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1 side. The three extensions are overhead roofs that emulate railroad platforms.  
2 The building is designed to emulate the old depot. There will be a historic display.  
3 The City of Bellingham budgeted for a street improvement with market sheds on  
4 that street. The public promised to raise over half a million dollars to build  
5 something that would become a landmark in the community. He submitted a  
6 brochure (*on file*).  
7

8 Fleetwood asked the consideration given to the proposed size of the site and  
9 project, in terms of how it relates to future growth. He asked if it will be big  
10 enough. Griffin stated the City owns the entire lot. There is room on the lot and in  
11 the courtyard of the current design to grow. Growth is limited by the City's land  
12 ownership. If they outgrow the lot, they can also close off the street.  
13

14 Mike Finger, Depot Market Committee and Farmer's Market Association  
15 founder, stated there is provision in the design courtyard for popup stalls. They are  
16 planning for 70 to 90 stalls. If demand warrants it, the vendors' vehicles will have  
17 to be parked elsewhere. It's hard to predict their growth pattern, but they can  
18 accommodate growth.  
19

20 Crawford asked about the center courtyard area that isn't covered. He asked  
21 if they can cover the entire block for events such as concerts. Griffin stated not at  
22 this time. They are constricted by finances. However, the extensions are simply  
23 roofs on steel posts. They can easily be taken down and a building extension could  
24 be built. Some advocates see this as the town square one day. There are 300  
25 residential units being built to the north side of the property. As soon as the Morse  
26 Hardware property is built and rented out, one developer will start another  
27 residential project, which will change the entire area of Railroad avenue.  
28

29 Roy asked if the design includes places for visitors to sit down. Griffin stated  
30 the seating will have to be portable, because the area will be a parking lot during  
31 the week.  
32

33 Roy stated she urged the organization to include adequate seating for  
34 visitors.  
35

36 Crawford asked if there is any concern from the local grocers about publicly  
37 subsidized service. He asked if the local grocers could participate. Finger stated  
38 the mission of the farmer's market is to support and promote local agriculture,  
39 meaning growers. They are firmly dedicated to local food production. It is the civic  
40 duty of the local governments to ensure local food production. The grocery stores  
41 serve a completely different function. The market is only open 30 days per year for  
42 five hours per day. It is a different comparison. The membership does not  
43 accommodate the needs of local grocers, only local food producers. Agriculture in  
44 the county is challenged. Although the market has appealed to small vendors, it is  
45 also an opportunity for larger growers to develop new products. If vendors grow  
46 beyond the market, they aren't expected to stay.  
47

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1 Griffin stated he talked to the Brown & Cole and Hagen families, who  
2 endorse the market. The Bellingham Food Coop also endorses the market.

3  
4 Crawford thanked the presenters, and stated the economic development  
5 funds are available through the Economic Development Council.

6  
7 Caskey-Schreiber stated she really supports this effort. The local farmers  
8 appreciate having direct access to city customers.

9  
10  
11 **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**

12  
13 **1. ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2004 WHATCOM COUNTY BUDGET,**  
14 **FIFTH REQUEST (AB2004-197)**

15  
16 **Roy moved** to recommend approval to the full Council.

17  
18 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated on the County is on the verge of  
19 doing major capital projects that require the skills of someone who can monitor  
20 that work.

21  
22 The administration has been working closely with the Auditor, who is trying  
23 to reset all election management affairs. Administration recommends these items.

24  
25 Roy stated she supports the ordinance as proposed. Each of the items is  
26 something that is needed. She questioned the need of the project manager, and if  
27 the cost could come out of the current money for the facilities plan, but was told  
28 this is something separate. There are enough projects outside the plan to make  
29 this position appropriate.

30  
31 Crawford asked for more information on the special projects planner  
32 requested by the Planning and Development Services Department.

33  
34 Roy stated that position will be paid for by fees.

35  
36 Desler stated the administration projects that the workload for that position  
37 will continue to grow. How to deal with this demand for additional capacity can be  
38 addressed by carving off some specialized efforts for this special projects manager.  
39 Staff, who are experienced at handling land use issues, can focus on those issues.  
40 There is a second tier of requests related to this issue that are being proposed in  
41 the next supplemental budget request.

42  
43 Crawford asked if this will help with the time it takes to get a permit.

44  
45 Hal Hart, Planning and Development Services Director, stated they currently  
46 have the seasonal employment they've just hired for this year. This position will  
47 pull together all the skill sets required for complex projects that Whatcom County

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1 hasn't been involved in. There are urbanizing areas around the city of Bellingham.  
2 There is a set of projects that the County will be involved in, and the department  
3 needs to call on other departments. The person requires a broad set of skills to  
4 coordinate the permit process and save the County time and money. Before  
5 construction, there is a pre-planning and permitting stage, which can take up to a  
6 year. Right now, the key individuals doing this permitting would be called in from  
7 the field to focus on these other issues. This position will take pressure off line  
8 staff and allow them to stay in the field and do their inspections. There isn't a  
9 capacity on his staff now to deal with the larger requests.

10  
11 Crawford asked the permitting time right now. Hart stated they are  
12 scheduling single-family home permits for August 17.

13  
14 Desler stated the next supplemental request will address the permitting  
15 delay.

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

18  
19 **2. ORDINANCE ADOPTING A BIENNIAL BUDGET PROCESS BEGINNING**  
20 **WITH FISCAL YEARS 2005 AND 2006 (AB2004-199)**

21  
22 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated this has been discussed over the  
23 last few months. The Charter allows a biennial budget process. In 1998 or 1999,  
24 the previous County Council authorized a biennial budget process, but the County  
25 administration did not execute it. This is an update of that ordinance. Now, the  
26 administration is serious about moving forward.

27  
28 ***Roy moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.

29  
30 ***Motion carried unanimously.***

31  
32  
33 **COUNCIL "CONSENT AGENDA" ITEM**

34  
35 **1. RESOLUTION SETTING THE HEARING DATE TO DECLARE PROPERTY**  
36 **SURPLUS (AB2004-201)**

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

39  
40 ***Motion carried unanimously.***

41  
42 **2. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
43 **CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND THE WASHINGTON**  
44 **STATE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY CONSERVATION CORPS,**  
45 **COORDINATED BY THE NOOKSACK SALMON ENHANCEMENT**  
46 **ASSOCIATION, FOR SALMON RECOVERY ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT**  
47 **THE COUNTY, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$35,703 (AB2004-202)**

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

3  
4 **Motion carried unanimously.**

5  
6 **3. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
7 **CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND DFM**  
8 **ASSOCIATES FOR PURCHASE OF A VOTER REGISTRATION AND**  
9 **ELECTION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$99,074**  
10 **(AB2004-203)**

11  
12 Shirley Forslof, Auditor, stated she received responses from four vendors to  
13 the request for proposals (RFP) process. Her user staff evaluated all four proposals  
14 and chose DFM and Associates. The system is integrated with the statewide voter  
15 registration system that is required under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). The  
16 State is enthusiastic about it. The State agrees the County will comply with HAVA  
17 when this is done. This contract meets the requirement. There is some funding.  
18 The Secretary of State is getting HAVA funds to pay for the statewide voter  
19 registration system. She would apply for those funds. This system would be part  
20 of the voter registration.

21  
22 Crawford asked the amount. Forslof stated the County approved \$80,000 in  
23 the budget for the system and the supplemental to purchase the system. This is  
24 the contract to purchase the system for which the funds were already approved.

25  
26 Roy asked if this system has a verifiable paper trail. Forslof stated this  
27 system is for voter registration, not ballot counting. It's an interactive system with  
28 the State.

29  
30 Crawford stated it should prevent someone from being registered in more  
31 than one location.

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

34  
35 **Motion carried unanimously.**

36  
37 **4. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO AN**  
38 **INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND**  
39 **NORTHWEST INDIAN COLLEGE FOR AMBIENT WATER QUALITY**  
40 **MONITORING UNDER THE CENTENNIAL GRANT, IN THE AMOUNT OF**  
41 **\$66,799 (AB2004-204)**

42  
43 **Roy moved** to recommend approval to the full Council. The Northwest  
44 Indian College may have a pre-conceived notion about ambient water quality. She  
45 asked if staff feels there will be objectivity.  
46

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1 Sue Blake, Resources Planner, stated staff proposes having the Northwest  
2 Indian College simply collect the data that the County would have been collecting  
3 exactly the same way.  
4

5 Roy stated there was a question that came up in a discussion recently. If  
6 they get into interpretation of the data, there might be certain mindsets. Blake  
7 stated that won't apply in this case.  
8

9 Brenner stated the agreement specifies the task of monitoring, not just  
10 collection. The Northwest Indian College does a great job, but it is a vested  
11 interest. She's uncomfortable having a vested interest do the monitoring. She's  
12 okay with collection. Blake stated page four lists the sites they will go to, which are  
13 the same sites they talked about earlier. All the information in this comes directly  
14 from the approved quality assurance project plan. They identify where the  
15 Northwest Indian College goes, the sampling frequency and parameters they will  
16 analyze for, using the specific protocols listed. Her responsibility will be to make  
17 sure they do all those things and make sure the reports are done the same way the  
18 County would do it. The Northwest Indian College has to use accredited labs  
19 certified by the State Department of Ecology to do this. They would field test for  
20 five parameters.  
21

22 Caskey-Schreiber stated there is a difference between analyzing the data to  
23 come to a conclusion and monitoring that will be done. Blake stated that's correct.  
24 The County will oversee the Northwest Indian College to make sure it will follow the  
25 procedures. The samples will be taken to a certified lab.  
26

27 Brenner asked if there will be no interpretation of data. Blake stated the  
28 Northwest Indian College is supposed to give the County the raw data.  
29

30 Brenner stated someone expressed a concern that people with the same  
31 education from the same schools and same teachers can come up with completely  
32 different conclusions, depending on who they work for. Whenever it comes to  
33 interpretation, make sure the County does it and not a vested interest. Blake  
34 stated part of the reason for the grant and the monitoring program was to get a  
35 consistent way for collecting information, analyzing the results, and reporting the  
36 results.  
37

38 *(Clerk's Note: End of tape one, side A.)*  
39

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

42 **5. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
43 **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WHATCOM**  
44 **COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND PIONEER HUMAN SERVICES FOR**  
45 **CONDUCTING SUB-ACUTE DETOXIFICATION AND ALCOHOL**  
46 **PROTECTIVE CUSTODY SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES, IN THE**  
47 **AMOUNT OF \$767,500 (AB2004-205)**

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

4       Andy Byrne, Human Services Manager, stated this is simply the first leg of  
5 the Whatcom County crisis triage center.  
6

7       **Motion carried unanimously.**  
8

9       **6. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO APPROVE A**  
10       **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND**  
11       **WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY TO IMPLEMENT A NUTRIENT**  
12       **MANAGEMENT EDUCATION AND RESEARCH PROJECT TO DEVELOP,**  
13       **PRODUCE AND CONDUCT RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS**  
14       **THAT FURTHER DEVELOP THE ATTITUDES, KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS**  
15       **NECESSARY FOR THE ACCEPTANCE AND ADOPTION OF IMPROVED**  
16       **NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN WHATCOM COUNTY IN THE**  
17       **AMOUNT OF \$47,000 (AB2004-206)**  
18

19       Crawford stated they would discuss this item and the next item together.  
20

21       Craig MacConnell, Cooperative Extension, stated the purpose of this project  
22 is to protect water resources by finding practical ways to keep excess nutrients out  
23 of groundwater. The biggest issue is agriculture and excess nutrients from dairies.  
24 The County funded this project the last few years. They have attempted to find  
25 viable economic products for these nutrients. Rather than a regulatory incentive,  
26 they can add a business-driven incentive to look for ways to get rid of these excess  
27 nutrients. They've run research blocks with vegetables, and found up to six-fold  
28 increases in production with leafy vegetables. Many of the local farmers are now  
29 interested in seeing whether dairy-based compost will help the farmers. They've  
30 moved the research into local crops.  
31

32       He applauds the County and the Council for their support of anaerobic  
33 digestion. It was one of the significant steps that allowed Washington State  
34 University to receive the Paul Allen grant to look at global climate change,  
35 specifically anaerobic digestion. The foundation required a significant match. They  
36 are close to being able to say they can pre-process or reprocess the fiber coming  
37 out of the digester so it will perform equally to peat moss in the greenhouse and  
38 nursery industry.  
39

40       Regarding Consent Agenda item seven, the purpose is to protect the water  
41 resources of Whatcom County. They're interested in finding ways to reduce the  
42 impact of pesticides on surface water and on ground water. This project is  
43 research-based. They are still working on the raspberry traps for beetles that  
44 they've brought in from Switzerland. They will complete that project at the end of  
45 this year.  
46

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1           There are a number of other research projects done in Whatcom County.  
2 They also do education. They will continue some of the education they've done in  
3 the past. They are starting to put together a partnership of various service  
4 providers to have a series of best management practice training. Cooperative  
5 Extension will promote their businesses if they engage in this project. It's a new  
6 project for 2004. There are a number of other integrated pest management (IPM)  
7 projects.

8  
9           Through the media, Cooperative Extension points the public to the  
10 Cooperative Extension website. The projects in the IPM section of the website are  
11 the most visited pages on the website. They can see how the attempt to use the  
12 media to expand education reach really comes back.

13  
14           Farmer's are changing their pesticide practices as a result of the Swiss  
15 technology regarding the raspberry beetle.

16  
17           Brenner asked if they are changing practice because the beetle is not as big  
18 a problem as they thought. MacConnell stated that is correct.

19  
20           **Roy moved** to recommend approval of Consent Agenda items six and seven  
21 to the full Council.

22  
23           **Motion carried unanimously.**

24  
25 **7. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO APPROVE A**  
26 **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND**  
27 **WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY TO IMPLEMENT AN INTEGRATED**  
28 **PEST MANAGEMENT EDUCATION AND RESEARCH PROJECT TO**  
29 **DEVELOP, PRODUCE AND CONDUCT RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL**  
30 **EFFORTS THAT FURTHER DEVELOP THE ATTITUDES, KNOWLEDGE**  
31 **AND SKILLS NECESSARY FOR THE ACCEPTANCE AND ADOPTION OF**  
32 **INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN WHATCOM COUNTY**  
33 **IN THE AMOUNT OF \$57,000 (AB2004-207)**

34  
35           See Consent Agenda item six for discussion and approval of this item.

36  
37 **8. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO AWARD BID #04-**  
38 **47 TO THE LOWEST BIDDER, KENWORTH NORTHWEST, FOR A**  
39 **REPLACEMENT DUMP TRUCK, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$123,918.94**  
40 **(AB2004-208)**

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

43  
44           Brenner stated she's very impressed that the old dump truck had that many  
45 miles on it.

46  
47           **Motion carried unanimously.**

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**OTHER BUSINESS**

Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated the administration is coordinating the purchase of property on Division Street from the City of Bellingham. The administration has posed to the City the possibility of trading land. The City declined. Now, they're talking about a combination of cash and small parcels. He asked the County Council to introduce a supplemental budget request tonight for a public hearing in two weeks. The introduction item will appropriate funds to purchase the property for the jail project. The City Council has a series of questions for the County. The administration will meet with the City Council to talk about the project. They have questions about what the County is doing to expand capacity of the justice system to serve the needs of all the communities in the county.

Brenner asked about using real estate excise tax (REET) funds or rural sales tax funds instead. Desler stated there may be a modification to the proposed supplemental budget request to use the REET funds, which has about \$2.2 million in the fund now.

Crawford asked if this property will still be of value if the County doesn't use it and if they are able to move forward with this and with the master facilities planning process on a permanent location. Desler stated everyone needs to stop saying this will be a temporary facility. It is an alternative corrections facility that includes work release, electronic home monitoring, work crews, and non-dangerous misdemeanants. The administration also proposes a triage center to assess and deal with people having a mental health and substance abuse crisis. This will also include a warehouse and election center. He anticipates this facility will be used for 25 to 30 years. In order to respect the desires of people who say they want to be able to convert the land back to industrial use, the administration will put in the electrical and transport structures for the facility that can be converted to industrial use. He doesn't plan to convert the facility back to an industrial use, but wants that flexibility. This is the most cost-effective, limited timeframe solution they have for some vexing problems. It doesn't solve the overall problem with the jail and corrections. The County will have to replace the jail over the next five to ten years. This interim jail would give the County some breathing room.

Crawford asked if the County can resell the property if they go ahead with the purchase of this and, in the very near term, other opportunities come up for acquisition for long term structural improvement and the County never breaks ground on Division Street. Desler stated it can. The administration proposes to get staff on board to work this project. The administration will bring forward a contract with an architectural firm to start some things. The architect will take weeks or months before any ground is broken. There will be continuing discussion with the County Council as that happens.

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1 Desler stated they are still working on an emergency medical services (EMS)  
2 agreement. The administration will make a proposal to the Council when it's more  
3 formal.

4  
5 Don Keenan, City of Bellingham, stated they need to continue to move  
6 forward on this because of the June 30 deadline. The City Council is interested in  
7 hearing from the County Council about what it proposes to do with the property.  
8 Time is of the essence.

9  
10 **ADJOURN**

11  
12 The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

13  
14  
15  
16 \_\_\_\_\_  
17 Jill Nixon, Minutes Transcription

18  
19 ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

20  
21  
22  
23  
24 \_\_\_\_\_  
25 Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

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