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1 Preparedness (ODP). Another issue was how to train volunteer fire personnel. The
2 best courses are the ones they've been able to bring in. There is also opportunity
3 to send people to Alabama for live-agent training, New Mexico for explosives
4 training, and Nevada for radiological training. They have done nerve gas exercises
5 locally.
6

7 The bomb robot is used for certain day-to-day purposes. He continued to
8 read the presentation on the use of grant funds. They will be able to use
9 technologies for more than one scenario. Interoperability communications among
10 the different law enforcement agencies is necessary and very expensive. Future
11 distribution of funding will be based on risk instead of population or base formulas.
12 That works, as long as Whatcom County is allowed to include the border in its risk
13 factor. There may be additional homeland security dollars available in preparation
14 for the 2010 Olympics.
15

16 Fleetwood asked the other risk factors in Whatcom County, beyond borders.
17 Clement stated risk factors include critical infrastructures.
18

19 Nelson asked about interoperability of systems on contracts. He asked what
20 they are doing within the state. Some systems don't work within the state.
21 Clement stated a government executive committee inventoried all interoperability
22 systems. One area the committee missed was the federal government, which is a
23 big partner with Whatcom County. Nationally, they have looked into going to 700
24 megahertz for communication, but that may be a problem with their proximity to
25 Canada.
26

27 Nelson asked the role the National Guard plays in the state. Clement stated
28 the Adjutant General heads up the entire State effort. A key element is the civil
29 support team. It is an exclusive team designed to provide analysis on an incident
30 involving weapons of mass destruction. They are highly trained and equipped.
31 They have worked with local responders to understand the capabilities of the team.
32

33 Nelson stated the training at Ft. Lewis is similar to local training for terrorist
34 events. Related problems include traffic control and getting team members to
35 respond. He asked if they have been addressing that issue. Clement stated they
36 have, as much as they can.
37

38 Nelson asked if they have done mop suit training in hot weather. Clement
39 stated they do the hazardous materials (haz-mat) training four times per year.
40 He's sure they've done hot weather training. They have worked at Bellingham Cold
41 Storage for extreme cold training.
42

43 McShane asked if there is a practice injector on the nerve agents. Clement
44 stated they have.
45

46 Tsunami Planning
47

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1 Clement read his presentation on the threat of tsunamis. A new model was
2 done. According to model, a tsunami will reach this area at a level of nine to 15
3 feet. They will have about a two-hour warning from a very big earthquake that
4 lasts three to five minutes.

5
6 Nelson asked if there has ever been that big an earthquake that they know
7 of. Clement stated there has been, in the 1700's. One happens every 300 to 500
8 years. It's been 300 years since the last one.

9
10 Fleetwood asked why the findings were surprising. Clement stated they
11 didn't think the tsunami could get this far inland. They will have two hours notice.
12 The best tool they have is public education. At the height of the event in the worst
13 area, the speed would be about 15 to 30 knots. The depth would be nine to 15 feet
14 at the Nooksack River. In Bellingham, there would be inundation to the railroad
15 tracks, since there is already a 10-foot seawall. Once people evacuate, they have
16 to keep people out of the area for two high-tide cycles.

17
18 He read the presentation on the planning process.

19
20 Roy asked if this scenario is for a 9.1 earthquake. She asked if there are
21 threats from earthquakes they couldn't feel. Clement stated there are not. This
22 tsunami would be triggered only by a 9.1 subduction zone earthquake, or an
23 earthquake right under them locally, or by large landslides in deep water.

24
25 He read the presentation about potential warning systems. The National
26 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Division would trigger the
27 All Hazard Alert Broadcasting (AHAB) radio system. They are looking into funding
28 one at Sandy Point. The station costs \$43,000. They've done mapping for
29 Bellingham Bay, Sandy Point, Lummi Peninsula, Birch Bay, Semiahmoo, and Point
30 Roberts.

31
32 Nelson stated quite a few contracts have come through the Council lately.
33 He wanted to see what is happening on this issue. He hopes to see more of these
34 presentations, particularly on health care.

35 36 37 **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**

38 39 **1. ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A HOMELESS HOUSING FUND (AB2005- 40 284)**

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

43
44 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated House Bill (HB) 2160 created
45 low income housing funding in this community. The Council established a
46 committee to work on this. About \$350,000 will be available per year. The

1 committee is preparing a plan to respond to legislation. When the plan is complete
2 in December, it will come to the Council.

3
4 *Motion carried unanimously.*

5
6 **2. ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A TRIAL COURT IMPROVEMENT FUND**
7 **(AB2005-285)**

8
9 *Nelson moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.

10
11 *Motion carried unanimously.*

12
13 **3. ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2005 WHATCOM COUNTY BUDGET,**
14 **SEVENTH REQUEST (AB2005-286)**

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

17
18 *Motion carried unanimously.*

19
20 **4. COUNCIL REVIEW OF RECOMMENDED EMERGENCY MEDICAL**
21 **SERVICES PLAN AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION**
22 **RELATED TO IMPLEMENTATION (AB2005-155B)**

23
24 *Nelson moved* to recommend approval of the substitute resolution to the
25 full Council.

26
27 Roy asked about the interlocal agreement with the cities. She supports the
28 concept. There is a broad base of support. She asked if there needs to be 100
29 percent participation for success, and if there is a plan if the plan is not successful.

30
31 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated the working group felt
32 September 2006 was the time necessary to gather substantial support from the
33 community. They want to get the support of all 17 fire districts and all seven city
34 councils. That is time consuming. The fire commissioners and mayors asked that it
35 be put on the ballot this November. They would like to see some kind of indication
36 from the County Council if it supports putting the tax on the ballot in November.
37 That's the reason for the resolution.

38
39 If the Council approves the resolution, the resolution and a draft interlocal
40 agreement will allow all cities to transfer their portions available for emergency
41 medical services (EMS) to the County. If all those cities approve by September, the
42 Council can consider whether it's appropriate to move forward.

43
44 Caskey-Schreiber thanked Mr. Desler for working on this issue. The
45 incoming population is seniors, but Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement levels are
46 going down. This is a frugal proposal that covers the basic risk level. The plan will
47 benefit the citizens of the county. She supports it. Make sure the one-third part

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1 for law and justice will go back to the cities. Desler stated the law calls for one-
2 third of the funds to be used for criminal justice purposes. Two-thirds of the money
3 will be transferred to County for EMS. The County portion of the one-third is
4 \$500,000, to target the money in three areas. They plan to expand law
5 enforcement in the urban growth areas, address more issues with
6 methamphetamine in the community such as prevention and response, and address
7 court processing backlogs that are occurring. He hopes to have it to the Council in
8 about a month.
9

10 Crawford asked if the law limits them to one-tenth of one percent, instead of
11 more. Desler stated the working group addressed the issue of how much tax to
12 collect. They were really trying to be frugal. This is a request of the public that is
13 two-thirds less than previous request in 2003 for 2004.
14

15 *(Clerk's Note: End of tape one, side A.)*
16

17 Desler continued to state that the one-tenth of one percent sales tax will
18 barely meet the minimum need to meet basic life support (BLS) in the community.
19 The law allows them to collect up to three-tenths of one percent. The working
20 group recommends collecting one-tenth of one percent of the sales tax. Two-
21 tenths is more than necessary for emergency medical services. If the community
22 feels something larger needs to be done, it's a different discussion.
23

24 Nelson asked if the rural fire departments will have a coordinated system for
25 advanced life support (ALS) after 2007 in the rural areas as the funds are used in
26 the future.
27

28 Dave Ralston, Fire District 2 and Fire Chief's Association President, stated the
29 advanced life support system is what the funding mechanism is going to fund. The
30 basic life support will be funded by the districts. Now, Fire District 7 is planning to
31 upgrade to paramedic services in 2009. The next unit will be a County unit.
32

33 Nelson asked if that service will be available countywide. Ralston stated it is
34 planned now for Fire District 7. Other districts could step up and do the same if
35 they have the funding capability. It's about having the manpower and structure in
36 the district to make it happen. The funding projection for District 7 may enable
37 them to do that.
38

39 Desler stated he anticipates that District 7 will be able to respond
40 countywide. There are four units now that can operate anywhere in the county.
41 The fifth medic unit, when it is created, would also be operated throughout the
42 county.
43

44 Ralston stated that as they progress down the road to November, the
45 differences from what they proposed last time is that the County is still putting
46 funds into the system, and the fire districts have stepped up to provide the basic

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1 level of service (BLS). Also, the City of Bellingham has proposed having a BLS unit.
2 Those are important changes.
3

4 Caskey-Schreiber stated the original plan from the work group talked about
5 spending down reserves in 2006. She asked if the sales tax, if passed, goes in at
6 2006 and if they will still plan to spend down the fund. Desler stated that if the
7 public approves the tax in November 2005, it will create \$1.9 million in funding for
8 EMS in 2006. The fund balance would be about \$500,000 to \$600,000 during the
9 life of the program. That is a reasonable amount. The deficit from this year and
10 next year, if the tax is not considered, would be made up by the reserves in the
11 Medic One fund jointly owned by the County and City of Bellingham.
12

13 Crawford asked the differences between the draft in the packet and the
14 supplemental information. Desler stated legal counsel made a few minor word
15 changes.
16

17 Crawford stated he is not sure this is the right solution, but they've got a
18 plan that can be supported. To get it passed, work cooperatively and with a single
19 voice to the voters. His goal as a councilmember was to get them out of the
20 situation of using general fund dollars to fund the program. He doesn't suggest
21 that taxpayers should not take on some level of responsibility for emergency
22 medical services. However, it's difficult for the County to continue to use general
23 fund dollars over the long-term, and then go back to the well in years where they
24 need to make up significant increases in cost. Having worked in the process for
25 several years, he knows that many have compromised to make this work. He will
26 support it at this point. Continue to refine what this is. This year, there must be a
27 huge effort to promote this plan to the community.
28

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

31 Bob Busch, Whatcom County Fire Commissioners President, thanked the
32 councilmembers.
33

34 **COUNCIL "CONSENT AGENDA" ITEM** 35

- 36
- 37 **1. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
38 **COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY**
39 **AND THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL AND**
40 **TECHNICAL ENGINEERS, LOCAL 17 (AB2005-291)**
41

42 ***Nelson moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.
43

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

- 46 **2. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
47 **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY**

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1 **HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF**
2 **NORTHWEST WASHINGTON TO CONDUCT THE "SCHOOL BUDDIES**
3 **PROGRAM" FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION, IN THE AMOUNT**
4 **OF \$22,500 (AB2005-292)**

5
6 *Roy moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.

7
8 *Motion carried unanimously.*

- 9
10 **3. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
11 **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY**
12 **AND THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF WHATCOM COUNTY TO PROVIDE**
13 **SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION SERVICES FOR ADOLESCENTS, IN**
14 **THE AMOUNT OF \$17,500 (AB2005-293)**

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

17
18 *Motion carried unanimously.*

- 19
20 **4. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
21 **CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND**
22 **WHATCOM COUNSELING & PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC FOR 2060 REPAIR**
23 **AND RETENTION FUNDING FOR REPAIRS TO 9-UNIT APARTMENT**
24 **FACILITY AT 1604 I STREET, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$19,902 (AB2005-**
25 **294)**

26
27 *Crawford moved* to recommend approval to the full Council. He asked if
28 this has gone through the advisory committee and is their recommendation.

29
30 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated it is.

31
32 *Motion carried unanimously.*

- 33
34 **5. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
35 **CONTRACT RENEWAL BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY HEALTH**
36 **DEPARTMENT AND WASHINGTON STATE DEPT. OF SOCIAL AND**
37 **HEALTH SERVICES/DIVISION OF ALCOHOL SUBSTANCE ABUSE TO**
38 **PROVIDE SUBSTANCE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT, IN THE**
39 **AMOUNT OF \$3,480,258 (AB2005-295)**

40
41 *Roy moved* to recommend approval to the full Council. She asked the
42 reason the cost has gone up \$1 million and the difference in service.

43
44 Terry Hinz, Assistant Director, stated the increase is about \$600,000 in
45 treatment expansion. The increase is for the level of services so more people will
46 be served.

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1 Roy asked if some people will get more intensive services. Hinz stated he
2 didn't know about that.

3
4 *Motion carried unanimously.*

- 5
6 **6. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
7 **CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY HEALTH**
8 **DEPARTMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH**
9 **SERVICES FOR PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES TO PROVIDE HOME VISITS**
10 **TO FAMILIES WITH BABIES AND YOUNG CHILDREN REFERRED BY**
11 **CPS THAT ARE AT RISK FOR CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT, IN THE**
12 **AMOUNT OF \$23,434 (AB2005-296)**

13
14 *Nelson moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.

15
16 Crawford stated the amount provided is probably not enough to fill the need.

17
18 Caskey-Schreiber asked if they can shift some drug money toward this
19 service.

20
21 Roy stated a lot of the people who are at risk have mothers who are drug
22 users. It's a topic worthy of discussion.

23
24 *Motion carried unanimously.*

- 25
26 **7. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
27 **CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY HEALTH**
28 **DEPARTMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH**
29 **SERVICES TO PROVIDE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES TO DEVELOP A**
30 **HEALTH "PASSPORT" FOR CHILDREN RESIDING IN OUT-OF-HOME**
31 **CARE AS A TOOL FOR PROMOTING ONGOING HEALTH ASSESSMENTS**
32 **AND APPROPRIATE FOLLOW-UP AND TREATMENT SERVICES FOR THE**
33 **CHILD, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,398 (AB2005-297)**

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

36
37 *Motion carried unanimously.*

- 38
39 **8. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
40 **CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND MILLER'S**
41 **PAINTING FOR MISCELLANEOUS PAINTING AT WHATCOM COUNTY**
42 **FACILITIES, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$60,000 (AB2005-298)**

43
44 *Nelson moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.

45
46 Crawford asked if this is the same contract the Council talked about a few
47 weeks ago.

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1
2 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated it is the same contract the
3 Council accepted the bid for a few weeks ago.

4
5 *Motion carried unanimously.*
6

- 7 **9. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO AN**
8 **AMENDMENT TO INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM**
9 **COUNTY AND NORTHWEST INDIAN COLLEGE FOR AMBIENT WATER**
10 **QUALITY MONITORING UNDER CENTENNIAL CLEAN WATER FUND**
11 **GRANT, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$57,435, FOR A TOTAL AMENDED**
12 **CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$124,234 (AB2005-299)**

13
14 *Roy moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.

15
16 *Motion carried unanimously.*
17

- 18 **10. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
19 **GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND**
20 **WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY FOR THE**
21 **NORTHWEST STRAITS: MRC YEAR 6 ADMINISTRATION AND ACTION**
22 **PROJECT, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$157,800 (AB2005-300)**

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

25
26 *Motion carried unanimously.*
27

- 28 **11. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
29 **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND THE**
30 **ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS FOR LEVEE REHABILITATION WORK ON**
31 **THE VANDERPOL LEVEE LOCATED ON THE LEFT BANK OF THE**
32 **NOOKSACK RIVER NEAR LYNDEN, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$252,000,**
33 **WITH THE COUNTY'S COST SHARE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,400**
34 **(AB2005-301)**

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

37
38 Crawford asked if this is Hampton Road.

39
40 Paula Cooper, River and Flood Division Manager, stated this is not Hampton
41 Road. This is Vanderpol. It's downstream of Guide Meridian on the south bank,
42 east of River Road. It is the upstream end of Diking District 3.

43
44 *Motion carried unanimously.*
45

- 46 **12. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
47 **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND THE**

1 **ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS FOR LEVEE REHABILITATION WORK ON**
2 **THE TWIN VIEW LEVEE LOCATED ON THE LEFT BANK OF THE**
3 **NOOKSACK RIVER NEAR EVERSON, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275,000,**
4 **WITH THE COUNTY'S COST SHARE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$55,000**
5 **(AB2005-302)**

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

8
9 *Motion carried unanimously.*

10
11 **13. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
12 **CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND THE IBI**
13 **GROUP FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR OFF-BOAT TICKET SALES FOR**
14 **THE LUMMI ISLAND FERRY, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$19,280 (AB2005-**
15 **303)**

16
17 Nelson asked what this is about.

18
19 Ken Richardson, Accounting Supervisor, stated an objective is to take cash
20 handling off the boat and find other means to sell tickets. This study will give them
21 information to make decisions on that issue. Also, the study is timely as it fits in
22 with the ferry rate structuring issues they talked about earlier.

23
24 Crawford asked what they envision to collect fares. Richardson stated they
25 hope to develop several alternatives.

26
27 McShane asked if people pay to park at Gooseberry Point. Richardson stated
28 they do not.

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

31
32 *Motion carried unanimously.*

33
34 **14. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
35 **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY**
36 **AND RH2 ENGINEERING GROUP, INC. FOR LUMMI NATION**
37 **RESERVATION-WIDE TRAFFIC STUDY, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$75,000**
38 **(AB2005-304)**

39
40 Nelson asked if this is just on County roads.

41
42 Jeff Monsen, Public Works Director, stated the focus is the primary County
43 road system, including the Slater Road intersection, improvements to Haxton Road,
44 and dock relocation at Gooseberry Point. The issue is how they address a lot of the
45 matters. It's very significant that Haxton Road has the highest fatality rate in
46 Whatcom County.

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

3 **Motion carried unanimously.**
4

5 **15. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
6 **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY**
7 **AND CH2M HILL, INC. FOR CABLE STREET STORMWATER OUTFALL**
8 **POLLUTANT REDUCTION OPPORTUNITIES, IN THE AMOUNT OF**
9 **\$75,000 (AB2005-305)**

10 **Roy moved** to recommend approval to the full Council.
11

12 Caskey-Schreiber asked if the money is just to design it.
13

14 Jeff Monsen, Public Works Director, stated it is not. This only selects options
15 for what and how to treat stormwater.
16

17 Caskey-Schreiber stated the City of Bellingham has upgraded some
18 stormwater systems already. The changeable filters cost about \$75,000 to
19 \$200,000 each. Monsen stated that is an option this study will explore. This study
20 will compare those options and their long-term and short-term costs and results.
21

22 Caskey-Schreiber stated the cost seems expensive just to get information.
23 Monsen stated the information is out there on what the technologies can do, but
24 not where to put them and how to deal with construction and maintenance, and
25 what pollutants they want to remove.
26

27 Caskey-Schreiber stated she assumes the City of Bellingham has already
28 gone through this exercise. Monsen stated the City will assist the County, because
29 of its experience in this effort. The City has declined to do the study. This is not a
30 matter of taking a particular application and putting it out on the street. They're
31 trying to do more than treat the end of one pipe. They're trying to deal with the
32 collection and treatment of stormwater from the entire neighborhood.
33

34 Nelson asked what is going on with the City, and if it's not interested in
35 protecting the lake from stormwater. He asked if this is recalcitrant behavior from
36 a group of people who are trying to make themselves look better. Monsen stated
37 he can't speak for the City. The City is interested in looking at alternatives with the
38 County. The City declined to be hired as the consultant. They don't have the
39 capacity to do that effort at a high level.
40

41 **Motion carried unanimously.**
42

43 **16. RESOLUTION AND REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE**
44 **EXECUTIVE TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE**
45 **INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION FOR THE**
46 **PLANTATION RANGE TARGET CARRIER UPGRADE IN THE AMOUNT OF**
47

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1 **\$85,000, WITH THE COUNTY'S SHARE OF THE PROJECT IN THE**
2 **AMOUNT OF \$42,500 (AB2005-306)**
3

4 Nelson stated the range received an upgrade about ten years ago. He asked
5 if this is part of it.
6

7 Mike McFarlane, Parks and Recreation Department Director, stated this is not
8 part of that upgrade. This upgrade is for the track system.
9

10 **Nelson moved** to recommend approval of the substitute resolution to the
11 full Council.
12

13 Roy thanked Mr. McFarlane for getting a grant for this work.
14

15 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated the grant requires a three
16 percent match, for which they have not budgeted. It will require a supplemental
17 budget request approval.
18

19 **Motion carried unanimously.**
20

21 **17. RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING COUNTY ROAD PROJECT NO. 900902**
22 **FOR THE LAKE WHATCOM BLVD. HIGH BRIDGE #115 REPLACEMENT,**
23 **AND REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO AWARD**
24 **CONTRACT TO MOWAT CONSTRUCTION CO. AS LOW BIDDER IN THE**
25 **AMOUNT OF \$4,525,465 (AB2005-307)**
26

27 Nelson asked if the citizen who has expressed concerns on this project has
28 been addressed.
29

30 Joe Rutan, County Road Engineer, stated he worked with the citizen, who
31 told him that she was satisfied.
32

33 Jeff Monsen, Public Works Director, stated there were some questions about
34 the road closure. Through the design process, staff always looks for ways to keep
35 the cost down. In this case, staff also looked for ways to minimize the amount of
36 time the road is closed. When reducing the time that the road is closed, costs climb
37 quickly. There is no place to work on the new bridge without consuming the entire
38 old bridge and its approaches. The alternative is to build a space between the
39 bridges. In this case, that would double or triple the length of the bridge. To
40 eliminate the closure time, the cost would be substantial. The original design work
41 looked at a closure of more than a year. This bid cost already includes the County
42 pressure to reduce closure time.
43

44 Crawford stated this will close the road from South Bay to Sudden Valley,
45 and now someone has to go down through Alger. He asked how long the road will
46 be closed. Monsen stated the closure is for at least ten months or a year. In the
47 mid-1980's, the road was closed for a number of months due to a failure. If there

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1 were a good alternate route, the bridge would already be closed. They are
2 monitoring cracks in the abutment to see how big they're getting over time. Work
3 will start as soon as the contract is approved.
4

5 Nelson asked if there is a limitation also because of fish and wildlife. Monsen
6 stated environmental issues are not the driving concern. The rock stability is the
7 core of this project.
8

9 Crawford asked if the south bay community is aware of the project. He
10 asked what the Council can do to assist folks in preparing for the closure. Monsen
11 stated the residents are aware. They have direct experience with this problem.
12

13 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated there is a substantial amount of
14 road signage that describes the closure.
15

16 Caskey-Schreiber asked why the federal government is willing to come up
17 with \$4 million for this project and not a project that has a higher volume of traffic.
18 Monsen stated the bridge replacement program uses federal money. The program
19 is for structurally deficient bridges, not how well the bridge functions. This bridge is
20 substantially structurally deficient and at risk of catastrophic failure.
21

22 Caskey-Schreiber asked if they don't consider the Alaskan Way viaduct a
23 bridge. It is ready to crumble. Monsen stated the bridge replacement program
24 receives very good support from Congress and has expanded because of the variety
25 of bridges that need work. He's not sure the Alaskan Way viaduct would be
26 considered a critical bridge from a transportation system. It doesn't cross a river or
27 gorge. Also, this program is not designed to rebuild a \$5 billion structure. A cost
28 of \$5 million is cheap. A series of \$5 million bridges is cheap. A \$5 billion bridge
29 destroys the program for anyone else for a long time.
30

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

33 ***Motion carried unanimously.***
34

35 **18. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO AWARD BID #05-**
36 **51 FOR SECURITY SERVICES AT GOOSEBERRY POINT PARKING AREA**
37 **TO THE LOW BIDDER, GREG RUSTAND INC. DBA SSP, IN THE**
38 **APPROXIMATE AMOUNT OF \$55,000 (AB2005-308)**
39

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

42 ***Motion carried unanimously.***
43

44 **19. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO AWARD BID #05-**
45 **58 FOR ANNUAL DRYDOCK REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE TO THE**
46 **WHATCOM CHIEF FERRY TO THE LOW BIDDER, FOSS SHIPYARD, IN**
47 **THE AMOUNT OF \$155,697 (AB2005-309)**

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

3
4 ***Motion carried unanimously.***

5
6 **20. RESOLUTION IN THE MATTER OF THE SALE OF WHATCOM COUNTY**
7 **SURPLUS PROPERTY AND THE SETTING OF A DATE FOR PUBLIC**
8 **HEARING (AB2005-310)**

9
10 ***Nelson moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.

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

13
14 **21. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
15 **SUB-RECIPIENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WHATCOM COUNTY**
16 **SHERIFF'S OFFICE , DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, AND**
17 **THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM (AB2005-311)**

18
19 ***Roy moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.

20
21 ***Motion carried unanimously.***

22
23 **22. RESOLUTION TO ELECT EXPENDITURE OF NATIONAL FOREST**
24 **RELATED SAFETY-NET PAYMENTS UNDER PL106-93 (AB2005-312)**

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

27
28 Crawford asked if the Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) has made a
29 recommendation.

30
31 McShane stated the RAC doesn't make that recommendation. He submitted
32 information (*on file*) showing what projects the RAC has recommended they spend
33 the funds on. Projects six on down the list will not have enough funding or any
34 funding. He briefly explained each program. Fifteen percent of the money has to
35 go to road projects or watershed recovery. There is a plan to rehabilitate logging
36 roads with culverts that cause problems to fish-bearing streams. He didn't rank the
37 education and volunteer resource programs high because they take up a lot of
38 money, even though they are great programs.

39
40 Nelson asked about the grizzly bear outreach program.

41
42 McShane stated that program is somewhat controversial, as are the
43 educational programs. The committee members rank the grizzly program either
44 quite high or quite low, so the result is that it comes out somewhere in the middle.
45 It's a really good program. He likes to fund smaller projects that would otherwise
46 never get funding. He regrets that the back country ranger program didn't get

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1 funding. There is nowhere else they could get funding. It seems that a lot of the
2 projects funded are in Whatcom County.

3
4 ***Motion carried unanimously.***

5
6
7 **OTHER BUSINESS**

8
9 Crawford stated there is a newspaper article on the court staffing levels.

10
11 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated the Superior Court judges wrote
12 a letter that indicated a crisis and asked for more staff, higher pay for staff, and
13 more technical assistance. The administration responded by offering to have a
14 discussion. A discussion will occur in the middle of August. The courts have made
15 unilateral decisions that deserve further review on the part of the Council. The
16 judges assume authority to move staff around in the Clerk's office.

17
18 *(Clerk's Note: End of tape one, side B.)*

19
20 Desler continued to state that if the Court Clerk's office does this, it would
21 impact other parts of the court system. He met with the judges and Court Clerk.
22 For a short time, they will sustain assigned counsel, which is to the determination
23 of indigence for people who are criminally charged. The court wanted that staff to
24 be transferred to do some clerk work. That means everyone who is charged with a
25 criminal matter would be referred to the Public Defender's Office. The County
26 doesn't need to serve everyone who is criminally charged. They talked about giving
27 the court the executive authority to hire 1.5 fulltime equivalent (FTE) employees for
28 August through October to continue that service. The administration needs to
29 come up with a plan to respond to the courts that it will present to the County
30 Council. It's appropriate to ask the courts the same questions they ask everyone
31 when an additional service is proposed.

32
33 Crawford stated an attorney read the article in the paper and was concerned
34 about the courts giving that impression. This attorney felt there were significant
35 ongoing inefficiencies they observed on a regular basis that were costly and
36 nonproductive. The folks who are closest to the court system are those who use
37 the system most frequently. He asked if the Bar Association could assist with the
38 situation and suggest ways to make things more efficient. Desler stated other
39 communities have successfully examined where those efficiencies are. He is
40 looking at where that has happened and the savings that came out of that analysis.
41 He will update the Council soon.

42
43
44 **ADJOURN**

45
46 The meeting adjourned at 12:37 p.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