

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 August 9, 2005
5

6 Committee Chair L. Ward Nelson called the meeting to order at 11:05 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 Laurie Caskey-Schreiber

15 Seth Fleetwood
16
17

18 **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**
19

20 **1. REPORT FROM THE BELLINGHAM/WHATCOM PUBLIC FACILITIES**
21 **DISTRICT (AB2005-288)**
22

23 David Warren, Public Facilities District Board Member, stated the written
24 report in the Council packet serves as their quarterly report. The report is in the
25 Council packet. The document brings the Council up-to-date.
26

27 The district has been working on its architectural program and space
28 allocation. There was a successful nationwide competition on the design and
29 structure of the process. They've replaced the former agreements with the City of
30 Bellingham and Mt. Baker Theater with an agreement between the district and Mt.
31 Baker Theater. They clarified the financial and legal relationships and the
32 responsibilities for theater operation and maintenance.
33

34 They are working on the design and fundraising for the new museum. The
35 district's requirement for funding the museum is \$3 million by March 1. The new
36 museum will be a fantastic focal point in the downtown area. They are putting up a
37 billboard showing the new museum on a building on Flora Street.
38

39 Crawford stated he is concerned about expanding the library and eliminating
40 the green space behind the library. Keep the options open about expanding the
41 library in another space in the civic center, to keep the green space. Warren stated
42 the Library Board is discussing the options. Many things are changing. The district
43 continues to think adaptively on all the options.
44

45 Crawford asked about parking. The County is stalled on the issue about jail
46 redevelopment. The County desired to address the public and employee parking

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 through its involvement in the district. One option is multi-level parking in the
2 current parking lot, which can be used by other evening cultural activities.
3

4 Patricia Decker, Public Facilities District Manager, stated the Council packet
5 includes information on operating statements for 2004 and 2005. The sales tax
6 revenue rebate for the district is up. They are still assuming that the revenue from
7 the sales tax rebate over the life of the district will be about \$17 million. There will
8 be a gap of needed funding of \$7 million to \$10 million that they will need to raise
9 from fundraising and grants.

10
11 Crawford asked if the \$524,000 debt for 2005 will be eliminated at some
12 point. Decker stated all debt would be paid off periodically with proceeds from the
13 bond issue. The district has about \$3.6 million in bond proceeds that it will use
14 during the architectural design and permitting. The district will need to go forward
15 with another bond issue to pay for the museum facility. They also have the next
16 phase of the Mt. Baker Theater to do.

17
18 Nelson asked if the budget anticipated being under-funded. Decker stated
19 they are under-budget right now. They are at about 52 percent revenues at the
20 end of June, which is good. The figures in the packet were as of the end of March.
21

22 Nelson stated the community needs to support the museum. Get the word
23 out in the community about the museum. He asked if there have been surveys on
24 what people want in the museum. Decker stated the museum does advertising.
25 The recent motorcycle exhibit had thousands of people come through. The
26 museum includes a range of exhibits to appeal to many people. There is a
27 combination of regional and local draw.

28
29 Roy asked if the museum staff thinks attendance is an issue. Decker stated
30 the staff feels attendance is growing significantly, and the new facility will help
31 attendance.
32

33 The City is working on an overall parking management program, including
34 developing a better revenue stream that includes increased parking fines and fees.
35 The revenue will go into a capital fund to build new parking. They hope the cultural
36 district will provide funding for parking, also. The district monies are limited in
37 terms of what it can support.
38

39 Crawford stated the district is a cool thing happening in the community that
40 isn't making headlines. Many great things are happening in Bellingham. There is
41 great synergy.
42
43

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

- 44
45
46 **1. ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2005 WHATCOM COUNTY BUDGET,**
47 **EIGHTH REQUEST (AB2005-314)**

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

3
4 *Motion carried unanimously.*

5
6
7 **COUNCIL "CONSENT AGENDA" ITEM**

- 8
9 **1. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
10 **CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND THE**
11 **OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL FOR MOBILE HOME REPAIR AND**
12 **REHABILITATION PER COUNTY 2060 ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
13 **RECOMMENDATIONS, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$83,482 (AB2005-319)**

14
15 *Crawford moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.

16
17 *Motion carried unanimously.*

- 18
19 **2. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
20 **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND THE**
21 **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION**
22 **AND WHATCOM LAND TRUST FOR THE FARM AND RANCH LANDS**
23 **PROTECTION PROGRAM, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$405,013 (AB2005-320)**

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

26
27 Nelson asked if the farm on Sand Road is a dairy farm.

28
29 Kraig Olason, Senior Planner, stated it is a berry farm.

30
31 Crawford asked if the City of Ferndale is concerned about the proximity to a
32 potential future urban growth area (UGA). Olason stated it is not.

33
34 Caskey-Schreiber thanked Mr. Olason for working on this process. She asked
35 if he works half time on this program. Olason stated he spends one-third to one-
36 quarter of his time on this project.

37
38 Caskey-Schreiber stated she's heard that the Purchase of Development
39 Rights (PDR) Advisory Committee is becoming disillusioned with the program.
40 Olason stated that from the time they initiated this program, the price of land has
41 escalated in value. Many people are letting the appreciation occur without doing
42 anything. People are reluctant to sign on with the program. Most recently, two
43 applicants withdrew because of house sites on the property. They lost 100 acres
44 just through those little rule decisions.

45
46 Caskey-Schreiber asked if the County could elect to fund the project solely
47 through conservation futures funds. Olason stated it could. Last year, the Council

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 talked about prioritizing the projects that have a match. If federal rules become
2 too stringent, it's an option. Also, it's a new program that people are still checking
3 out. Last, with this kind of growth, some people don't want to be involved.
4

5 Caskey-Schreiber stated she would rather try to accommodate worthwhile
6 applications that don't meet the federal requirements. The program is not getting a
7 lot of applications. Work with the applicants. Olason stated that the County did
8 that with one application. A complication making the larger parcel purchases
9 difficult is the six-pack well rule. If one has more than 30 acres, the parcel loses
10 development rights. Also, many people think they have five acre zoning, but don't
11 realize the true number development rights on the property. The County has to
12 apply the laws and pay for the true number of development rights. That is causing
13 some consternation.
14

15 Caskey-Schreiber stated make sure the money isn't the limiting factor in why
16 these properties aren't being acquired. Olason stated it isn't. The real successful
17 programs have a state component, making it more standardized.
18

19 Caskey-Schreiber stated they need a State PDR program.
20

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

23 **3. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
24 **CONTRACT EXTENSION BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND BOSMAN,**
25 **INC. FOR TRUCK AND TANKER VEHICLE PETROLEUM FUEL SERVICE,**
26 **IN THE AMOUNT OF \$545,007, FOR A TOTAL AMENDED CONTRACT IN**
27 **THE AMOUNT OF \$1,134,161.10 (AB2005-321)**
28

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

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

33 **4. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO AN**
34 **AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND THE WASHINGTON**
35 **STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO ALLOW MUTUAL USE**
36 **OF EACH PARTY'S PROPERTY DURING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A**
37 **BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN LANE ON A REPLACEMENT BRIDGE OVER**
38 **BOULDER CREEK ON SR542 (AB2005-322)**
39

40 Nelson asked if the reason is because it will be beside the bridge.
41

42 Mike McFarlane, Parks and Recreation Department Director, stated the
43 County originally sold property to the State Department of Transportation (DOT) for
44 stormwater management. A trail was to be routed around it. Now, the DOT says it
45 will build a separated bike/pedestrian path on the bridge on one side. It's of
46 mutual benefit for traffic safety and saves the County the cost of building an
47 additional bridge at that location.

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
2 Nelson asked if the trail is for the Ski to Sea race. McFarlane stated it is not
3 now, but it will be.
4

5 Crawford asked where DOT is on funding this project. McFarlane stated it is
6 scheduled in three or four years.
7

8 Crawford stated there is about \$50 million for Whatcom County from the tax.
9 If the initiative passes, it will negate that tax increase. He asked if this project
10 wouldn't occur if that happens. McFarlane stated he's not sure where the funding is
11 coming from. The final design is ready to begin. This project is further along than
12 some of the other projects.
13

14 ***Nelson moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.
15

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

18 **5. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
19 **CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND THE**
20 **DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES FOR TECHNICAL**
21 **ASSISTANCE IN THE AREA OF JUVENILE DETENTION ALTERNATIVES**
22 **THROUGH THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION, IN THE AMOUNT OF**
23 **\$46,475, FOR A TOTAL AMENDED CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF**
24 **\$86,475 (AB2005-323)**
25

26 Nelson stated the County has been looking at getting juvenile detention
27 straightened out. He asked the progress.
28

29 David Reynolds, Juvenile Court Administrator, stated this is the second year
30 of the grant. They have made good progress. They have looked at other
31 successful programs in other jurisdictions.
32

33 Nelson stated there are many dollars for site visits. He asked what they've
34 learned. Reynolds stated they have learned how players in the community are
35 included to speed up that process. In Santa Cruz, California, they looked at a
36 model site where all the players work together to speed cases through the court
37 system and address the needs of the kids in the system.
38

39 Nelson stated he is impressed with the modular planning process to
40 accommodate future growth from National Institute of Corrections. He asked if
41 there is anything different in terms of approaches. Reynolds stated the approach is
42 community collaboration to deter kids from coming into detention or dealing with
43 them immediately when they get there. Santa Cruz is a similar size to Whatcom
44 County. They have collaboration, extended hours of operation for juvenile court,
45 and youth monitoring that can be applied in this community. He will provide to the
46 Council his quarterly progress reports to foundation.
47

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

2
3 ***Motion carried unanimously.***

- 4
5 **6. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
6 **CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND THE**
7 **WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY, TRADE AND**
8 **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR PAYMENT OF WAGES FOR ONE**
9 **WHATCOM COUNTY SHERIFF'S DETECTIVE AND ONE BELLINGHAM**
10 **POLICE DEPARTMENT DETECTIVE, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$94,445**
11 **(AB2005-324)**

12
13 ***Crawford moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.

14
15 ***Motion carried unanimously.***

- 16
17 **7. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
18 **CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND RE**
19 **SOURCES TO PROVIDE CLASSROOM EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO**
20 **PROMOTE WASTE REDUCTION, RECYCLING AND PROPER HOUSEHOLD**
21 **HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$75,000**
22 **(AB2005-325)**

23
24 Nelson asked if this contract amount is the same as in previous years.

25
26 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated he believes it is.

27
28 ***Nelson moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.

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

31
32 Crawford asked if the 45 percent is from the solid waste fund.

33
34 Nelson stated it is.

- 35
36 **8. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
37 **CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND**
38 **ARCHDIOSEAN HOUSING FOR 2060 REPAIR AND RETENTION**
39 **FUNDING FOR REPAIRS AT MT. BAKER APARTMENT BUILDING, IN**
40 **THE AMOUNT OF \$48,505 (AB2005-326)**

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

43
44 Crawford asked if it is recommended by the 2060 committee.

45
46 Nelson stated it is.

47

1 *Motion carried unanimously.*

- 2
3 **9. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO AN**
4 **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT PROGRAM INTERLOCAL**
5 **GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND THE CITY OF**
6 **SUMAS FOR FUNDING A PORTION OF THE HAUL ROAD EXTENSION**
7 **PROJECT IN THE CITY OF SUMAS, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$225,000**
8 **(AB2005-327)**

9
10 Nelson asked if the City of Sumas would maintain the road.

11
12 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated the City of Sumas will own and
13 maintain the road.

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

16
17 *Motion carried unanimously.*

- 18
19 **10. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO AWARD BID #05-**
20 **57 FOR A CHIP SPREADER TO WESTERN POWER EQUIPMENT, IN THE**
21 **AMOUNT OF \$198,787.93 (AB2005-328)**

22
23 *Nelson moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.

24
25 *Motion carried unanimously.*

- 26
27 **11. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
28 **RESIDENTIAL LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND**
29 **MICHAEL HILTI TO LEASE THE HOUSE LOCATED AT 2723 BROADWAY,**
30 **BELLINGHAM, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$895.00 PER MONTH (AB2005-**
31 **329)**

32
33 *Crawford moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.

34
35 *Motion carried unanimously.*

- 36
37 **12. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
38 **PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT WITH THE LUMMI ISLAND**
39 **COMMUNITY LAND TRUST TO PURCHASE PARCEL #370104 539091**
40 **0000 FOR FERRY PARKING, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$110,000 PLUS**
41 **COSTS (AB2005-330)**

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

44
45 Crawford asked the details of this deal.

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 Ken Richardson, Accounting Supervisor, stated the County acquires the
2 Carlisle property next to the house. The long term plan is to put forward a request
3 for proposals (RFP) to use the house in a public domain. The person with the
4 proposal would take care of bringing the house up to standard and maintaining.
5 The County can then design a parking lot around the house and let the use of the
6 house be decided later. It does not preclude the problem of house disposal if there
7 is no proposal to use the house.

8
9 Crawford stated that if the County had surplused the house to begin with, the
10 current parcel has enough space for anticipated parking needs. He asked if the
11 reason is acquiring more space is because the house is being set aside for use.
12 Richardson stated the Carlisle property purchase is for the County to meet its
13 parking needs. If the County had not kept the house, it could have met the parking
14 needs on that property. However, the deal also gives the County three contiguous
15 pieces of beachfront property so there is public access from the ferry dock to the
16 north.

17
18 Crawford asked if the Land Trust is brokering the deal, but does not own the
19 lot. Richardson stated the Land Trust has an option to buy from Carlisle. It will
20 purchase the property for \$110,000 and offer it to the County for \$110,000 plus the
21 cost of the transaction.

22
23 Crawford asked the Executive's recommendation.

24
25 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated the Executive recommends that
26 the Council proceed with acquisition of the Carlisle property. The Executive will
27 offer up an RFP to allow the home to be used for a public purpose with no cost to
28 the County.

29
30 Crawford stated the County is spending too much money on something that
31 didn't need to happen in the first place. The Land Trust had time to present a
32 proposal, but it didn't. He is opposed to keeping the house and spending more
33 money now.

34
35 Nelson stated he was convinced by Mr. Monsen's argument that the County
36 will need this land in the long run for future parking needs. Richardson stated there
37 would be a need for additional parking in the future, whether or not the house is
38 there.

39
40 Nelson stated an additional incentive is the beachfront property, which was
41 demanded by the public for public use. It ties in well with the overall plan.

42
43 ***Motion carried 2-1 with Crawford opposed.***

44
45 **ADDENDA:**

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 **13. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
2 **CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND ANVIL**
3 **CORPORATION FOR REPLACEMENT OF THE HVAC SYSTEM IN**
4 **SUPERIOR COURT #2 AND COMMISSIONERS COURTROOM #3, IN THE**
5 **AMOUNT OF \$24,000 (AB2005-338)**

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

8
9 *(Clerk's Note: End of tape one, side A.)*

10
11 *Motion carried unanimously.*

12
13 **14. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
14 **CONTRACT AMENDMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND EBENAL**
15 **GENERAL FOR WORK ON THE NORTHWEST ANNEX BUILDING, IN THE**
16 **AMOUNT OF \$31,671.84, FOR A TOTAL AMENDED AMOUNT OF**
17 **\$257,809.84 (AB2005-339)**

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

20
21 Crawford stated the one-stop permit center is not yet working fully. Some
22 people still have to go to the Health Department.

23
24 *Motion carried unanimously.*

25
26
27 **OTHER BUSINESS**

28
29 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated a draft interlocal agreement has
30 gone to all cities for comment before the County Council considers the **resolution**
31 **authorizing approval by the Whatcom County Council to provide for**
32 **submission to the qualified voters of the County a proposition authorizing a**
33 **local sales and use tax of one-tenth of one percent as allowed under RCW**
34 **82.14.450, with two-thirds of the proceeds to be used for funding**
35 **countywide emergency medical services and one-third of the proceeds to**
36 **be used for criminal justice purposes(AB2005-336),** which is being introduced
37 tonight.

38
39
40 **ADJOURN**

41
42 The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

43
44
45
46 _____
47 Jill Nixon, Minutes Transcription

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
2
3
4
5
6
7
8

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

L. Ward Nelson, Committee Chair