

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 June 21, 2005
5

6 Committee Chair L. Ward Nelson called the meeting to order at 11:12 a.m. in
7 the Council Chambers, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, Washington.
8

9 Present:

10 Sam Crawford

11 Sharon Roy
12

Absent:

None

13 Also Present:

14 Dan McShane

15 Barbara Brenner

16 Seth Fleetwood
17
18

19 **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**
20

21 **1. ORDINANCE AMENDING 2005 WHATCOM COUNTY BUDGET, SIXTH**
22 **REQUEST (AB2005-248)**
23

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

26 Crawford asked for information on jail funding and how the rural sales tax
27 funds and capital projects funds fit in the plan with the sales tax increase the
28 people passed last year.
29

30 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated the original proposal was to use
31 the corrections sales tax and some general fund or real estate excise tax (REET)
32 funds to cover the cost of the new minimum security jail. Since, the administration
33 has talked to the cities about the cities investing in the jail. In return, the County
34 would provide credit for a portion of their jail services costs over time. The
35 administration is still negotiating that arrangement with the cities. It will hinge on
36 more recent growth and cost projections. The administration will use the following
37 sources of funds for the jail: some corrections tax, some REET money, some grant
38 funds, city REET funds, and some general fund money.
39

40 Crawford asked the total cost estimate and how much the sales tax is
41 generating. Desler stated the rest of the funding would come from the cities as
42 they decide to invest in the jail. The total cost for construction is \$7 million.
43

44 Crawford stated about \$5 million is requested today, which leaves \$2 million.
45 He asked where that \$2 million comes from. Desler stated the \$2 million will come
46 from the small cities REET, County REET, and County general fund. This project will
47 be ongoing for the next nine or ten months. The administration is setting up the

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1 budget authority to pay for contractors and construction work. The administration
2 will also recommend budget amendments based on work with the cities. If the
3 cities participate, there will be up to \$2.26 million in city REET funds. If cities don't
4 participate, the County will use the corrections sales tax, which can be used for
5 construction and operation.

6
7 Crawford stated the sales tax is not paying for the construction. There is \$5
8 million requested here from other sources. Desler stated they have talked about
9 using REET funds from the beginning. The Economic Development Investment
10 (EDI) Advisory Board approved and recommended using the REET funds. The
11 Council, a month ago, approved the same concept.

12
13 Nelson stated this is the minimum security facility. The minimum security
14 jail addresses immediate problems in the current jail. The sales tax is still going to
15 be projected to the final construction costs and planning for the final jail.

16
17 Desler stated the County will pay for construction of the minimum security
18 jail, operating cost of the minimum security jail, and funding for the new main jail
19 in eight or nine years. He will provide more detailed numbers. The involvement of
20 the cities makes the funding mechanisms more complicated, which is okay. It will
21 require a new interlocal agreement, which they are working on right now.

22
23 Nelson stated he would like that detailed funding information soon.

24
25 Crawford asked if they are sticking with the original funding plan. He asked
26 how much money the sales tax generates. Desler stated the sales tax generates
27 about \$2.6 million this year, and it grows about five percent each year.

28
29 Crawford stated most people voted to pay for a new jail. Desler stated that
30 is still going on.

31
32 Nelson asked about weapons replacement from the jail.

33
34 Carey James, Undersheriff, stated they have nine handguns and some
35 shotguns. Due to the age and use of the guns, the range officers determined the
36 guns are no longer safe and must be replaced.

37
38 Nelson asked how many rounds were shot from the guns. James stated he
39 doesn't know the number of rounds. The guns have been used for training of
40 corrections officers for several years.

41
42 Nelson asked if the guns are used for training or are carried by the officers
43 during duty. James stated the guns are used for both purposes. When the
44 weapons aren't being used, they are stored.

45
46 Nelson stated they have training weapons in addition to regular duty
47 weapons in the military. James stated they don't have training-only weapons.

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1
2 Nelson asked the type of gun and how the guns will be disposed. James
3 stated the guns are .40 caliber Glock 22 guns. When disposed of, they will be
4 taken to the east side and melted down. They can't be used for anything else. The
5 guns will be replaced due to the number of rounds expended and the condition of
6 the weapons. He will provide information on age and number of rounds.

7
8 Nelson asked about \$9,000 from the State Patrol for traffic enforcement
9 equipment, which must be spent by June 30. James stated the money can only be
10 used for traffic safety. They will use the money to upgrade radar equipment.

11
12 ***Motion carried unanimously.***

13
14 **2. ORDINANCE REPLACING WHATCOM COUNTY CODE 1.14 (IN ITS**
15 **ENTIRETY), DESIGNATING ELECTION PRECINCT NAMES AND THEIR**
16 **LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS (AB2005-252)**

17
18 Debbie Adelstein, Chief Deputy Auditor, stated the proposal is to use precinct
19 numbers rather than precinct names. The computer system is based on a number
20 sequence. Now that they won't have poll sites, it seemed a logical time to make
21 the transition. People who receive the information on a database have to match
22 the precinct name with a number already. Instead, they will be able to take the
23 raw information and use it to analyze the data without the manual conversions.
24 The ordinance documents list the transitions from the name to the number for each
25 precinct.

26
27 ***Nelson moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council. He will miss the
28 old names, but it will make the Auditor's job easier. He asked if new precincts will
29 be added to the end of the numbered list. Adelstein stated the new area will be
30 added to the list, and the numbers will shift.

31
32 Nelson asked if there is a way for the numbers to stay consistent in each
33 precinct. Adelstein stated there is not.

34
35 Crawford stated that if the number changes, the precinct changes, and there
36 is a new dataset of people.

37
38 Adelstein stated it leaves the risk of having gap numbers. They are trying to
39 assign numbers starting in the northwest corner of the county and working across
40 and down.

41
42 Nelson stated it would be better for the public to keep continuity, if possible.

43
44 ***Motion carried unanimously.***

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1 **COUNCIL "CONSENT AGENDA" ITEM**

- 2
- 3 **1. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO AWARD BID #05-**
- 4 **47 TO THE ONLY BIDDER, MILLER'S PAINTING, FOR MISCELLANEOUS**
- 5 **INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR PAINTING OF COUNTY BUILDINGS, IN THE**
- 6 **AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED \$60,000 (AB2005-255)**

7

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

9

10 *Motion carried unanimously.*

- 11
- 12 **2. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
- 13 **GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND THE STATE**
- 14 **OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY, TO EXPAND EXISTING**
- 15 **AND SUCCESSFUL LAKE-FRIENDLY GARDENING EDUCATION**
- 16 **PROGRAM TO RESIDENTS OF THE LAKE WHATCOM AND LAKE SAMISH**
- 17 **WATERSHEDS, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$130,404 (AB2005-256)**

18

19 *Crawford moved* to recommend approval to the full Council. He asked

20 where the \$43,000 comes from.

21

22 Bruce Roll, Assistant Director, stated the money comes from the flood fund.

23

24 *Motion carried unanimously.*

25

26 Nelson asked for a follow up on this item in the future.

27

28 Brenner asked why Miller's Painting was the only bidder.

29

30 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated the contract is to provide

31 supplies as well as the labor.

32

33 Brad Bennett, Finance Division Manager, stated the County went through the

34 normal advertising process. Only Miller's Painting responded. The County has

35 contracted with other contractors, but they have been shuffled off for not doing

36 good-enough work.

- 37
- 38 **3. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
- 39 **CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND**
- 40 **COLUMBIA VALUATION GROUP, INC. FOR APPRAISAL SERVICES FOR**
- 41 **FIVE FARMS APPLYING FOR THE PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT**
- 42 **RIGHTS PROGRAM, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$16,500 (AB2005-257)**

43

44 *Roy moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.

45

46 *Motion carried unanimously.*

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1 **4. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
2 **CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND**
3 **WASHINGTON TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION, TO CONTINUE THE**
4 **FUNDING OF OUR TRAFFIC SAFETY COORDINATOR, IN THE AMOUNT**
5 **OF \$65,750 (AB2005-258)**

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

8
9 *Motion carried unanimously.*

10
11 Crawford asked if the County gets to do anything with schools on traffic
12 safety.

13
14 Bill Elfo, Sheriff, stated there are two programs for high schools, a survivors
15 panel who tells their stories and a mock drunk driving scene. Other organizations
16 put on presentations as well. He is looking at a grant from the Traffic Safety
17 Commission on limited drivers licenses.

18
19 Nelson stated he appreciates the education efforts. It's difficult. This
20 country has been flexible about letting people under 21 drive. They will have to
21 deal with that at the state level. They are getting the message to a lot of kids. He
22 sees different behavioral patterns. The County can't hire enough deputies to catch
23 all of them.

24
25 Carey James, Undersheriff, stated traffic deputies and local people put
26 together a video showing accidents around the county. The kids relate to the local
27 areas shown in the video. The video is in the school system. The video was well
28 done and drives the message home. It was done in good taste with respect to the
29 families in the video.

30
31 Crawford stated he would like to show the video in the Public Works and
32 Safety Committee.

33
34 **5. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
35 **CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND PUGET**
36 **SOUND ENERGY, TO PROVIDE LAW ENFORCEMENT COVERAGE ON**
37 **HOLIDAY WEEKENDS AT PUGET SOUND ENERGY'S UPPER BAKER**
38 **LAKE SITE, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$52.00 AN HOUR (AB2005-259)**

39
40 *Crawford moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.

41
42 Nelson asked about the working arrangement with the Parks Department.

43
44 Bill Elfo, Sheriff, stated the arrangement is to cover the campsite by Baker
45 Lake during busy holiday weekends. The arrangement is to help the Forest Service
46 patrol the area. This is to provide the additional people the Forest Service thinks it
47 needs, rather than using the main patrol.

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1
2 Crawford asked if the County deputies have good backup up there. Elfo
3 stated they don't. The County has a good relationship with the State Patrol and
4 Skagit County Sheriff's Office.

5
6 ***Motion carried unanimously.***

7
8 **6. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
9 **LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND BLACK ROCK**
10 **CABLE, FOR FIBER OPTIC CONNECTIVITY BETWEEN THE**
11 **COURTHOUSE AND THE CASCADE BUSINESS PARK SHERIFF'S OFFICE**
12 **FOR INTERNET SERVICE, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275 MONTHLY PLUS**
13 **APPLICABLE FEES AND TAXES (AB2005-260)**

14
15 Crawford asked if the cable infrastructure is already there.

16
17 Carey James, Undersheriff, stated cable is commercial service. The County
18 has to pay the commercial service to use the fiberoptic system. The infrastructure
19 is already in.

20
21 ***Crawford moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.

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

24
25 **7. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
26 **CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY SHERIFF**
27 **DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL**
28 **SUPPORT SOLUTIONS, TO PROVIDE A SERIES OF PLANS, PLAN**
29 **ENHANCEMENTS, EXERCISES AND RISK ASSESSMENTS, IN THE**
30 **AMOUNT OF \$95,000 (AB2005-261)**

31
32 ***Nelson moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.

33
34 Nelson asked if this is from a grant.

35
36 Neil Clement, Emergency Management Division Manager, stated this is part
37 of a 2004 grant. It began at the beginning of this year. The work is expected to go
38 through April of next year. They couldn't have done this work without the grant.

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

41
42 Nelson stated he would like an update on County activity on homeland
43 security and emergency management issues.

44
45 **8. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
46 **CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY SHERIFF'S**
47 **OFFICE AND USDA MT. BAKER-SNOQUALMIE NATIONAL FOREST, FOR**

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1 **THE PROVISION OF PATROL SERVICES ON NATIONAL FOREST LAND**
2 **WITHIN WHATCOM COUNTY, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$60,000 (AB2005-**
3 **262)**

4
5 *Crawford moved* to recommend approval to the full Council. He asked if
6 this is the same amount as last year.

7
8 Bill Elfo, Sheriff, stated the cost of providing the service is more than what
9 they are paid for. The money for this has dried up. However, the County still has a
10 responsibility to provide law enforcement in that area. Some money is better than
11 none. The contract will be modified to not have to use that deputy exclusively in
12 the Forest Service area. They may move the deputy to another area to help with
13 other problems in the East County area.

14
15 *Motion carried unanimously.*

16
17 **9. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO AN**
18 **AMENDMENT TO A LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY**
19 **AND FRIESEN ELECTRIC INTERNATIONAL, INC., FOR ELECTION**
20 **WAREHOUSE SPACE EXTENDING THE CURRENT LEASE THROUGH**
21 **AUGUST 2, 2006, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,700, FOR A TOTAL**
22 **AMENDED LEASE AMOUNT OF \$46,800 (AB2005-263)**

23
24 *Roy moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.

25
26 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated there is a modification to the
27 lease that was provided to the Council. The modification is to do a month-to-month
28 agreement. The current owners of the building are looking to use the space for
29 other reasons. Given the upcoming changes to election systems, the County will
30 modify space at the Forest Street Annex for storage and elections activities. The
31 County will not need to rent space in the future. That effort to modify the Forest
32 Street Annex will come before the Council as a separate approval item.

33
34 *Nelson moved* to accept the substitute version.

35
36 *Motion to recommend substitute carried unanimously.*

37
38
39 **OTHER BUSINESS**

40
41 There was no other business.

42
43
44 **ADJOURN**

45
46 The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

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Jill Nixon, Minutes Transcription

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

L. Ward Nelson, Committee Chair