

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 October 12, 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 Dan McShane

11 Sharon Roy
12

Absent:

None

13 Also Present:

14 Laurie Caskey-Schreiber
15
16

17 **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ONLY**
18

19 **1. RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE WHATCOM COUNTY 2005 ANNUAL**
20 **ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM (AB2004-335)**
21

22 Joe Rutan, County Road Engineer, stated this has been before the Natural
23 Resources Committee to discuss Cable Street and the Public Works Committee to
24 discuss the individual projects. This discussion today is on the financial implications
25 of the projects. He submitted a handout of a financial sheet (*on file*). The
26 expenditure rate shown as projected for 2005 is 100 percent expenditure. Their
27 annual goal is to expend 75 percent of the funds. The projects listed for
28 preliminary engineering or right-of-way acquisitions may not have funds dedicated.
29

30 Caskey-Schreiber stated a constituent stated he has been denied access
31 because of the Yew Street connector. She asked about that project. Rutan stated
32 that is project 57 on the six-year plan. It is the Whatcom connector. There is
33 \$2,000 budgeted for preliminary engineering in years four through six of the six-
34 year plan. That project has come and gone throughout the years. This project is a
35 placeholder. It is listed in the Comprehensive Plan and the Lake Whatcom Subarea
36 Plan, in which it is the number one project as policy 1.02 in the subarea plan. The
37 subarea plan was last updated in 2000. They are accounting for access to
38 properties as development occurs in that location. The connector will be an arterial
39 road. He doesn't like a lot of driveways on arterial roads. He has denied access
40 directly on the arterial to two of three short-plats. Instead, he approved a collector
41 road. For another short-plat, they have combined accesses. He is requiring a
42 combined driveway for this constituent's development. The property is an existing
43 1983 plat that has the ingress/egress combined. The developer requested
44 modification. Under modification, he followed 2004 rules to keep points of conflict
45 on the arterial as low as possible. He is also accounting for right-of-way needs.
46 Because of the status of this project, he only requires a right-of-way reservation so
47 facilities aren't built in a potential right-of-way.

1
2 Crawford stated that project keeps being pushed back each year.
3

4 Jeff Monsen, Public Works Director, stated the Lake Whatcom connector has
5 been scheduled in years four through six of each six-year plan for the last 20 years.
6

7 Crawford stated it's prudent to have the placeholder. There will not be the
8 political will to proceed in the next ten or 20 years. It will be inevitable that they
9 will eventually allow local traffic only on Lake Whatcom Boulevard. They will need a
10 route for people to access the freeway. They need a placeholder to keep their
11 options open. Another option may be to encumber the properties with a no-protest
12 agreement for future use for a connector if it ever happens. He asked if this is
13 costing the constituent right now. Rutan stated he doesn't know right now. Staff
14 wants the developer to continue using an existing driveway to the lot.
15

16 Crawford stated the County should remain open to alternatives. This is a
17 project that has been pending for a very long time to allow flexibility in the future.
18 Rutan stated he is allowed some flexibility as County Engineer. There are two lots
19 directly across the proposed road right-of-way. There is an option of lining up the
20 four driveways so two are right across from each other, creating only two points of
21 conflict. The developer has not yet been able to do that. He tried to find a solution
22 that would work for everyone. They're following the Comprehensive Plan direction
23 to control access on that road.
24

25 Crawford stated there is also an impervious surface issue by combining
26 access. Rutan stated if and when the connector goes through, people pulling in and
27 out of that road should be safe.
28

29 Caskey-Schreiber stated she doesn't want the connector to go through. It
30 will open up a large area of land for massive development. It's possible that in ten
31 or 20 years, people won't be so dependent upon their cars.
32

33 Rutan submitted a memo (*on file*) on a Mosquito Lake Road emergency
34 repair, which is listed on the annual program as project number 12.
35

36 Crawford asked how this emergency project fits in with the program for next
37 year. Rutan stated they are essentially working on a project scheduled for 2005 in
38 2004. It should not affect the projected program expenditures.
39

40 Crawford asked if Council should include this information in the annual road
41 program. Rutan stated it's already there. This discussion is for information only.
42 He hopes to be done with the road by November 8.
43

44 Caskey-Schreiber asked about a Comprehensive Plan section 3-21 alteration
45 to infrastructure standard, which says that if infrastructure meets all safety
46 requirements, they can put in minimal infrastructure. Rutan stated he has
47 flexibility to use common sense and judgment. When safety and environmental

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1 concerns are met, he will make good decisions. The change in the Comprehensive
2 Plan is not different than the philosophy he works under daily.

3
4 Rutan stated the Council will have a public hearing and introduce this item at
5 the Council meeting.

6
7 ***Roy moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.

8
9 Monsen stated the committee doesn't need to make a recommendation right
10 now. This item will be introduced to the Council and the Council will have a public
11 hearing.

12
13 ***Roy withdrew her motion.***

14
15 Crawford asked if there has been any progress on the potential to move
16 Sudden Valley mailboxes. Rutan stated will look forward to working on that option.
17 He is busy with the construction season right now.

18
19
20 **COUNCIL "CONSENT AGENDA" ITEM**

21
22 **1. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
23 **CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND EXIGENT**
24 **COMPUTER GROUP FOR IMAGE AND DATA EXPORT PROCESSING TO**
25 **ENABLE PRODUCTION OF AUDITOR'S OFFICE IMAGES TO THE**
26 **INTERNET VIA LASERFICHE, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$21,000 (AB2004-**
27 **350)**

28
29 Shirley Forslof, County Auditor, stated the Council gave funding authority for
30 production of images in the Auditor's Office. The images have to be converted from
31 Exigent to laserfiche.

32
33 Crawford asked the documents that would be converted. Forslof stated that
34 is to be determined. Land records, deeds, and real estate contracts would be
35 included.

36
37 Crawford asked if the change is retroactive or from this point forward.
38 Forslof stated she will eventually go back ten years to take it from microfilm to
39 images. They need some more disk space on the AS400. Some counties have
40 gone all the way back to the early 1900's. She'd have to evaluate how cost-
41 effective that would be. It is a convenient way of locating documents.

42
43 Crawford asked about survey maps. Forslof stated they would also be
44 imaged.

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1 Crawford stated most scanner resolutions are not the best. He asked if
2 anyone has brought that concern up. Forslof stated she asked for a new scanner to
3 improve quality.
4

5 Crawford stated State law says all fonts have to be at least 8 point.
6 However, there is still a lot of bleeding of the lettering and numbers, to the point
7 it's hard to read. They may need to scan at a higher resolution, even though the
8 file sizes would be larger. He's having a problem with maps, not deeds. Forslof
9 stated they started doing the maps in-house, and has been working to improve
10 resolution. She'd like to know which documents are a problem. She purchased a
11 scanner for maps. They are scanning maps in-house so plats are available sooner.
12 They don't send them to the State anymore. Plats are sent to the State
13 electronically, instead.
14

15 Crawford stated the State's resolution is worse. Technology is improving.
16 The State may have a limit on document size. Forslof stated the images are sent to
17 the State instead of the actual maps.
18

19 ***Roy moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.
20

21 ***Motion carried 2-0 with McShane absent.***
22

23 **ADDENDUM:**

24

25 **2. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
26 **COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY**
27 **AND THE WHATCOM COUNTY DEPUTY SHERIFF'S GUILD FOR THE**
28 **PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2003 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2005**
29 **(AB2004-358)**
30

31 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated this is the agreement resulting
32 from the Council's discussion two weeks ago. He is pleased about the agreement.
33 The Guild provided cooperation and leadership that resulted in an agreement that is
34 fair to both the deputies and the community. There is a consistent pattern for pay
35 increases. The deputies accepted a contribution they will make to the medical plan,
36 which is consistent with other employees of the organization. The administration
37 will pay for cellular phone expenses. The salary matrix increases one and a half
38 percent effective January 1, 2003, one and a half percent effective July 1, 2003,
39 two percent effective January 1, 2004, and two percent effective July 1, 2005.
40

41 ***Roy moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council. She complimented
42 the administration and the Guild for working this through.
43

44 ***Motion carried unanimously.***
45

46 **OTHER BUSINESS**

47

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1
2 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated the administration continues to
3 work on emergency medical services (EMS). They are working with fire chiefs and
4 commissioners to create a proposal for the County Council.
5

6
7 **ADJOURN**

8
9 The meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

10
11
12 _____
13 Jill Nixon, Minutes Transcription

14
15
16 ATTEST: WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
17 WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON
18

19
20
21 _____
22 Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk Sam Crawford, Committee Chair