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

4 February 10, 2004  
5

6 Committee Chair Sam Crawford called the meeting to order at 11:30 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 Barbara Brenner  
15  
16

17 **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**  
18

19 **1. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO RENEW WHATCOM COUNTY'S**  
20 **PROPERTY INSURANCE POLICY (AB2004-067)**  
21

22 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, submitted information (*on file*). The  
23 documents in the County Council packet should be reconsider based on additional  
24 work they've done the last couple of days. Consider the additional option, which is  
25 a better arrangement for the County. Consider option two from Commonwealth.  
26 There is a \$16,400 difference between the two options. Option two is over \$2,400  
27 less than the current premium.  
28

29 Roy asked if the County has worked with Commonwealth in the past. Desler  
30 stated it has.  
31

32 Crawford asked what they're giving up by not having coverage for domestic  
33 terrorism. Desler stated that item is not well defined in the law. There's confusion  
34 with what exactly domestic and foreign terrorism is.  
35

36 Barry Hanson, Unity Group, stated the federal government put in place the  
37 federal Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, to distinguish between foreign and  
38 domestic terrorism. By purchasing foreign terrorism insurance, the insurance  
39 companies participate with the federal government to provide a re-insurance  
40 mechanism for September 11. To trigger coverage for foreign terrorism, the  
41 Secretary of State and Attorney General needs to certify the event as a foreign act  
42 of terrorism. Foreign terrorism is someone from a foreign country taking action  
43 that causes harm to people or property to influence and impact the government.  
44 The language is specific, but there is little case law about it. The County is  
45 purchasing insurance for foreign acts of terrorism when the federal government  
46 deems it a federal terrorist act.  
47

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1 Crawford stated they should have insurance to cover incidences of domestic  
2 terrorism if it's not covered under other categories of insurance. Hanson stated  
3 there is a difference between vandalism, which has always been covered, and  
4 domestic terrorism, which is now not covered, but he can't clearly articulate it. He  
5 provided a copy of the endorsement that excludes non-certified acts of terrorism.  
6 The endorsement clearly says that the insurance does not cover anyone who uses  
7 any form of chemical or biological properties in an effort to coerce the civilian  
8 population or influence policy and affect the conduct of government.  
9

10 Crawford asked if the County can go with option two and get a rider to cover  
11 those things. Hanson stated there isn't. The marketplace is divided in this area.  
12 That coverage is simply not available to many insurance carriers.  
13

14 Desler stated legal counsel feels there is a miniscule risk of domestic  
15 terrorism, given the other coverages they carry.  
16

17 Nelson asked if the difference between the two insurance options is outlined  
18 in the handout. Desler stated there are modest differences between the two  
19 options. The substantial differences are the total loss, strength of the company,  
20 and the earthquake coverage. That's where most of the cost comes from.  
21

22 Hanson stated the most dramatic change in benefit is an increase in  
23 coverage for earthquake and floods.  
24

25 Desler stated that the buildings are exposed to some earthquake issues.  
26

27 ***Nelson moved*** to recommend option two, the Commonwealth insurance  
28 plan, to the full Council.  
29

30 ***Motion carried unanimously.***  
31

32 Desler stated the administration recommendation includes adding option B  
33 for earthquake and flood coverage.  
34

35 ***Crawford moved*** to include option B for earthquake and flood coverage.  
36

37 ***Motion carried unanimously.***  
38  
39

#### 40 **COUNCIL "CONSENT AGENDA" ITEM**

- 41
- 42 **1. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
43 **CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND RE**  
44 **SOURCES, TO DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT A TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**  
45 **PROGRAM FOCUSING ON WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING FOR**  
46 **WHATCOM COUNTY BUSINESSES, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$35,000**  
47 **(AB2004-089)**

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

4       Brenner stated she recalled that more money than this was approved in the  
5 2004 budget. She asked if the County would still get all the services it wanted.  
6

7       Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated he doesn't recall that, but he  
8 would check.  
9

10       Nelson stated they went out for a request for proposal (RFP), and this is the  
11 amount that was bid.  
12

13       Brenner stated the RESources RFP came back at \$50,000 or \$60,000, and  
14 this is only for \$35,000.  
15

16       Crawford stated the bid is in the packet, and is \$35,000.  
17

18       Brenner stated all she wants to know is what has been reduced from the  
19 original RFP.  
20

21       Roy stated she would prefer to wait to get this clarified before recommending  
22 this item.  
23

24       Nelson stated there is a bid from RESources. If RESources had a problem  
25 with the amount of money or have been given a decreased scope of work, it would  
26 be worth knowing. However, they applied a bid. This item won't change. There's  
27 not reason for it to not move forward now.  
28

29       **Motion carried 2-0 with Roy opposed.**  
30

31       *(Clerk's Note: Discussion of this item continued below.)*  
32

33       **2. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
34       **CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND NORSTAN**  
35       **FOR REPLACEMENT OF PHONE SYSTEM AT HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S**  
36       **STATE STREET FACILITY, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$49,406.99 (AB2004-**  
37       **090)**  
38

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

41       Crawford stated this was included in the Health Department budget.  
42

43       Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated this is in preparation for the  
44 Health Department consolidation.  
45

46       Nelson asked if the company is from Whatcom County. Desler stated this  
47 company is the contractor that has been with the County for 14 or 15 years.

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

4 **3. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
5 **CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND**  
6 **NORTHWEST YOUTH SERVICES TO PROVIDE SERVICES RELATED TO**  
7 **TEEN COURT, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$18,500 (AB2004-091)**  
8

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

10  
11 Crawford stated this item is funded through a grant from Alcoa, Juvenile  
12 Accountability Incentive Block Grant (JAIBG), and the Whatcom County Superior  
13 Court. The County is the pass-through agency for these funds.  
14

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

17 **4. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
18 **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY**  
19 **AND SHEARER DESIGN LLC, FOR THE STRUCTURAL DESIGN OF FROST**  
20 **ROAD BRIDGE, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$43,457 (AB2004-092)**  
21

22 Roy stated there was much discussion and community input on this. She  
23 thought this was done.  
24

25 Nelson stated this is the money for the project.  
26

27 Chris Brueske, Engineering Manager, stated the Council included the project  
28 in the annual road program, six-year road program, and budget. This request is to  
29 enter into the contract.  
30

31 ***Roy moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.  
32

33 ***Motion carried unanimously.***  
34

35 **1. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
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39 **WHATCOM COUNTY BUSINESSES, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$35,000**  
40 **(AB2004-089)**  
41

42 *(Clerk's Note: Discussion continued from above.)*  
43

44 Brenner stated she just talked to the staff at RESources on the phone.  
45 RESources submitted a proposal for \$50,000 and was asked to revise it to \$35,000,  
46 even though the Council approved \$50,000. The reduction means 20 percent fewer  
47 businesses will be served, and they'll be no promotionals at all. They weren't given

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1 a reason for the reduction. She's concerned about the reduction. They're talking  
2 about getting rid of exemptions because they're so concerned about people  
3 recycling. This is the one contract that provides the most benefit for waste  
4 reduction and recycling, and they're reducing the amount that was approved.  
5

6 Desler stated he will check on the reason for the changes.  
7

8 *(Clerk's Note: Discussion continued below.)*  
9

10 **5. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
11 **GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND THE**  
12 **DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY TO PROVIDE MATCHING FUNDS FOR**  
13 **SOLID WASTE PROGRAMS INCLUDING EDUCATION FOR SCHOOLS**  
14 **AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC, FUNDING FOR THE DISPOSAL OF TOXICS**  
15 **FACILITY, RECYCLING HOTLINE, AND SOLID WASTE AND LITTER**  
16 **ENFORCEMENT, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$495,505 (AB2004-093)**  
17

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

20 Crawford stated the State Department of Ecology is the source of the funds.  
21 The County is also contributing money to the program.  
22

23 ***Motion carried unanimously.***  
24

25 **6. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
26 **CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND**  
27 **PICTOMETRY INTERNATIONAL CORP. FOR LICENSED USE OF**  
28 **SHORELINE ORTHOGONAL AND OBLIQUE IMAGES, IN THE AMOUNT**  
29 **OF \$145,000 (AB2004-094)**  
30

31 Crawford stated funding is from the State Department of Ecology (DOE).  
32

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

35 Nelson asked how this serves the public. He asked about the rights of use  
36 for users. Staff people will use the pictures for shoreline assessment. They won't  
37 have access to software except through authorized workstations. He asked how  
38 people, except staff, examine the pictures.  
39

40 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated he would find out more  
41 information.  
42

43 Nelson stated the pictures are to remain the property of the company unless  
44 a fee is paid. The County is paying them to do the pictures.  
45

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1           Jeff Chalfant, Senior Planner, stated an individual property owner can get a  
2 copy of the image for personal use. If related to County business, the County can  
3 make copies for individual use for no charge.  
4

5           Nelson stated the contract isn't clear about that. Chalfant stated the  
6 language is in the licensing agreement.  
7

8           Nelson asked how the hard copy is different from the electronic copies.  
9 Chalfant stated the digital copies are original copies. There would be no need for  
10 use of a digital copy. They're not too concerned about individual property owners.  
11 They're concerned about real estate folks and engineers who would take the  
12 imagery to enhance their businesses.  
13

14           Crawford asked if these pictures are more detailed than the public access  
15 provided through the internet of shorelines from the State. Chalfant stated much  
16 more detailed.  
17

18           Roy asked if they can use the digital imagery to create models. Chalfant  
19 stated it's not that sophisticated.  
20

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

23 **7. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO APPROVE THE**  
24 **PURCHASE OF THREE REPLACEMENT LIGHT UTILITY VEHICLES**  
25 **USING THE WASHINGTON STATE CONTRACT, FROM BUD CLARY**  
26 **CHEVROLET FOR A TOTAL PURCHASE PRICE OF \$65,141.14 (AB2004-**  
27 **095)**  
28

29           ***Nelson moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council. The vehicles are  
30 old, but have low mileage. Newer vehicles can last for more miles. He asked if  
31 they've evaluated that before trading it in. He asked if they are using the same  
32 policies they had 20 years ago.  
33

34           Mary Green, Equipment Rental and Revolve (ER&R) Division Manager, stated  
35 she used to replace the vehicles at 80,000 miles. Now she replaces them at  
36 100,000 to 125,000. When she replaces a vehicles, they can usually add 10,000  
37 more miles to the new vehicles. She uses the 80,000 mile benchmark to see if the  
38 vehicle is any trouble. She uses the 100,000 to 125,000 mile benchmark to  
39 actually replace the vehicle. She has raised the mileage a few years ago. Across  
40 the state, she looks at getting the best return for money at auction, which is right  
41 around 100,000 miles. She also looks at service records in addition to the mileage.  
42

43           Crawford asked if anyone is commuting in these vehicles or using them for  
44 personal use. Green stated it's up to the department head and Executive to  
45 determine whether they can be used as commuting vehicles. She's only the renting  
46 agent. One of the vehicles used in the Emergency Management Division by Division  
47 Manager Neil Clement may be a commuting vehicle. The two vehicles being used

1 for 25,000 miles per year may not be commuting vehicles. They are inspector  
2 vehicles.

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

5  
6 **8. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO APPROVE THE**  
7 **PURCHASE OF FOUR GAS/ELECTRIC HYBRID SEDANS USING THE**  
8 **WASHINGTON STATE CONTRACT, FROM BUD CLARY OF YAKIMA FOR**  
9 **A TOTAL PURCHASE PRICE OF \$85,681.60 (AB2004-096)**

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

11  
12 Crawford asked if these cars cost more.

13  
14  
15 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated they do cost a little more. The  
16 County has a couple of them now. The administration wants to try out these  
17 vehicles. So much of the mileage put on the cars is done around the urban areas.  
18 There are a lot of gas savings that can occur with these vehicles. Staff has been  
19 trained on how to properly maintain the vehicles.

20  
21 Roy stated she appreciated the administration taking the initiative to do this.

22  
23 Crawford stated he doesn't want to spend money on a problem that doesn't  
24 exist. Desler stated this is a priority for the Executive. Staff is looking at the data.  
25 They're going to test them out.

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

28  
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34 **(AB2004-089)**

35  
36 *(Clerk's Note: Discussion continued from above.)*

37  
38 Jeff Monsen, Public Works Director, stated the Solid Waste Division budget is  
39 put together by the Solid Waste Advisory Committee before going to the Council.  
40 For the last two or three years, the County has been out of this program area. The  
41 Solid Waste Advisory Committee made a recommendation that the program be  
42 reinstated. The discussion with the committee was that \$35,000 was probably  
43 enough, but it included \$50,000 to allow some leeway. Their instructions were to  
44 not spend that full amount if they didn't have to. When the County sent out the  
45 RFP, respondents were aware of the \$50,000 limit. He was concerned with how  
46 they could deliver a good return for the dollars spent. RESources had a proposal  
47 that was more flexible than the other respondent. They were awarded the

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1 contract, and asked to put together a contract for \$35,000 with the idea that if they  
2 are getting a good return on the investment by mid-year, they will approve more  
3 money.  
4

5 Roy asked if they can tell what was in the \$50,000 proposal that is no longer  
6 in the \$35,000 proposal.  
7

8 Nelson stated the services eliminated are to 20 businesses and the  
9 community outreach.  
10

11 *(Clerk's Note: End of tape one, side A.)*  
12  
13

14 **OTHER BUSINESS**  
15

16 There was no other business.  
17  
18

19 **ADJOURN**  
20

21 The meeting adjourned at 12:17 p.m.  
22  
23  
24

25 \_\_\_\_\_  
26 Jill Nixon, Minutes Transcription  
27

28 ATTEST:  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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

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