**

33
34 **Nelson moved** to recommend approval. He asked if the annual supply
35 process is reflective of what they would need in the future. He asked if there is a
36 trend analysis.

37
38 Mary Green, ER&R Manager, stated there is no trend analysis. So far the
39 price has been consistent from year to year.

40
41 Roy stated the Council goes through quite a few hoops to figure out if they
42 have enough aggregate supply for many years. However, the County is
43 contracting with people who aren't in Whatcom County. That doesn't make sense.
44 She asked if they are restricted by the lowest bidder requirement. That isn't
45 consistent with the State's requirement to plan for mineral resources. Green
46 stated she typically encourages people in British Columbia to bid because of Point
47 Roberts. It makes economic sense to get the material from Canada when doing

1 work in Point Roberts. That's the only time the County has gotten aggregate from
2 Canada.

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

5
6 **24. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO APPROVE THE**
7 **PURCHASE OF A VARIETY OF ROAD MAINTENANCE PRODUCTS**
8 **USING THE WASHINGTON STATE CONTRACT FOR ROAD STRIPING**
9 **PAINT AND BEADS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$375,000; HERBICIDES IN**
10 **THE AMOUNT OF \$90,000; TIRES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000;**
11 **GUARDRAILS AND MATERIALS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000; AND**
12 **RUBBERIZED ASPHALT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,000 (AB2004-053)**

13
14 ***Nelson moved*** to recommend approval.

15
16 Roy stated San Juan County has a no-herbicide policy. Whatcom County
17 should work toward that policy.

18
19 Caskey-Schreiber stated this is a lot of money for chemicals. She asked if
20 that's what the County typically goes through.

21
22 Mike Roberts, Assistant County Road Engineer, stated that last March, the
23 Public Works Committee had a presentation on herbicides to cover the 2003 and
24 2004 budgets. In June and July, they will make another presentation for the 2005
25 budget.

26
27 ***Motion carried unanimously.***

28
29 **25. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO SIGN**
30 **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING EXTENDING THE EXPIRED**
31 **2000-2002 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BY AND**
32 **BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND TEAMSTERS LOCAL 231,**
33 **SHERIFF'S SUPPORT STAFF BARGAINING UNIT THROUGH 2003**
34 **(AB2004-054)**

35
36 ***Nelson moved*** to recommend approval.

37
38 ***Motion carried unanimously.***

39
40 **26. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO SIGN**
41 **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING EXTENDING THE EXPIRED**
42 **2000-2002 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BY AND**
43 **BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND TEAMSTERS LOCAL 231,**
44 **CORRECTIONS OFFICERS BARGAINING UNIT THROUGH 2003**
45 **(AB2004-055)**

46
47 ***Nelson moved*** to recommend approval.

1
2 ***Motion carried unanimously.***
3

4
5 **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**
6

7 **1. DISCUSSION REGARDING WHATCOM COUNTY'S MASTER FACILITIES**
8 **PLAN (AB2003-288)**
9

10 *(Clerk's Note: End of tape one, side A.)*
11

12 Harris Faulkin, HDR President, stated they used a process to look at the data
13 and quality of existing buildings. He would make recommendations.
14

15 The courthouse is the key building for consideration. It is an amenity and
16 asset to the County in the long-term. The use may change. There are seismic and
17 life-safety issues. Key portions of the structure need work where they are housing
18 the emergency operations center and management information systems center.
19 He strongly recommends removing those key functions out of the basement, which
20 is vulnerable. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements should be
21 brought up to date. The loading dock should not access the street. Emergency
22 power issues should be studied. It is one of the few courthouses in the state that
23 doesn't make sure its occupants are protected. These are doable things that can
24 be improved. The investment in improvements makes a lot of sense. Repair of
25 exterior insulation systems should be done. They may want to reconfigure the
26 upper floor for office space.
27

28 The public safety building is unsatisfactory. Get out of that building sooner
29 rather than later. It is seismically vulnerable. Adding a floor is a bad idea. He is
30 very concerned about life safety. One individual controls all the doors opening and
31 closing. That person sits over a floor that is not very well done. If that person is
32 lost by fire or smoke, the inmates and corrections officers are at risk. This building
33 probably has to be operational another six or eight years. That's all the life that is
34 left in it.
35

36 David King, Stewart + King Architects, stated the Civic Center building plays
37 a prominent role in the civic center complex. Because of its proximity to Whatcom
38 Creek, there are Endangered Species Act (ESA) and shoreline regulations. Most
39 building systems, electrical and mechanical, need replacement. Structural
40 assessment indicates it is insufficient for continued County use because of seismic
41 upgrades that would be required. It just barely meets the load requirements for its
42 intended use. ADA improvements are site related. Proximity to the transportation
43 center is good. Only in its comparison to other County buildings is it appropriate
44 for an office layout.
45

46 The alternative corrections building represents the worst condition of any
47 County building. It's use is testament to the County's need. It is a very small

1 building. Most of the building systems have failed to the point it is not recoverable.
2 Demolition is recommended. The site is strategic in the civic center area. The
3 asset of the location is its proximity to the courthouse. It has the same issues
4 regarding proximity to Whatcom Creek and ESA and shoreline issues. There is a
5 long history of the site being on fill material. It would require a significant cleanup
6 operation.
7

8 Faulkin compared the current and future space needs. They used the
9 medium population growth projections for this forecast. The current occupied
10 space is 345,000 square feet. They should be in 481,000 square feet right now.
11 About 100,000 is needed for law and justice systems. The future need for 2012 is
12 575,000 and for 2022 is 628,000 square feet.
13

14 The current space issues are with insufficient internal circulation, ADA
15 compliance, small sized offices and workstations, and other issues. The jail and
16 courtroom space is an issue. The percentage of staff growth ranges from 23
17 percent to 89 percent, depending on the service area. The average growth for
18 County personal is 58 percent.
19

20 Parking is another issue. There are about 500 parking stalls in the civic
21 center area. There needs to be about 1,600 parking stalls. The need will grow to
22 2,400 stalls by 2022, which is driven heavily by law and justice needs. In 2022, 80
23 percent of the parking need will be due to the law and justice systems.
24

25 Don Hogan, HDR project architect, stated one area they focused on for
26 facilities is the downtown area. The public safety building site, south parking lot
27 site, and jail alternatives and facilities building sites are potential sites for
28 constructing new facilities.
29

30 Using the current footprint around the courthouse complex for all
31 government functions isn't recommended. The buildings would have to be very tall
32 to meet the needs until 2022. They would require a parking facility on the south
33 parking lot that would be ten stories high.
34

35 One option includes building a large building on either the south site or the
36 north site for all law and justice services only. Another option is a hybrid.
37

38 Faulkin stated there is a tight footprint in the civic center area. They tried
39 different scenarios to figure out how massive the buildings would have to be to
40 locate all services in the civic center area. The law and justice system would
41 require massive structures.
42

43 The economic issues are to minimize long-term capital development costs
44 and operational costs. If the existing jail is vertically expanded, they would have a
45 \$1 million operating cost per year. Because of seismic code changes, they can't
46 keep adding floors onto the building.
47

1 Option one is that the courthouse complex becomes an administrative
2 center for office uses. Find a remote location for the law and justice component.
3 That would take the parking load issues away from the courthouse complex. When
4 they build structured parking in the form of a garage for the size the County needs,
5 the cost would be \$17,000 per stall. If the parking stalls are on paved surfaces,
6 the cost is \$6,000 per stall. Option one includes a new County justice center.
7

8 Hogan stated a new law and justice center would allow the County flexibility
9 and expansion in the future. They would not have to add on vertically. He showed
10 a plan for a hypothetical law and justice center on a 50-acre site. The plan
11 includes buildings for the sheriff, jail support, adult detention, juvenile detention,
12 and a new courthouse. The plan includes room for future expansion after 2022.
13 Almost ten acres in front of the courthouse would be only for parking.
14

15 Faulkin stated the expansion would be horizontal. If the County grows at
16 the rate they expect, it can expand without affecting operations. With a horizontal
17 jail space, the inmates can move from their cell to the infirmary or court on their
18 own. With a vertical jail space, those inmates would have to be escorted.
19

20 King stated that if the law and justice facilities move to another site, non-
21 law and justice functions would have an opportunity to use the facilities the County
22 currently has. About 180,000 square feet of space and 800 parking stalls would be
23 needed in 2022. The County Executive, Treasurer, and Assessor would remain in
24 the building. The Health Department, Planning Department, and Public Works
25 Department would also be on this site.
26

27 A second option is to divvy up those departments into three different
28 buildings in about 190,000 square feet. The existing jail facility is a detriment.
29 The first option is to accommodate all the needs in the courthouse structure.
30 Parking at the south lot would concur with other development downtown.
31

32 One issue is that this scheme is dependent on the new law and justice
33 facility being constructed, which will take six to eight years. The non-law and
34 justice systems would have to wait that long, but there are immediate needs for
35 changes. The projected costs don't currently include the miscellaneous properties
36 that are in the County inventory now, but aren't needed.
37

38 Faulkin stated option two is to create a law and justice facility within the
39 courthouse and existing facilities, and non-law and justice facilities would relocate
40 to a remote facility. The existing jail would be used through 2012, when it is
41 replaced with new construction.
42

43 Hogan stated option two includes a new structure on the north lot. The
44 courthouse would be expanded for superior court, and the west side would be built
45 for detention. Part of the problem is that they want to minimize the height to
46 minimize costs. Empty the existing jail to free up that footprint, and put all the
47 offenders into the new detention area for an interim period of a year or two, at

1 which point they can fill up the actual needs for the year 2022 where the existing
2 jail is now. It allows for an expansion space at the south end of the site. A
3 parking garage would be built on the south lot.
4

5 King stated Option 2a includes a remote County administrative center and a
6 remote health department. Another possibility for option two is to demolish the
7 northwest annex, build a new structure, and move general operations to that site.
8 One requirement is that some of these uses must be within the city limits. The city
9 line would have to be redrawn.

10
11 Hogan stated yet another alternative is to take over the entire block to the
12 south of the existing courthouse.

13
14 *(Clerk's Note: End of tape one, side B.)*
15

16 Hogan continued to state that expansion on the north side would be to
17 accommodate parking.
18

19 King stated option 2b would use the property at the Civic Center building for
20 all non-law and justice center operations. This site has access to the senior center
21 property on the other side of the creek, which is currently under-used. The
22 shoreline and ESA regulators have indicated that option wouldn't be out of the
23 question.
24

25 When the law and justice location is found, the non-law and justice facilities
26 can be determined to a higher degree.
27

28 Faulkin stated that once the Council provides a general direction, he will
29 provide a schematic on the annual development progress and accompanying cash
30 flow demand through the life of the master plan. He read from his presentation
31 *(on file)* regarding the conceptual cost estimate summation of total options costs.
32

33 Option 1 includes a justice facility with 600 adult beds; 64 beds for
34 juveniles; all new courts, including 14 superior and district courts; several courts
35 for juveniles; a new sheriff's facility; property surface parking. The option 1 non-
36 justice facility includes retrofitting, improving, and expanding the courthouse to
37 accommodate all non-justice facilities.
38

39 Option 2 includes a law and justice facility developed north of the existing
40 courthouse; a remote location facility for non-justice operations, and; a structured
41 parking garage.
42

43 Option 2a includes a law and justice facility south of the courthouse,
44 developed horizontally; a new tower adjacent to the Civic Center to brace the
45 existing building; improvements to the Civic Center, and; developed parking.
46

1 There are decision-making factors the Council must consider. Adult
2 detention needs drive many of the decisions regarding location. A question is the
3 necessity for the jail and justice system to be in close proximity. There is a cost
4 factor related to a vertical or horizontal jail. There is an impact of 12-story
5 buildings in the civic center area. The compelling question is whether the
6 dominant downtown structures should be justice related. Because of the small
7 physical footprint downtown, they are stuck expanding vertically. There are
8 consequences to moving all justice and detention operations to a 30- to 50-acre
9 site. There are parking issues in the Civic Center area.

10
11 Brenner stated she is disappointed that all this expensive work has been
12 done and there is no example given of the scenario of having all new criminal
13 justice functions downtown, and moving all other functions to the Smith and
14 Northwest location. Desler stated these two options were ones that the Council
15 choose to ask for further analysis. It's a fairly easy thing to move all
16 administrative functions to Smith and Northwest. If the Council would like to see
17 more detail on that, it can.

18
19 Brenner stated she's not talking about more detail. It wasn't even covered.
20 The Council decided to allow it to be done through this, not go back to the drawing
21 board and do it over. Desler stated he's never heard the Council ask for it.

22
23 Brenner stated she mentioned it.

24
25 Fleetwood stated he liked the idea of having law and justice and
26 administrative facilities downtown in the business core. Expanding vertically is
27 efficient in terms of land use. There may be administrative cost savings from
28 going out rather than up. He asked the extent they've considered the competing
29 benefits from going up, such as commuter trip reductions if everyone is located
30 downtown. Faulkin stated they tried to use the properties the County has adjacent
31 to this building. They also tried to recognize what the City of Bellingham and
32 Centennial Group thought appropriate for civic center development. The amount of
33 traffic and traffic access to get into this location downtown also has impacts.

34
35 Nelson stated they all carry biases. To make good decisions, they need
36 criteria from the Council and the administration. Cost analysis has been done on
37 these options. There may be questions of geological hazard problems with these
38 locations. He asked about timeframes for the options. There are also
39 transportation impacts. There may be other criteria for the councilmembers to
40 consider. The Council may need to rank those criteria to make a decision. He
41 asked how they formalize those decisions. Desler stated the presentation is a
42 summation of key options. They want more deliberate discussion on February 3rd.
43 they are not getting into geologic issues now because it's not appropriate at this
44 stage.

DISCLAIMER: This document contains the Whatcom County Council or Committee minutes, as approved. However, unless an attested signature page is attached, they are not the final approved minutes.

1 Faulkin stated he used square footage costs. There are development issues
2 downtown. The geologic issues are important. He has the data they used to
3 substantiate their cost estimates.
4

5 Crawford stated this community is concerned about growth and sprawl. It
6 would be an interesting statement for the County Council to say it will preserve
7 rural areas, and then expand on a 50-acre facility. The County may decide it's
8 worth the cost to expand vertically. It's a statement to the community. There's an
9 element of this that goes beyond costs and goes into community character.
10

11 Roy stated part of that character is whether they want the jail to be the
12 major building in the downtown core. There is also an issue if operating costs cost
13 \$1 million more per year. Operating costs are a huge priority. That's what the
14 County has to deal with every year. She asked the number of prisoners per floor
15 on the ten-story building. Faulken stated there would be 64 inmates per unit and
16 per corrections officer.
17

18 Roy asked if they need more corrections officers on site with a ten-story
19 facility than with a two-story spread out facility. The more important issue is how
20 much it will cost the County to run the facility each year.
21

22 Bill Elfo, Sheriff, stated he's been told from another consultant that the costs
23 are far higher with a vertical jail than a horizontal jail. He would provide cost and
24 personnel estimates on the difference.
25

26 Caskey-Schreiber stated she is hesitant to sprawl out onto a 50-acre area.
27 She asked if there is a way to separate a potential jail facility into short-term pre-
28 sentenced clientele and sentenced clientele. That would keep the courts here. A
29 significant number of attorneys have located in the downtown area. If the courts
30 moved to another location, the attorneys would relocate also. Desler stated they
31 would note the question and discuss it further in February.
32

33 Caskey-Schreiber stated they also need to discuss parking and commute trip
34 reduction efforts.
35

36 McShane stated his biggest concern is that there are serious process issues.
37 The councilmembers are all over the place on this topic. Desler stated they want
38 to get all the information and feedback. They will respond to all comments. This is
39 all necessary to make significant investment decisions. There is a substantial
40 demand for space, even today.
41

42 The Council will have a discussion on February 3rd in a work session. If they
43 need to have a follow up meeting after that, they will.
44

45
46 **OTHER BUSINESS**
47

DISCLAIMER: This document contains the Whatcom County Council or Committee minutes, as approved. However, unless an attested signature page is attached, they are not the final approved minutes.

1 There was no other business.

2

3

4 **ADJOURN**

5

6 The meeting adjourned at 1:06 p.m.

7

8

9

10 _____
Jill Nixon, Minutes Transcription

11

12

13 ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

14

15

16

17

18 _____
Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Sam Crawford, Committee Chair