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

4 March 29, 2005  
5

6 Committee Member Sam Crawford called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.  
7 in the Council Chambers, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, Washington.  
8

9 Present:

10 Sharon Roy

Absent:

L. Ward Nelson

11  
12 Also Present:

13 Dan McShane

14 Barbara Brenner  
15  
16

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

19 **1. ORDINANCE AMENDING 2005 WHATCOM COUNTY BUDGET, REQUEST**  
20 **NO. 3 (AB2005-147)**  
21

22 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated the material in the packet  
23 summarizes the requests.  
24

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

27 Crawford asked if the boating reserve fund is designating funds for  
28 replacement.  
29

30 Brad Bennett, Finance Division Manager, stated funds come through the  
31 State Parks Department as part of a licensing fee that has to be used for the  
32 boating program and to support law enforcement.  
33

34 Crawford asked about the development of a green building policy. Desler  
35 stated the memo on Council packet page 23 addresses this item. The Executive  
36 has been working with people who promote environmentally friendly building  
37 processes. This is a modest work plan on that issue.  
38

39 Crawford asked if this is opposed to environmentally unfriendly buildings.  
40 Desler stated there are ways in which one can use new techniques to address  
41 buildings rather than more traditional style architecture.  
42

43 Brenner stated it's not just low impact development, but other comparable  
44 ideas. The City of Seattle and King County have already adopted legislation that  
45 requires builders to use green building materials.  
46

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1 Roy stated environmentally friendly development includes energy  
2 conservation.

3  
4 Brenner stated there have been workshops by Sustainable Connections on  
5 the methods. The Building Industry Association (BIA) knows about it. It's a good  
6 building idea that ends up costing less money in the end.

7  
8 Roy asked about the green building conference in the county, and who would  
9 sponsor it. Desler stated Sustainable Connections is the primary sponsor. It's  
10 asked the County to help put the conference together. BIA may be a major  
11 sponsor as well.

12  
13 Brenner asked if it costs the County \$360 to transfer funds from one  
14 department to another. Bennett stated that amount is a differential in the rental  
15 rate for the vehicle. There is no charge for transferring funds. The vehicle portion  
16 of the Equipment Rental and Revolving (ER&R) is wholly funded by rental rates  
17 charged to departments.

18  
19 Brenner asked if the Sheriff's Office is renting from ER&R. Bennett stated it  
20 is.

21  
22 Desler stated the County has received a grant to address criminal justice  
23 issues in Whatcom County. The administration has chosen to focus it on a rapid  
24 border prosecution initiative. Half of the money would be used to engage  
25 prosecutors, public defenders, additional judicial and jail staff, and other attached  
26 costs to ramp up a more rapid response to different kinds of offenses.

27  
28 At the same time, the administration will make investments in technology  
29 systems to help the entire criminal justice systems work more effectively. They are  
30 working on another grant to continue this program into the future.

31  
32 A budget modification request has been adjusted to reflect that they're  
33 adding staff. The County received notice from the federal government about the  
34 grant at the beginning of the year. This is the appropriation for 2005. In 2006, the  
35 administration will come back with another supplemental appropriation.

36  
37 Brenner asked the total amount. Desler stated the total amount is \$992,000  
38 to cover more than this year. The administration will begin to hire personnel and  
39 hopes to have this grant cover the staffing costs through the end of 2006.

40  
41 Roy stated it's problematic to hire personnel with grant money. She asked if  
42 these personnel will become permanent staff or if the positions go away when the  
43 grant goes away. Desler stated that County policy is to make the positions go  
44 away, which is indicated in the hire letter to the staff. The administration will try  
45 very hard to generate other grants and funds because border security needs  
46 continue to grow. Today, there are more border patrol agents than the total  
47 number of all other local and state law enforcement officers combined. The Coast

1 Guard is expanding also. It will capture more people running drugs and  
2 contraband.

3  
4 Crawford stated he will support the supplemental budget item reluctantly,  
5 due to \$15,000 on green building policy work. He's in favor of this with the  
6 understanding that this is being recommended by the administration because the  
7 County has the financial resources to expend on these kinds of programs. If green  
8 building is financially viable, the private sector can do this kind of work. A couple  
9 thousand of this request is to research grants, so he hopes some of this cost will  
10 come back to the County in the area of grant funding. Desler stated the Executive  
11 supports the one-time appropriation. It's an investment to prime the pump on  
12 activities the Executive strongly supports.

13  
14 Crawford stated there are other needs in the community, such as the STAR  
15 program that is running out of money. There are many things the administration  
16 should look at to directly help people. After contemplating the situation with the  
17 federal government community development block grants and other community  
18 economic development programs, he is thinking about proposing that the County  
19 look at a five- or ten-year weaning process to get the community away from federal  
20 dependence on many of these programs. He is also contemplating the role of City  
21 and County government to provide direct assistance to those in the community who  
22 are truly in need. Every year, the federal government proposes cuts in its  
23 programs. It would be nice if, in a decade, the community weren't affected if the  
24 federal government makes cuts.

25  
26 Brenner stated she's on the STAR Task Force and Methamphetamine Action  
27 Team, which will come forward with a request for money. The County needs to do  
28 the opposite. Demand permanent funding from the federal government. Problems  
29 at the border will grow, not go away. If the federal government wants the County  
30 doing the federal government's job, then it should pay the County for it.

31  
32 Regarding green building, she's very excited that the County is taking on a  
33 role for it's own County buildings.

34  
35 Crawford stated none of this is for County facilities.

36  
37 Brenner stated that if the County demands these standards from others, the  
38 County must follow the standards as well.

39  
40 Desler stated the County's intent is to conserve energy and develop buildings  
41 that use recycled materials and engage in other energy saving methods.

42  
43 Crawford stated the Washington State energy codes for new construction are  
44 the toughest in the United States, and the County already has to build to that level.  
45 Desler stated the administration supports cooperating with Councilmember  
46 Crawford in building a better response to the problems of drug abuse and meth.

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

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

8  
9           Bruce Roll, Assistant Director, stated the administration withdraws this item.  
10

11  
12   **COUNCIL "CONSENT AGENDA" ITEM**  
13

- 14   **1.   REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
15   **CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND THE ARC**  
16   **OF WHATCOM COUNTY TO FUND PARENT COALITION ACTIVITIES,**  
17   **INCLUSION ADVOCACY, AND TRAINING AND TECHNICAL**  
18   **ASSISTANCE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$41,200 (AB2005-157)**

19  
20           ***Roy moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.  
21

22           ***Motion carried unanimously.***  
23

- 24   **2.   REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
25   **CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND REGION 3**  
26   **AIDS SERVICE NETWORK TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR**  
27   **INTERVENTION, COUNSELING AND TESTING, AND SYRINGE**  
28   **EXCHANGE FOR HIGH-RISK INDIVIDUALS FOR HIV/AIDS IN THE**  
29   **AMOUNT OF \$129,203 (AB2005-158)**  
30

31           ***Roy moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council. There is a  
32 relationship between the increase in AIDS due to the increase in methamphetamine  
33 use. These things aren't happening in isolation.  
34

35           Crawford stated the Substance Abuse Advisory Board has looked at the next  
36 step of allowing a methadone treatment program in the future. It's not appropriate  
37 today, given the population. When ready, it would be a private sector proposal.  
38 Many are opposed to that kind of a program. He sees it having a positive effect in  
39 some communities. The Health Department could show that this is an effective  
40 program.  
41

42           Brenner stated she supports the program. Methamphetamine users are so  
43 out of it and it's a different kind of drug from heroine, they won't do needle  
44 exchange.  
45

46           ***Motion carried unanimously.***  
47

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1 **3. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
2 **CONTRACT AMENDMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND VP**  
3 **CONSULTING, INC. FOR LASERFICHE DOCUMENT IMAGING**  
4 **SOFTWARE AND SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$103,050 FOR A**  
5 **TOTAL AMENDED CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$360,050 (AB2005-**  
6 **159)**

7  
8 *Crawford moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.

9  
10 *Motion carried unanimously.*

11  
12 **4. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
13 **CONTRACT AMENDMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND KERR**  
14 **WOOD LEIDAL ASSOCIATES LIMITED FOR COMPLETION OF THE**  
15 **FIRST PHASE OF THE NOOKSACK RIVER SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT**  
16 **PLAN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$143,820 FOR A TOTAL AMENDED**  
17 **CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$183,685 (AB2005-160)**

18  
19 *Crawford moved* to recommend approval of this item and the next item to  
20 the full Council.

21  
22 Paula Cooper, River and Flood Division Manager, stated this item is the  
23 continuation of a project started last year. The project was planned in phases. The  
24 first contract for phase one entailed reviewing old reports and historic information  
25 to develop a work plan for the next phase, which is the technical studies to find out  
26 if the river is egrading and coming up. Over half of the amendment amount today  
27 is to conduct fish habitat data collection. If gravel is causing a problem and gravel  
28 is removed, they would propose the project in a very fish-friendly and habitat-  
29 forming way. The next item is to implement the plan they've developed. In  
30 upcoming months, the Council will see more information on an overall plan. Swift  
31 Creek has filled up. The river will run all over if the County doesn't fix it. Staff is at  
32 capacity, so this request is to contract out the service.

33  
34 Brenner asked if they can clean out the gravel from the river without  
35 permission from the Army Corps of Engineers. Cooper stated there is a permit  
36 application in now. The County has a permit to clean out the traps. Ideally, the  
37 County will get the other permit to do the whole thing.

38  
39 Art Anderson, Countywide Flood Control Zone District Advisory Committee  
40 Member and Sediment Removal Sub-Committee Chair, stated the river has lost its  
41 capacity to carry water. There are seven- to 12-year events, and the river is out of  
42 its banks. The contractor submitted a proposal, which the advisory committee  
43 accepted. The contract has done some of the detailed, preliminary work. The  
44 advisory committee members can't talk the language. Staff is really burdened.  
45 The County need this professional contractor. This is an opportunity to go forward.  
46 The County needs all the agencies on its side to communicate with the contractor.  
47 If the County is going to move any gravel out of the river, it will happen with this

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1 contractor's help. The advisory committee recommends approval of the project.  
2 Moving this forward is a good value of taxpayer dollars. If there is a flood, the  
3 County Council will get phone calls asking why material wasn't removed from the  
4 river.  
5

6 McShane stated it's a policy issue. There are many tools in the toolbox. If  
7 the County has this tool available, it must have these studies. The County might  
8 be able to save money down the road by getting the river off a structure it might  
9 otherwise have to repair. He can live with the project.

10  
11 Brenner stated she already gets calls from people complaining about the  
12 County not dredging the river. Dredging is in the Comprehensive Flood Hazard  
13 Management Plan. The only way to do this is to use a firm that can provide  
14 technical aspects for backup for the Corps of Engineers.  
15

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

18 **5. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
19 **CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND KERR**  
20 **WOOD LEIDAL ASSOCIATES FOR SWIFT CREEK MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
21 **IMPLEMENTATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$48,100 (AB2005-161)**  
22

23 See Consent Agenda Item four.  
24

25 **6. RESOLUTION TO ORDER THE CANCELLATION OF WARRANTS MORE**  
26 **THAN A YEAR OLD FOR WHATCOM COUNTY JAIL INMATE TRUST**  
27 **FUND OUTSTANDING CHECKS (AB2005-162)**  
28

29 ***Roy moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.  
30

31 ***Motion carried unanimously.***  
32

33 **7. REVIEW OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT APPLICATION (AB2005-**  
34 **172)**  
35

36 ***Crawford*** stated the purpose of this item is to simply give the Council's  
37 blessing to the application, as part of the requirement of the application. He  
38 ***moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.  
39

40 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated sources are diminishing and  
41 being consolidated into the entire homeland security area. Some residual money  
42 grants require only one application from Whatcom County. The administration is  
43 still trying to find adequate resources to fund drug court, and has opted to go after  
44 this money for the drug court.  
45

46 ***Motion carried unanimously.***  
47

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1 **OTHER BUSINESS**  
2

3 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated the Washington Community  
4 Economic Revitalization Team (WA-CERT) application priority resolution is coming  
5 up. The administration has been working with the Kendall Community Center, the  
6 number one project for the last two years. The administration is talking with  
7 Economic Development Investment (EDI) Board about some funding of about \$1  
8 million. Also, there is a State appropriation of \$2 million for the Kendall project.  
9 The administration is working on other federal applications for funding. The  
10 administration is gradually trying to build a funding base for the project from  
11 multiple sources. The County needs to think more comprehensively about  
12 development in the Kendall area. The resource center is more like a budding civic  
13 center for the area. Having adequate water, sewer, and fire response capacity is  
14 another issue on which the administration is working.  
15

16 Crawford stated it's still important to continue that project and to continue to  
17 rank that project highly.  
18

19 Desler stated another issue is with using EDI funds to match city real estate  
20 excise tax (REET) funds for a City/County jail investment program. He's been  
21 meeting with various city councils about this program. This morning, the EDI Board  
22 voted to accept the use of that money for the program. This summer, the  
23 administration will bring forward more information. He's discussed this with the  
24 Council before. In the past, the councilmembers wanted to get a reaction from the  
25 EDI Board. There is a question of whether or not the County should use the EDI  
26 funds for a different purpose. The business perspective and cities believe there  
27 won't be economic development in a community if there aren't the fundamental  
28 structures necessary to sustain safety.  
29  
30

31 **ADJOURN**  
32

33 The meeting adjourned at 11:39 a.m.  
34  
35

36 \_\_\_\_\_  
37 Jill Nixon, Minutes Transcription  
38  
39

40 ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

41  
42  
43  
44  
45 \_\_\_\_\_  
46 Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_ Sam Crawford, Committee Member