

**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 March 15, 2005  
5

6 Committee Chair L. Ward Nelson called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m. in  
7 the Council Chambers, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, Washington.  
8

9 Present:  
10 Sam Crawford

Absent:  
Sharon Roy

11  
12 Also Present:  
13 Dan McShane  
14  
15

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

- 18 **1. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
19 **CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND THE**  
20 **OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR THE HOMELESS**  
21 **HOUSING RENTAL ASSISTANCE VOUCHER PROGRAM AND**  
22 **OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE SUPPORT FOR DOROTHY PLACE IN**  
23 **THE AMOUNT OF \$40,000 (AB2005-131)**  
24

25 *Crawford moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.  
26

27 *Motion carried unanimously.*  
28

- 29 **2. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
30 **CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND CASCADE**  
31 **VOCATIONAL SERVICES TO DEVELOP WORK-STUDY, INTERN AND**  
32 **VOLUNTEER RESOURCES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL**  
33 **DISABILITIES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$24,660 (AB2005-132)**  
34

35 *Crawford moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.  
36

37 Nelson asked who is doing this program. He asked if they are bringing in  
38 both an intern and someone who is doing work-study.  
39

40 Unidentified speaker stated they are. The statement of work requires them  
41 to develop the three elements of work-study, volunteer, and intern.  
42

43 Nelson asked if the \$24,000 is to manage their activities. Speaker stated it's  
44 a pilot project. She hopes down the road they won't need these resources, and  
45 funds will pay for the services directly. Work-study students have matching funds,  
46 so the County will get more service for less money. The program is through

**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 Western Washington University. Coordination, training, and oversight of the  
2 program will be done through Cascade Vocational Services.  
3

4 ***Motion carried unanimously.***  
5

- 6 **3. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
7 **CONTRACT AMENDMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND**  
8 **WHATCOM COUNSELING AND PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC TO PROVIDE**  
9 **ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH OUTREACH**  
10 **SERVICES IN THE JAIL, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$23,000 FOR A TOTAL**  
11 **AMENDED AGREEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$185,122 (AB2005-133)**  
12

13 ***Crawford moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council. He asked why  
14 the jail doesn't pay for this.  
15

16 Jackie Mitchell, Health Department Substance Abuse Supervisor, stated the  
17 rationale is the Health Department is a better administrator than the jail of human  
18 services funding. They know what services are needed and how to administer  
19 them.  
20

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

- 23 **4. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO AN**  
24 **INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND THE**  
25 **CITY OF BELLINGHAM FOR THE OPERATION OF THE LAKEWAY YARD**  
26 **WASTE FACILITY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$240,000 (AB2005-134)**  
27

28 Nelson asked if this is a continued contract.  
29

30 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated it is.  
31

32 ***Crawford moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council. He asked if  
33 the \$120,000 is the amount they've been at in the past.  
34

35 Bruce Roll, Assistant Director, stated this is the contract used last year. The  
36 use has increased. A user fee has been implemented.  
37

38 Crawford asked if they know how the user fee will impact people. A compost  
39 business person in the county said the program doesn't encourage composting  
40 businesses in the county to do yard waste. Roll stated this topic will be discussed  
41 in the Solid Waste Plan update this year. There has been a dramatic increase in  
42 curbside pick up of yard waste. The Solid Waste Executive Advisory Committee will  
43 look at type and use of those services and discuss pushing the service into the  
44 private sector. They will review the fee at the end of this year and the types of  
45 waste going to the site.  
46

**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 Crawford stated there is now a fee to supplement what government  
2 subsidizes. Facilities in the county don't make a lot of profit from their services.  
3 The difference of whether they could operate profitably was approximately the cost  
4 of the government subsidy. He asked if the County should have a discussion with a  
5 county composting facility about subsidizing the private facility so it doesn't have to  
6 charge anything. Roll stated that is an additional service to consider. Consider  
7 what material is directed to curbside pickup, and then decide what other material  
8 needs a facility. A question would be whether a facility is open to accept that other  
9 material. The curbside pickup is for clean grass as opposed to bigger branches.

10  
11 Crawford stated the mix of initial product going in could change. Curbside  
12 pickup is an urban service. The actual product in the city ends up being different  
13 from material in the rural areas. As the City changes its operation to accept types  
14 of material such as grass clippings, the County could have an operation that  
15 handles heavier materials. Roll stated that is an option he will present to the Solid  
16 Waste Executive Committee, who is working through these issues as it develops the  
17 revised Solid Waste Plan. He hopes that the outcome of this plan will create a  
18 policy direction on where certain types of yard waste will go. For those recyclable  
19 compost facilities, they need a mix of material to make it lucrative. Just having  
20 branches, for instances, isn't lucrative. Part of the discussion is if there is enough  
21 economic incentive to deal with the existing waste stream.

22  
23 Nelson stated they may want to look at chipping instead of mulching. Roll  
24 stated the City, County, and Solid Waste Advisory Committee are all interested in  
25 finding out the types of long term facilities needed. There was talk years ago about  
26 locating sites in the county. That effort was unsuccessful. This contract is for two  
27 years. During that time, they will look at alternative methods. He hopes there is  
28 clear direction in the Countywide Solid Waste Plan by the end of this year.

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

31  
32 **5. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO AN**  
33 **INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND**  
34 **WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY, WSU EXTENSION FOR PILOT**  
35 **WATER QUALITY TELEMTRY TO SUPPORT STEWARDSHIP FOR**  
36 **CENTENNIAL GRANT, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,000 (AB2005-135)**

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

39  
40 Bruce Roll, Assistant Director, stated he pulled this item from the agenda.

41  
42 ***Motion carried unanimously.***

43  
44 **6. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO AN**  
45 **INTERLOCAL GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND**  
46 **THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM UTILIZING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**  
47 **INVESTMENT PROGRAM (EDI) FUNDING FOR CONSTRUCTION OF**

1           **DEPOT MARKET SQUARE, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$214,000 (AB2005-**  
2           **136)**

3  
4           **Crawford moved** to recommend approval to the full Council. He asked the  
5 status on the situation of someone being told he would not be allowed to sing songs  
6 with the words "Jesus" or "God" in them.

7  
8           Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated he doesn't know the status of  
9 the complaint.

10  
11           Crawford stated it's probably become a legal issue. The Depot Market  
12 Square is a model of the promotion of economic development in the community.  
13 Local farmers will use the facility. What has been promoted and presented also is a  
14 model of funding from a number of sources, including the private sector. Look for  
15 more of those types of programs. It's a good use of Economic Development  
16 Investment (EDI) funds.

17  
18           Nelson asked the source of the money. Desler stated this is money from the  
19 EDI Program, funded via the Public Utilities Fund from the Rural Sales Tax. The  
20 Council voted to approve the grant. This is the contract.

21  
22           Nelson asked if local farmer's could use the facility. Desler stated farmers  
23 may use the facility during the Farmer's Market. There are other uses of the Depot  
24 Market at other times, including park.

25  
26           Nelson asked the input the County has to support rural economic  
27 development, which is primarily agriculture. Desler stated the farming community  
28 is in favor of this project. If, in the future, the City decides it no longer wants to  
29 host the Farmer's Market at this venue, the County does not have veto power over  
30 the use of the Depot Market Square. A lot of interests in the community have  
31 pulled this project together.

32  
33           Crawford stated the multipurpose aspect of the facility appeals to him.

34  
35           **Motion carried unanimously.**

36  
37       **7. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO AWARD BID #05-**  
38       **10 FOR AGGREGATE CRUSHING TO THE LOW BIDDER, AGGREGATES**  
39       **WEST, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$970,909.50 (AB2005-137)**

40  
41           **Crawford moved** to recommend approval to the full Council.

42  
43           **Motion carried unanimously.**

44  
45       **8. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO APPROVE THE**  
46       **PURCHASE OF LIGNOSITE FROM SOLE SOURCE PROVIDER, CURT**

1           **MEENDERINCK, LLC, FOR DUST CONTROL ON COUNTY ROADS IN THE**  
2           **AMOUNT OF \$64,800 (AB2005-138)**

3  
4           *Nelson moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.

5  
6           *Motion carried unanimously.*

7  
8           **9.    REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO APPROVE THE**  
9           **PURCHASE OF A MECHANICAL SWEEPER, USING THE WASHINGTON**  
10           **STATE CONTRACT, FROM SAHLBERG EQUIPMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF**  
11           **\$149,274 (AB2005-139)**

12  
13           *Nelson moved* to recommend approval to the full Council. He asked if this  
14 is a new sweeper.

15  
16           Eric Schlehuber, Equipment Services Manager, stated it is a replacement  
17 sweeper.

18  
19           *Motion carried unanimously.*

20  
21           **10.   REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO APPROVE THE**  
22           **PURCHASE OF FOUR REPLACEMENT VEHICLES, USING THE**  
23           **WASHINGTON STATE CONTRACT, FROM BUD CLARY CHEVROLET IN**  
24           **THE AMOUNT OF \$80,520 (AB2005-140)**

25  
26           *Crawford moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.

27  
28           *Motion carried unanimously.*

29  
30           **11.   REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO APPROVE THE**  
31           **PURCHASE OF EIGHT HYBRID SEDANS, USING THE WASHINGTON**  
32           **STATE CONTRACT, FROM BUD CLARY OF YAKIMA, IN THE AMOUNT OF**  
33           **\$184,000 (AB2005-141)**

34  
35           *Crawford moved* to recommend approval to the full Council. He asked how  
36 the Toyota Prius vehicles are working for the County.

37  
38           Eric Schlehuber, Equipment Services Manager, stated there are no significant  
39 issues with the Prius.

40  
41           Crawford asked what they are going to do when it's time to change out the  
42 battery after 100,000 miles. Schlehuber stated the County will evaluate that  
43 decision when it comes up.

44  
45           Crawford asked about the vehicles they are replacing that have under 60,000  
46 miles. Schlehuber stated they are Dodges from the early 1990's. Even though the  
47 mileage is low, a 12 year old Dodge doesn't hold up. They will go to auction.

1  
2 Nelson asked if the Sheriff's vehicles that once went to the state auction was  
3 a special thing.  
4

5 Brad Bennett, Finance Manager, stated they generally use a particular  
6 auctioneer for large industrial equipment. The County contracts with a local firm,  
7 and have had great results.  
8

9 Schlehber stated the Health Department vehicles are used just in town,  
10 which is part of the reason for the low mileage.  
11

12 Crawford stated that is a lot of starting and stopping.  
13

14 Schlehber stated Equipment Services uses Berglund & Jones as the local  
15 auctioneer.  
16

17 ***Motion carried unanimously.***  
18

19 **12. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO APPROVE THE**  
20 **PURCHASE OF FOUR REPLACEMENT VEHICLES, USING THE**  
21 **WASHINGTON STATE CONTRACT, FROM BUD CLARY CHEVROLET, IN**  
22 **THE AMOUNT OF \$92,000 (AB2005-142)**  
23

24 ***Nelson moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.  
25

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

28 **13. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
29 **RESIDENTIAL LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND**  
30 **WYATT RUSS, ROBBY ADER, AND LUKE SWEDELIUS TO LEASE THE**  
31 **HOUSE LOCATED AT 367 E. LAKE SAMISH DRIVE, BELLINGHAM IN**  
32 **THE AMOUNT OF \$895 PER MONTH (AB2005-143)**  
33

34 ***Crawford moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.  
35

36 ***Motion carried unanimously.***  
37

38  
39 **OTHER BUSINESS**  
40

41 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated the two-year budget did not plan  
42 for receiving additional federal funds for additional criminal justice staff.  
43

44 They are experiencing heavy workload in the permitting department. In  
45 addition, staff is short of office space for people to work. The administration is  
46 considering ideas, including fitting the criminal justice staff into existing spaces.  
47 Some spaces will be used for the short-term. The next step is bringing an empty

**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 floor of the Civic Center building into code to make it useful. They would move the  
2 Public Defender's Office over to the third floor of the Civic Center building. The cost  
3 to modify the space will be about \$1 million. It's the last floor the administration  
4 has not occupied because it is expensive to modify. He asked for feedback from  
5 the councilmembers on those issues. Vacating the third floor allows flexibility to  
6 expand the Prosecutor's Office and court staff.  
7

8 Crawford asked if the idea is to expand the Superior Court to take up the  
9 entire third floor. Desler stated that is not the plan. Other operations would use  
10 some of the space. The Public Defender, like any office, doesn't like it's staff being  
11 at different locations. At this point, they are exploring the benefits and costs of  
12 moving that office to the Civic Center. It would provide more breathing room in the  
13 courthouse. The Auditor's Office is asking for more space for election equipment.  
14 There is more staff in the Information Services Division that need space. The  
15 Prosecutor's Office has real problems with space. It's additional staff that has been  
16 authorized will not have any space. The move will provide additional room for a  
17 number of years.  
18

19 There is also a space issue at the Smith and Northwest building, which was  
20 supposed to be a temporary facility. The County has added a fair amount of staff  
21 to the Planning Department over the last few years, and he predicts the County will  
22 add more. The administration is currently making adjustments in the amount of  
23 \$300,000 to create a one-stop shop. That money doesn't include space for more  
24 people. The overcrowding is beginning to impede staff's ability to work.  
25

26 The Public Works Department is having similar problems. One option is to  
27 move staff to other places in the county, or add portables at Smith and Northwest.  
28 Another option is to put the entire Planning Department and other operations in a  
29 building that would properly house those operations over the next few decades, and  
30 tear down the existing building. The administration can figure out ways to finance  
31 that building without tax increases. The administration wants to start a discussion  
32 about that with the Council.  
33

34 Nelson stated that for the Council to make a good response, it will need more  
35 information. Bring forward details about all the options. If they are going to look  
36 long term at effectively dealing with the growing county population, the County  
37 should look at how population growth ties together with all County services. The  
38 Council and administration will have to have a considerable amount of dialog about  
39 location and physical buildings and will have to look at and evaluate what to do in  
40 the meantime. He asked for information on the full-time equivalent (FTE)  
41 employee changes in the past few years. Desler stated the administration is  
42 interested in that information also. Some short-term options don't appear to be  
43 viable.  
44

45 Nelson stated they still need to acknowledge those options. Desler stated  
46 the administration will gain additional information on the pros and cons of options.  
47 Gaining that information will cost a modest amount of money. There is a lot of

1 pressure to make quick decisions that have historically resulted in solutions that  
2 end up being long-term.

3  
4 Nelson stated this committee should look at this issue on a regular basis.

5  
6 Crawford asked how this fits in with the master facility planning effort.  
7 They've discussed the option of putting the criminal justice facilities in a remote  
8 location. That provides the entire courthouse for administrative functions. The  
9 administration tried to engage the Council in a long-term planning process that  
10 hasn't made any progress in the last year. The administration will have to take a  
11 stronger position on what it wants to do and not engage in a lengthy visioning and  
12 planning process. Propose a solution, and ask for the Council's support. The  
13 administration wants to respond to a real need that is more immediate. HDR  
14 Associates can present a proposal to the community, who can provide feedback to  
15 the Council. The planning approach last year didn't work well. They need to get  
16 things rolling one way or the other. Desler stated it would be valuable to use the  
17 existing space more efficiently. There is not much sale value in that space now.  
18 The use of the property at Smith and Northwest hinges on what the County decides  
19 on the use of this area. Simultaneously, the administration is looking at sites for a  
20 major justice center complex. In the meantime, he has issues with staff working in  
21 hallways and stacked in work spaces inappropriately. The administration has  
22 advocated for long-term planning of master facilities.

23  
24 Desler stated another issue has to do with emergency medical services  
25 (EMS). A working group has been addressing EMS for the future. He will begin to  
26 bring forward their initial recommendations, which are not yet complete. They will  
27 have a discussion with City Council next week. They want to retain the use of  
28 existing trained paramedics in the community for advanced life support (ALS)  
29 response. They want to also reduce the demands on ALS by having basic life  
30 support (BLS) picked up by fire districts and fire departments, not Medic One. As  
31 they need more capacity for ALS in the future, they will build up capacity in the fire  
32 districts themselves. The fire districts will transition over time to ALS. They want  
33 to use private providers to do some primary and secondary work on BLS response.  
34 Private providers don't have capacity for ALS response. They have engaged the  
35 local private ambulance service in those discussions.

36  
37 The City of Bellingham proposed to bill the County \$950,000 for EMS for the  
38 year. As of April 1, the City will retract one of the four Medic One units back into  
39 Bellingham. The County budgeted \$1.35 million for the next two years.

40  
41 *(Clerk's Note: End of tape one, side A.)*

42  
43 Desler continued to state they would retain the fourth Medic One unit in the  
44 county. The administration will provide the City with the full \$1.35 million for that  
45 service. There is still a deficit to do that for the remainder of the year. There is  
46 less than \$1 million in Medic One reserves. He will propose that the deficit, about  
47 \$300,000 for the year, come out of the reserves. Over the next few months, the

**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 working group would finish detailed planning. The working group feels that a  
2 unified solution, including all cities, the County, and all fire districts, is the best way  
3 to achieve the most cost effective way to maintain EMS. Splitting the County and  
4 City services is very daunting and expensive. He will provide a more detailed  
5 presentation to the Council later. The administration will ask the City Council to  
6 maintain the existing fourth Medic One unit for three more months and to use  
7 reserves to pay the deficit. The larger question is about the growing cost of the  
8 service. They need to find a long-term solution. Many of these decisions will be  
9 made by the County Council. All fire districts have supported the work the County  
10 has done so far. Everyone is united and working together.  
11  
12

13 **ADJOURN**

14  
15 The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.  
16

17  
18  
19 \_\_\_\_\_  
20 Jill Nixon, Minutes Transcription

21  
22 ATTEST: WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
23 WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

24  
25  
26  
27 \_\_\_\_\_  
28 Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk L. Ward Nelson, Committee Chair