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

4 February 24, 2004  
5

6 Committee Chair Sam Crawford called the meeting to order at 11:00 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 **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**  
18

19 **1. PRESENTATION REGARDING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INDICATORS AND**  
20 **CRIMINAL JUSTICE DATA (AB2004-119)**  
21

22 Dr. Shannon Meyer, Law and Justice subcommittee, stated the Domestic  
23 Violence Commission members want to speak today about a specific project they're  
24 working on. The report they produced answers the most basic questions about  
25 domestic violence in this county, including how much, the kinds, and where it's  
26 happening. They had a difficult time collating and coordinating the data collection  
27 effort. Different municipalities use different coding systems. This is the beginning  
28 of an ongoing annual report. They have many things they'd like to look at in the  
29 future. She would like also input from the councilmembers about indices or factors  
30 to consider in future reports.  
31

32 Sue Parrott, Domestic Violence Commission Director, stated  
33 she would go over the compilation of Whatcom County domestic violence data  
34 report dated January 2004. The data tells them quite a bit, but it also leaves many  
35 questions. They collected data for a five-year period, through 2002. In terms of  
36 total offenses reported, there has not been much of a change in that five-year  
37 period. They're staying at about 1,480 offenses over that five year period. They  
38 looked at the total offenses reported by law enforcement agencies, the percent that  
39 are domestic violence-related is 14 percent in the county. That's about the same  
40 as the statewide rate. Domestic violence cases include people who have lived  
41 together, married, or are parent-related. There is a more complete definition in the  
42 report.  
43

44 Law enforcement is called to many domestics that don't result in arrests.  
45 They are verbal domestics. Law enforcement spends a considerable amount of  
46 time on calls that don't result in arrests, as a prevention measure.  
47

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1           The County jail prioritized domestic bookings as misdemeanor offenses. The  
2 percent of bookings in 2002 is 25 percent. The sheriff indicated that because of the  
3 jail space problems, they often have to release domestic offenders.  
4

5           There has been an eight percent decline over the five-year period in  
6 misdemeanor domestic violence charges that were filed in all courts in the county.  
7 This statistic should parallel the overall law enforcement offenses. The reasons this  
8 statistic is lower are unclear. Felony domestic violence cases are increasing.  
9 Whatcom County District Court Probation provides probation services for all  
10 Whatcom County courts except Blaine, Ferndale, and Lummi. Over the five year  
11 period, the change in new domestic violence cases that are referred to district court  
12 probation increased 59 percent. There is a significant increase in probation as a  
13 condition of a sentence, related to domestic violence offenses. They don't know  
14 why that is.  
15

16           Roy asked if the increase in probation is due to the lack of jail space.  
17

18           Peggy Miller, Probation Supervisor, stated it is. It is also an education of the  
19 court system to provide probation and treatment. The lack of jail space is an issue.  
20

21           Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated the Council added two probation  
22 officers in 2001 to specifically address domestic violence issues, as part of the  
23 implementation of the law and justice plan. It's possible they're seeing the result  
24 of that new capacity. Judges feel more confident about referring offenders to  
25 probation.  
26

27           Miller stated the judges all know of the domestic violence unit, which has  
28 promoted sentences that refer to probation.  
29

30           Parrott stated they weren't able to collect data this time on disposition and  
31 resolution of cases. They will have that information in a year. They need to work  
32 with jurisdictions on consistency of the disposition information. Recidivism rates  
33 are also something they'd like to include in the next annual report.  
34

35           Roy asked if they've done studies about domestic violence within certain  
36 family units, specifically about abused children becoming abusive adults. Parrott  
37 stated that would be a very different kind of study.  
38

39           Crawford stated he is interested in the connection between alcohol or  
40 substance abuse and domestic violence. Parrott stated she didn't know if they can  
41 pull that information out of the database or if they'd have to go through each case  
42 file. The jail does have that data.  
43

44           Crawford asked if there are any roadblocks to getting the information from  
45 the other jurisdictions. Parrott stated there isn't. There are good working  
46 relationships among the jurisdictions.  
47

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1 Nelson stated he would like to see the information address each year's  
2 statistics in relation to population changes. Also, present a plan of action that can  
3 help the councilmembers understand treatment versus jailing. He's not convinced  
4 that jailing people is always the best solution. They first have to evaluate if there is  
5 effective treatment in the community to deal with domestic violence abusers.  
6 Measure the effect on the recidivism rate. Parrott stated that is a sophisticated  
7 piece of research because the question being asked is what is successful. It's a  
8 very important question.  
9

10 Crawford asked the support network for victims. Parrott stated the report  
11 includes information about the eight percent population increase in the five years  
12 the statistics were reported. The service providers say their numbers are slowly  
13 increasing. Service capacity is good.  
14

15 Crawford thanked Ms. Parrott for her work on this issue.  
16

17 **2. QUARTERLY REPORT BY THE PUBLIC FACILITIES DISTRICT (AB2004-**  
18 **120)**  
19

20 Don Keenan, District Staffing Team Leader, stated there has been  
21 construction going on since December. They are making good progress. In July  
22 2002, the Council and City jointly formed the Public Facilities District (PFD). It's  
23 been charged with developing a regional center.  
24

25 Dunham Gooding, Public Facilities District Board of Directors President,  
26 stated construction is underway. They were required to begin construction on the  
27 facility by the first of 2004, which they did. In addition, they're planning for the  
28 next phases and helping private forces pull together to develop a fundraising effort.  
29

30 In November and December, they restated the concept of the regional  
31 center. He provided a handout (*on file*) on the PFD. He read the handout. Phase I  
32 of the Mt. Baker Theater is underway. They bought three privately held  
33 condominium spaces adjacent to the theater to create more adequate backstage  
34 areas. The theater was originally constructed for film and vaudeville. The theater  
35 has been inadequate for some of the shows it's presented. Some shows won't  
36 come to the theater because of the inadequate backstage facilities. Phase II, which  
37 they aren't doing yet, will redo the electrical and heating/ventilation/air conditioning  
38 (HVAC) systems in the theater. There is no air conditioning now. The electrical  
39 system is original and poses dangers by modern standards. Phase III is expansion  
40 of the stage house. He read from the handout about significant activities since July  
41 2002. In the next three years, if things are done very well, there is a potential to  
42 raise \$10 million to \$15 million from the community. In seven or eight years, a  
43 second fundraising effort could be made to potentially raise up to \$20 million. Now,  
44 a private group of potential funders is beginning to coalesce. They need to proceed  
45 regardless. It's okay to have a regional center with multiple components as long as  
46 they're geographically thematically-related. They can't have big gaps in activity, or  
47 it will look like multiple regional centers. They are under some pressure to

1 maintain a continuum. They also purchased the parking lot next to the theater.  
2 Right now it's used as a construction staging area, but will allow for a loading dock  
3 to the theater and public parking.  
4

5 Nelson asked if there has been any discussion about the PFD and potential  
6 construction in this core area by the County. Gooding stated they haven't received  
7 the report that outlines the County's development options. People involved in the  
8 PFD are concerned about option two, specifically the potential size of the buildings  
9 that could be developed in the downtown area. There isn't an official position by  
10 the PFD on the County's options.  
11

12 Nelson stated he would like an official position from the PFD. The Council  
13 wants to work collaboratively with the community. Gooding stated the PFD regional  
14 developments will be about three stories high, with incorporated open space and  
15 ties to the outdoor environment.  
16

17 ***Nelson moved*** to recommend that the Council request the PFD to provide  
18 the Council a letter of comment on the proposed options for the Master Facilities  
19 Plan, regarding the issue of the downtown core.  
20

21 Gooding stated that with the money the PFD has, they cannot do all the  
22 things in their plan in the next two or three years. It will have to be done in phases  
23 over the long-term. There is a benefit of this type of district to the community and  
24 it's typical to have a contribution from the jurisdictions. It's the PFD's intent to  
25 assign about \$3 million each for the museum and theater to create an endowment  
26 for future operating costs.  
27

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

30 Nelson stated he's seen preliminary planning from the PFD. He asked if all  
31 the lands allocated are scheduled for future development, including the library.  
32 Gooding stated several properties would be useful to the PFD, but the library is not  
33 eligible for a PFD process. He can't speak to the future of the library. He's heard  
34 that the Library Board has presented three options for the future of the location of  
35 the library.  
36

37 Crawford stated the vision of the Centennial Project is an exciting opportunity  
38 for the community. He hoped the PFD could continue to facilitate in that direction.  
39 He would like the PFD to always consider future plans in this area in view of the  
40 need for parking and the existing lack of parking spaces. The County is a one-third  
41 partner in this venture. It should benefit from a community center, but also in a  
42 practical sense, it should benefit from additional parking.  
43

44 Therese Holm, City Finance Director, stated under the terms of the interlocal  
45 agreements, the City established a separate fund to account for revenues and  
46 expenses of the PFD, provide interim financing to the district before a bond issue,  
47 provide a 33 percent match to revenues, and issue bonds that will be repaid by the

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1 sales tax rebate. She submitted a preliminary year-end report for 2003 (*on file*).  
2 The sales tax rebate on all retail sales in the county and city of Bellingham in 2003  
3 totaled approximately \$846,000.

4  
5 (*Clerk's Note: End of tape one, side A.*)  
6

7 Holm continued to state that is more than they expected for the year. It is  
8 largely contributed to construction activity occurring in the city and county. Total  
9 revenues for the year totaled about \$1.9 million.

10  
11 The largest expense was for the capital expenses related to the Mt. Baker  
12 Theater. The PFD invested \$1.2 million for land and construction related to phase I  
13 of the Mt. Baker Theater renovation. Total 2003 expenditures was about \$1.7  
14 million, leaving about \$230,000 to start 2004. She read the second page of the  
15 handout regarding assets and liabilities of the PFD.

16  
17 Nelson asked if the City or the PFD is responsible for the lands and property  
18 in the future. Holm stated the PFD is responsible for the PFD property for 25 years,  
19 then the it reverts to the City.

20  
21 Keenan thanked the committee for its support and presented an opportunity  
22 to tour the theater construction.  
23  
24

## 25 **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**

### 26 27 **1. ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2004 WHATCOM COUNTY BUDGET,** 28 **SECOND REQUEST (AB2004-105)** 29

30 Crawford stated a substitute version was submitted earlier (*on file*).  
31

32 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated the substitute version includes a  
33 transfer of \$20,000 out of veterans relief fund balance to provide additional  
34 assistance to indigent veterans. The program has been spending at a rate that is  
35 one-twelfth of the annual budget. There are a number of applications. One of the  
36 veterans group interested in improving the assistance to these veterans requested  
37 a transfer of \$20,000. The administration recommends the transfer through the  
38 supplemental budget request process.  
39

40 In addition, the supplemental budget requests includes a grant application  
41 for equipment to support methamphetamine lab investigation and crime scene  
42 investigation training. There is another grant from the Citizen Corps. The  
43 administration supports the request.  
44

45 Michael Mulligan, service officer for American Legion Post 83 in Deming and  
46 former service officer of the Soldier's and Sailor's Relief Fund for the Veterans of

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1 Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 1585, stated he'd like to hear for the justification for the  
2 \$20,000 reallocation.  
3

4 Crawford stated the Council respond to requests. There was a letter  
5 requesting this from the administration.  
6

7 Mulligan stated he presented information to the Council in the past. This law  
8 that created the Soldier's and Sailor's Relief Fund was created in 1888. It was  
9 intended as a stop-gap measure for soldier's of the Civil War for the Union. In  
10 1888, the State of Washington was still a territory. It didn't have all the social  
11 benefits it does today. At that time, there was a void that this law was created to  
12 fill. Today, there is a plethora of assistance programs. There are lots of problems  
13 in the State. There are attempts to make changes to this law that he is opposed  
14 to. There are some organizations that advocate easing up the constraints on this  
15 program, which he will address.  
16

17 The facts are that there is mismanagement, abuse, and a lack of adherence  
18 to specific guidelines in dealing out the funds. They've created a situation where  
19 they need to bail out the fund by transferring funds. Previously, only once has this  
20 situation occurred before. He included information (*on file*) on a 2004 budget for  
21 the County fund and a 2004 disbursement of funds to date. The 2004  
22 disbursement is from aid that the Finance Department of the County provided. The  
23 information has been an invaluable tool put together from staff in the Finance  
24 Department.  
25

26 He reviewed the County's excel charts for each year beginning in 2000,  
27 which show that the first person on the list for 2004 is receiving a mortgage  
28 payment. These funds are supposed to be for indigent veterans. That recipient is  
29 also a repeat recipient from 2003. Another recipient appears to be getting a rent  
30 subsidy for 2003 and 2004. The County needs to issue some sort of guideline. In  
31 addition, another recipient named Ms. Benner received funds many times. He  
32 counseled Ms. Benner when she came to the VFW. She owns her own three  
33 bedroom home. He provided counseling to her to try and get her off of these  
34 funds. While counseling her, he learned that Ms. Benner was spending her social  
35 security money on discretionary activities such as cable television, and coming to  
36 the veterans relief fund to pay for her essential costs. He suggested that she rent  
37 out a room of her house and to borrow the neighbor's lawnmower instead of buying  
38 one. They're talking about people who are making life choices, and then who  
39 expect the County to pick up the bill for their essential costs. They're spending  
40 taxpayer money freely, and not looking at how they spend it.  
41

42 He provided a copy of suggested guidelines (*on file*). If the Council approves  
43 the \$20,000 transfer, also approve a set of guidelines. They are at a point where  
44 the current organization is not saying no to applicants when it should. The  
45 Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) should put up a bond, as allowed by law.  
46 The guidelines should require that information be provided on the application not  
47 only on income, but also on assets. One individual turned down by the VFW for

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1 fraud is receiving funds while living with a girlfriend who is charging him rent in  
2 Bellingham-Whatcom County housing. That is fraud. People are abusing the  
3 system, and no one is doing anything about it.  
4

5 Crawford asked Mr. Mulligan's role in this fund. Mulligan stated he is a  
6 volunteer in compliance with the original law that called for congressionally  
7 chartered service organizations to do this willingly and freely. He initially was with  
8 the VFW. He is currently with the American Legion Post. This is all voluntary.  
9 These individuals aren't being counseled. However, once they begin receiving  
10 counseling, the rate in the budget dropped. When the VFW began its investigation,  
11 a lot of these people all of a sudden decided they didn't need the funds. He has  
12 proof of abuse and fraud going on in this fund.  
13

14 Ina Little, registered nurse, stated she has volunteered many hours and  
15 much money to take veterans back and forth to Seattle for medical treatment. She  
16 is a taxpayer. There are benefits available to veterans. Any veteran is entitled to  
17 go to Veterans Administration (VA) hospital for their needs. They don't have to be  
18 disabled, except to receive dental work. However, there are local dental services in  
19 the community that will take reduced fees for services. If a veteran is 60 percent  
20 disabled and unable to work, the veteran is qualified as 100 percent disabled. She  
21 provided information (*on file*) on the services a disabled veteran pays for and  
22 receives. She asked the Council to make sure the people who use these funds are  
23 investigated better.  
24

25 George Wilcox, service officer, stated the County Executive's Office is aware  
26 of the veteran laws. One councilmember requested information from the Executive  
27 on the veteran laws, but Executive Kremen didn't provide that information. A lot  
28 of the responsible lies with the County Executive, Deputy Administrator, and  
29 Finance Director who know the laws and ignored it.  
30

31 Some of the veterans have a fee basis card for medical treatment. Some  
32 can be treated outside the hospital, but take the DVA van to the hospital in Seattle  
33 five days a week. The funds are being used for things it shouldn't, like mortgages,  
34 medical, and fuel. The system is being abused. This County turned down the  
35 opportunity for a volunteer investigator for these abuses. He investigated some of  
36 this stuff himself. There are a lot of ways to catch these people violating the law.  
37

38 For awhile, he tried to get these people jobs, but they wouldn't show up, so  
39 he quit doing it. This is not the responsibility of the Council, but the Executive. He  
40 is a large property owner in this county and pays a tremendous amount in taxes.  
41 He doesn't want the use of his taxes to be abused. Hire an investigator for the  
42 County. Make people live within their means and not break their promises.  
43

44 Roy stated she underestimated the length of this meeting and must leave.  
45 However, she's heard compelling testimony, but is reluctant to take a position  
46 against a budget request without hearing the other side of the story. They need to  
47 work cooperatively with the administration. Look into the issue more.

1  
2           *(Clerk's Note: Councilmember Roy left at 12:20 p.m.)*  
3

4           Jim Pace, former veterans service officer for Whatcom and San Juan County,  
5 stated he currently volunteers at the veterans center and is the chapter president  
6 of the organization that oversees its part of the Veterans Relief Fund. They have  
7 staff at the Whatcom County Forest Street annex up to four days per week.  
8

9           In 1992, Whatcom County received \$10 million from the VA for disability  
10 compensation. In 2002, the County received \$20 million. Currently, 1,120  
11 veterans from Whatcom County are receiving treatment at the VA. The VA spent  
12 \$5 million on treatment for Whatcom County residents. Pierce County is giving out  
13 about \$1,200 per month for veteran families. King County is giving out about  
14 \$1,200 for families and \$500 for veterans. Snohomish and Skagit County don't  
15 have a policy. They look at their applications and determine the need. Whatcom  
16 County averages \$958 per veteran. The County is comparable with other counties.  
17

18           He proposes limiting veterans to \$500 per year and veterans families to  
19 \$1,200 per year. In the meantime, the laws allow all 16,000 of the veterans in  
20 Whatcom County to access the funds. Before, only war-era veterans were allowed.  
21 There is a new generation of veterans coming through the door, and they want to  
22 be able to help those veterans get back into society. Mr. Mulligan suggested that  
23 Ms. Benner, at age 84, get a job. He didn't like that comment. They try to take  
24 care of the widows as best they can. It doesn't do any good if this money goes  
25 back into a reserve fund for years when there are veterans in need out there.  
26 Some of the grants have been surprisingly large, but they're taking care of that and  
27 setting limits. They are already making changes. At the end of the year, they will  
28 hopefully see money returned.  
29

30           Crawford stated there's a limited pot of money each year and a number of  
31 people who would like to access that money. He asked if there is an opportunity  
32 for the various interests to sit down and work on Mr. Mulligan's suggested  
33 guidelines. Pace stated Executive Kremen is putting together a veterans advisory  
34 committee that will address these issues. He hoped they would work together to  
35 put guidelines together that they can all agree to.  
36

37           Crawford stated it sounds like it's time to develop guidelines so there's  
38 predictability and consistency in disbursing funds. The question is also of the  
39 process to access those funds. They're using County property in a County facility  
40 to be counseled according to their own criteria. It seems that this can be worked  
41 through. Get the consistency that will address everyone's concerns. Pace stated  
42 they'll see that in the coming months.  
43

44           Nelson stated Mr. Wilcox referred to the administration not providing  
45 information. He never had a problem with getting information from the  
46 administration. He has the laws regarding the Veterans Relief Fund from the

1 administration through Brad Bennett's office. Wilcox stated he wasn't referring to  
2 Councilmember Nelson.

3  
4 Ken Richardson, 2481 Autumnwood Court, Bellingham, stated the issue of  
5 policies, procedures and guidelines is what County Executive is trying to set up with  
6 the creation of the veterans advisory board. The fund they're talking about runs  
7 about \$145,000 per year, is derived from property taxes, and is mandated by the  
8 State of Washington. It's not something they can choose to not do. It's good to  
9 educate people in the County that they're paying about \$1.10 per \$100,000 for this  
10 purpose.

11  
12 The issue of how much money or how often someone gets money is based  
13 on need and not specified in the law. They have a wide range of concept in terms  
14 of what is need and what alternatives are available. He's concerned that when they  
15 argue about whether or not to take money from the reserve for this purpose, that  
16 money is not spent for the purpose it was intended in prior years. Use the money  
17 to fulfill current needs. If it doesn't get spent, it will go back into reserve. On two  
18 other cases, the Council has done the same type of thing, usually at the end of the  
19 year.

20  
21 They would all agree there are issues where people who may or may not  
22 have been deserving have received funds. The citizen advisory board will put  
23 together guidelines. He would hesitate to put individual and family limits as a  
24 guideline because he doesn't know what the need factors will look like. There are  
25 16,000 or so veterans in this county. Less than ten percent are disabled veterans.  
26 A lot of those folks receive a little here and a little there, wisely administered by the  
27 this fund and used for the purpose of the funds. He thanked Councilmember  
28 Nelson, who is about to fulfill his obligation as a soldier and a veteran-to-be.

29  
30 Desler stated a lot of good comments have been made. A lot of veteran  
31 groups have been involved in the past 115 years. Whatcom County has had an  
32 active role in designing and maintaining what they have today. The Executive's  
33 Office has worked actively with these people in the last two or three years. These  
34 people have helped the Executive's Office understand the law more clearly, so the  
35 Executive's Office has made changes to the service in the past. They are one of the  
36 few or only county that administers according to the actual letter of the law. How  
37 other counties operate their programs has evolved from the law.

38  
39 A little over a year ago, the administration started using a five-page  
40 application that the veterans have to fill out with one of the three veterans groups  
41 authorized to assist the veterans.

42  
43 *(Clerk's Note: End of tape one, side B.)*

44  
45 Desler continued to state they start with the premise that the veterans will  
46 be honest on their applications. There is an indigence requirement that is at or  
47 below 125 percent of the poverty level. The applicant signs the declaration under

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1 penalty of perjury, which is clearly stated. The application must be processed by  
2 the relevant veteran's organization. It's turned over to the County Finance Division  
3 for the purpose of consistency and to check indigence level. The County kicks back  
4 a lot of questions to the veterans organizations, which will review and amend the  
5 applications and turn them back into the Finance Division. At that point, the  
6 County's role is to issue the check.  
7

8 Crawford stated there was talk that people were being counseled. Desler  
9 stated Mr. Wilcox requested a space from the County where the veterans groups  
10 can meet with the applicants. The County provided space in the basement of the  
11 Forest Street annex. The County provided all the veterans organizations the ability  
12 to check out a key to use those rooms to work with the veterans. If the  
13 organizations choose to talk about other services and activities available to  
14 veterans, they can do that on their dime.  
15

16 Crawford stated it sounds like someone applies for the money and is being  
17 counseled on their total financial situation. He asked about the five-page  
18 application and the veterans organization that helps them to fill out. Desler stated  
19 he doesn't know what happens during those conversations. The County isn't there.  
20 That is between the veteran and the veterans organization service officer. The  
21 Council is seeing a difference of opinion between the veterans associations about  
22 how people should be declared needy. The desire to limit the funding per year is a  
23 good one. It's up to the veterans organization to make a decision on what kind of  
24 assistance they would apply for. The County's role is different. The veterans  
25 organization, not the County, is doing the work to decide to provide funds.  
26

27 Crawford asked if there is someone in the County who reviews the  
28 applications. Pace stated the application is submitted, the applicant has to have  
29 documents that shows the state of their finances and their need. That information  
30 is presented to the County. The County approves the applications.  
31

32 Wilcox stated they need an investigator so people don't abuse the system.  
33

34 Desler stated the Executive is asking for volunteers from the veterans  
35 organizations to review potential guidelines, which will probably be voluntary  
36 guidelines. The County's role is to confirm indigence. This is not a welfare  
37 program, which spends a huge amount of money on verifying income and assets.  
38 The County is asking for an honest declaration of situation, for the veterans  
39 organizations to provide their best judgment of the application, and to file this  
40 information based on the threat of perjury. If fraud and abuse is going on, he  
41 urged that it be turned over to the prosecuting attorney.  
42

43 ***Nelson moved*** to approve the substitute supplemental budget request, and  
44 request the administration will hopefully work with the veterans groups to create an  
45 advisory board to put together standards and a review process that the County  
46 administration can use. There needs to be additional changes to the system. He  
47 hoped these people can work it out. The veterans are responsible for the funds,

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1 and hopes it stays that way rather than having the government responsible for the  
2 funds. Make sure funds are allocated for anyone who needs it. They need to be  
3 responsible for the money and make sure the funds are being used appropriately  
4 for those in need. Have a mechanism to review the expenditures and prevent  
5 fraud. Make sure that veterans know that abuse of these funds hurt the process for  
6 everyone.

7  
8 Crawford stated he is in favor of the motion. It would be nice to put  
9 everything on hold until that's done, but it's not how needs work. There are  
10 veterans' needs that can't wait for bureaucracy. The Executive will probably have  
11 no shortage of volunteers on the advisory committee. He thanked everyone  
12 attending the meeting.

13  
14 ***Motion carried 2-0 with Roy absent.***

15  
16  
17 **COUNCIL "CONSENT AGENDA" ITEM**

- 18  
19 **1. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
20 **CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND**  
21 **CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES RECOVERY CENTER TO PROVIDE**  
22 **SUBSTANCE ABUSE EVALUATION AND SERVICES TO YOUTH**  
23 **REFERRED UNDER AND SENTENCED UNDER THE CHEMICAL**  
24 **DEPENDENCY DISPOSITION ALTERNATIVE IN THE JUVENILE COURT,**  
25 **IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,000 (AB2004-109)**

26  
27 ***Nelson moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.

28  
29 ***Motion carried 2-0 with Roy absent.***

- 30  
31 **2. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO APPROVE AN**  
32 **AMENDMENT TO THE CONTRACT FOR SERVICES AGREEMENT**  
33 **BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND WHATCOM CONSERVATION**  
34 **DISTRICT (WCD) TO PROVIDE PLANNING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE,**  
35 **AND OVERSIGHT OF PLANTING AND MAINTENANCE WORK**  
36 **SUPPORTING RIPARIAN RESTORATION WORK ON DRAINAGE**  
37 **DISTRICT AND COUNTY FLOOD PROJECTS, IN THE AMOUNT OF**  
38 **\$190,000 FOR A TOTAL AMENDED CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF**  
39 **\$200,000 (AB2004-110)**

40  
41 ***Nelson moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council. He asked why  
42 they are doing this if it is already fully implemented.

43  
44 Paula Cooper, River and Flood Division Manager, stated the grant is  
45 implemented already. This is the request to spend the money received from the  
46 grant.

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1           ***Motion carried 2-0 with Roy absent.***  
2

- 3   **3.   REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO APPROVE AN**  
4   **AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT FOR SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN**  
5   **WHATCOM COUNTY AND KERR WOOD LEIDAL ASSOCIATES FOR**  
6   **CANYON CREEK AND JONES CREEK ALLUVIAL FAN RISK ANALYSES**  
7   **AND SWIFT CREEK ALLUVIAL FAN MANAGEMENT PLAN, IN THE**  
8   **AMOUNT OF \$76,240 FOR A TOTAL AMENDED CONTRACT IN THE**  
9   **AMOUNT OF \$183,240 (AB2004-111)**

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

12           ***Motion carried 2-0 with Roy absent.***  
13

- 14   **4.   REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
15   **CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND WALKER**  
16   **& ASSOCIATES FOR AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY FOR SUBSEQUENT**  
17   **TOPOGRAPHIC MAPPING FOR RIVER AND FLOOD DIVISION**  
18   **PROJECTS, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$21,987 (AB2004-112)**  
19

20           ***Nelson moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council. He asked if  
21 copies are available to the public.  
22

23           Paula Cooper, River and Flood Division Manager, stated they are.  
24

25           Crawford asked if the Flood Control Zone District Advisory Committee voted  
26 on it. Cooper stated not directly, but they're the reason this is happening.  
27

28           ***Motion carried 2-0 with Roy absent.***  
29

- 30   **5.   REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO APPROVE AN**  
31   **AMENDMENT TO THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM**  
32   **COUNTY AND THE PORT OF BELLINGHAM TO IMPLEMENT PHASE II**  
33   **OF THE MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE BLAINE MARINA PILOT**  
34   **PROJECT, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,000 FOR A TOTAL AMENDED**  
35   **AGREEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$26,000 (AB2004-113)**  
36

37           ***Nelson moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.  
38

39           ***Motion carried 2-0 with Roy absent.***  
40

41  
42  
43   **OTHER BUSINESS**

44           Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated he wanted to summarize the  
45 year-end financial report. Revenues were higher than projected. There was  
46 increased revenue from sales tax and property tax revenues. There was more new  
47

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1 construction. More fees were collected in the Planning Department and Recording  
2 Division. There was more revenue collected from fines, fees, and forfeitures in the  
3 courts. Some things are down, including jail revenue because there are more  
4 County than City prisoners. Interest income is also lower than expected. They  
5 projected a three percent lapse in expenditures, and the actual lapse was about  
6 five and a half percent. There are continuing appropriations. In summary, the  
7 revenues received equaled expenditures budgeted. Because of the lapse, there is  
8 more money in the general fund.  
9

10 Crawford asked what's happening with emergency medical service (EMS).  
11 Desler stated there was a meeting with stakeholders last month. The County  
12 urged the stakeholders to come back to the County with a proposal. The fire  
13 districts think they can do the program if it leaves the Medic One program in place  
14 as it is today, with the same structure that exists today, and the additional demand  
15 would be picked up by a new level of service by all the fire districts, which would  
16 start doing transports for basic level of service (BLS) care. The administration told  
17 the stakeholders that the County probably won't contribute more than \$1.3 million  
18 per year. A delegation of fire district commissioners and fire chiefs talked with the  
19 administration and Councilmember McShane. They will come back to the County in  
20 the middle of March to say whether or not they can deliver on that. In the  
21 meantime, the medical director must modify his standard related to medical  
22 transport. The medical director is really up for it because he understands there is  
23 no more money.  
24

25 Crawford asked if that happened concurrently with the triage of the incoming  
26 calls. They're still rolling advanced level of service (ALS) care for everything.  
27 Desler stated that is correct. The medical officer will help sell this concept to the  
28 fire crews, unions, mayor, and fire districts.  
29

30 Crawford asked if the Mayor's three-year program withdrawal notification still  
31 stands. Desler stated it does. Not acquiring additional ALS units and trying out a  
32 new transport standard of care would be on trial for two or three years. If it  
33 doesn't work, then they will go through another process. The City must also allow  
34 this to play out, which he thinks it will. The City wants to maintain a certain level  
35 of service to the community. The City must also maintain a commitment to their  
36 employees. This is the time to make a transition. The City will be adding capacity  
37 in the fire halls. They can take the laid-off Medic One workers and transfer them to  
38 the new station. There may be a way to transfer those trained people into other  
39 positions in other organizations.  
40

## 41 **ADJOURN**

42  
43  
44 The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.  
45  
46  
47

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1 Jill Nixon, Minutes Transcription

2

3

4 ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

5

6

7

8

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

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