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WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
**Finance and Administrative Services Committee**

March 28, 2006

Committee Chair Sam Crawford called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m. in the Council Chambers, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, Washington.

Present:

L. Ward Nelson  
Carl Weimer

Absent:

None

Also Present:

Laurie Caskey-Schreiber  
Barbara Brenner  
Dan McShane

**COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**

**1. ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2006 WHATCOM COUNTY BUDGET, FIFTH REQUEST, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,209,371 (AB2006-145)**

***Nelson moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council. He asked what the jail fund is.

Wendy Jones, Chief of Corrections, stated it is the one-tenth of one percent sales tax passed on November 2004 for operations.

Nelson asked about \$56 cost per inmate charged by Snohomish County. He asked how much the Whatcom County spends per day. Jones stated Whatcom County spends \$61 per inmate per day this year.

Nelson asked if the County could send more inmates to Snohomish County. Jones stated Snohomish County doesn't have enough jail space for all of Whatcom County's inmates, and won't take many of the offenders. Snohomish County takes Whatcom County's low risk offenders.

Nelson asked if Snohomish County's cost of \$56 per day is a reflection of better efficiency in their new jail. Jones stated it is a reflection of the fact they have more people to divide their expenditures. Next year, Whatcom County's per day cost will go down because jails are a heavily fixed-cost business. The more people, the cheaper the per-unit cost.

***Motion carried unanimously.***

**COUNCIL "CONSENT AGENDA" ITEM**

**1. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO AWARD BID #06-03 TO THE SOLE BIDDER, I.M.A.C. INC., FOR THE FABRICATION AND INSTALLATION OF BUNKS IN THE JAIL, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$28,500 (AB2006-154)**

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

3  
4 **Motion carried 2-0 with Nelson absent.**

- 5  
6 2. **REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE PURCHASE OF 40 LAPTOP COMPUTERS AND**  
7 **RELATED ACCESSORIES FOR USE IN SHERIFF VEHICLES USING A CITY OF**  
8 **LYNNWOOD BID AND INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT (VENDOR DAYTECH, INC.)**  
9 **IN THE AMOUNT OF \$223,660.94 (FUNDS ALLOCATED FROM A HOMELAND**  
10 **SECURITY GRANT THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY**  
11 **MANAGEMENT) (AB2006-155)**

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

14  
15 **Motion carried 2-0 with Nelson absent.**

- 16  
17 3. **REQUEST APPROVAL TO USE THE DISCOUNT PRICING OFFERED ON PUBLIC**  
18 **WORKS BID #06-27 FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF PANEL**  
19 **SYSTEMS AND SUPPLEMENTAL FURNITURE FOR THE PUBLIC DEFENDER'S**  
20 **OFFICE NEW LOCATION UTILIZING NEXT LOWEST RESPONSIVE BIDDER,**  
21 **TRICO OFFICE INTERIORS (LOW BIDDER WITHDREW THEIR OFFER FOR**  
22 **THIS PROJECT), IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000 (AB2006-156)**

23  
24 Brad Bennett, Finance Division Manager, stated the administration bid included  
25 language requesting a price quote if the County purchases additional furniture. In this  
26 situation, the low bidder couldn't supply the type of modules needed by the Public  
27 Defender's Office.

28 Weimer asked the number of employees in the Public Defender's Office.

29 Mike Russell, Facilities Division Manager, stated there are 37 or 47 employees in the  
30 Public Defender's Office.

31 Weimer stated the cost works out to about \$3,000 per person for office equipment.  
32 That seems expensive.

33 Linda Harduar, Administrative Assistant, stated the most expensive cost is from ten  
34 or 15 cubicles that must be eight feet high with doors. The cubicles must be soundproof for  
35 confidentiality. They are moveable and of a good quality that should last. The rest of the  
36 existing office equipment will be moved.

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

39  
40 **Motion carried 2-0 with Nelson absent.**

- 41  
42 4. **REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A LEASE**  
43 **AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND BLACK MOUNTAIN**  
44 **FORESTRY CENTER FOR A PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL EXHIBIT AREA AND**  
45 **ARBORETUM AT SILVER LAKE COUNTY PARK, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1.00 PER**  
46 **YEAR (AB2006-157)**

47  
48 **Crawford moved** to recommend approval to the full Council.

Caskey-Schreiber stated a nearby resident had some complaints, but the forestry center will hopefully run a cleaner operation. There have been excess equipments and trucks. The operation that has been going on does take away from the beautiful character of the homestead.

Mike McFarlane, Parks and Recreation Department Director, stated the Parks Commission met onsite with members of the Black Mountain Forestry Center. Also, Parks Department staff met out there and talked about several things that needed to be corrected, including materials that were left out in trucks and whether the trucks would be restored or moved offsite. Those issues were taken care of. The center will move the informational panel along the driveway into the exhibit area to maintain that view. There was a proposal to establish an arboretum for educational and practical purposes. It will also screen some of the equipment. There is an element of landscaping. The Park Commission has given tentative approval. It will be an enhancement to the park and added value to the forestry center. They have addressed all the concerns regarding aesthetics. There is value to the center. It is used by schools and is a tourism draw. The agreement is good. The Property Management Committee also reviewed this. The Executive has been kept apprised of the status as they've moved forward.

Caskey-Schreiber asked if the Parks Department gets involved in the curriculum. McFarlane stated the forestry center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. It takes care of its own curriculum. The Parks Department will hire someone who will coordinate those interpretive and educational programs happening on all parks properties.

Caskey-Schreiber stated that's a good idea. One citizen concern was using taxpayer property to promote an agenda.

Brenner stated the County has addressed the concerns of the citizen. Councilmembers should go on one of the tours the forestry center provides. In addition to schools, people from other countries go on these tours. This is specifically about the history of logging in the county. The perspective is all historical.

Weimer asked if the County has recourse if the semi-trailers show up again. It looks like it does. He asked if the County has recourse regarding the curriculum. McFarlane stated the center has outlined the curriculum to the Park Commission, which meets annually with the Black Mountain Forestry Board. Their focus is historical.

Crawford stated the County is allowed to terminate the contact without cause. Even though there is a five-year lease, the County can terminate the contract with 90 days' notice. He asked if the landscape, as presented in Exhibit B, is voluntary and not required by contract. McFarlane stated it is.

***Motion carried 2-0 with Nelson absent.***

5. **REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND WOMENCARE SHELTER AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES PROVIDING FUNDING FROM COUNTY 2060 OPERATIONS FUNDS FOR AN ADDITIONAL 400 HOURS OF CASE MANAGEMENT TO INCREASE ASSISTANCE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS RESIDING AT THE WOMENCARE SHELTER, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,000 (AB2006-158)**

***Weimer moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.

1  
2 **Motion carried 2-0 with Nelson absent.**  
3

- 4 **6. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
5 **CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND DUMAS & ASSOCIATES, INC.**  
6 **TO PROVIDE FACILITATION AND COORDINATION SERVICES TO THE HEALTH**  
7 **DEPARTMENT AND THE FIVE WORK GROUPS ENGAGED IN THE PANDEMIC**  
8 **INFLUENZA PLANNING FROM MARCH THROUGH JULY 2006, IN THE AMOUNT**  
9 **OF \$31,200 (AB2006-159)**

10  
11 **Crawford moved** to recommend approval to the full Council. He asked the funding  
12 source.

13  
14 Terry Hinz, Assistant Director, stated funding is all from grant dollars from the  
15 federal and State governments.

16  
17 Weimer asked if they ever considered doing this in-house. Hinz stated there was  
18 that consideration, but they didn't have the resources to do it. It was a priority project for  
19 the Executive, to start right away.

20  
21 Crawford stated he is not in favor of spending general fund dollars on this issue.  
22 He's glad there are grant fund dollars.

23  
24 Caskey-Schreiber stated it is similar to the Whatcom Leadership program. It is a  
25 similar model, to groom leadership to respond in a crisis situation. Hinz stated this program  
26 is like the Whatcom Leadership program. They are trying to build relationships with the  
27 community in advance, in case there is an event, and they will have resources to call upon.

28  
29 **Motion carried 2-0 with Nelson absent.**  
30

- 31 **7. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
32 **COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND THE US**  
33 **ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS FOR REHABILITATION OF A NON-FEDERAL**  
34 **FLOOD CONTROL WORK PROJECT FOR BERTRAND CREEK'S LEFT BANK, IN**  
35 **THE AMOUNT OF \$666,000 (AB2006-160)**  
36

37 Paula Cooper, River and Flood Division Manager, stated these are two separate items  
38 because they are separate levee segments with separate agreements. Staff asked the Army  
39 Corps of Engineers to delay the repair so the County could use their cost-share money in an  
40 improved project to set back the levees. The concept for the new levee system is in the  
41 Council packet.

42  
43 Typically, this would go through the Project Review Subcommittee for a formal  
44 recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to implement the project at a specific cost  
45 share. Unfortunately, the meeting didn't happen, so there is no recommendation from the  
46 subcommittee. The full Flood Control Zone District Advisory Committee met, but they didn't  
47 have the final cost, only an estimate that was a little higher than the actual cost. They  
48 didn't have any acquisition costs. The committee generally supports the project. The  
49 project is in the Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan. A diking district  
50 committee member said it is time to fix the levees correctly once and for all.  
51

1 The cost-share is typically 85/15. That would have been a cost to Diking District of  
2 about \$150,000, which is well beyond their means. The district will contribute \$20,000 to  
3 the project. That is a sizeable contribution for the diking district.  
4

5 **Crawford moved** to recommend approval of this item and Consent Agenda item  
6 eight to the full Council.  
7

8 Weimer asked if this is an opportunity to do salmon enhancement. Cooper stated  
9 the setback includes a vegetative buffer between the levee and the creek.  
10

11 **Motion carried 2-0 with Nelson absent.**  
12

- 13 **8. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
14 **COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND THE US**  
15 **ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS FOR REHABILITATION OF A NON-FEDERAL**  
16 **FLOOD CONTROL WORK PROJECT FOR BERTRAND CREEK'S RIGHT BANK, IN**  
17 **THE AMOUNT OF \$491,500 (AB2006-161)**  
18

19 See Consent Agenda item seven for discussion and approval of this item.  
20

- 21 **9. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
22 **CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND WALKER AND ASSOCIATES**  
23 **TO COLLECT DIGITAL ORTHOPHOTOGRAPHS ON THE MAINSTEM NOOKSACK**  
24 **RIVER TO BE USED IN THE SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR**  
25 **GEOMORPHIC MAPPING, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$34,800 (AB2006-162)**  
26

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

29 **Motion carried 2-0 with Nelson absent.**  
30

- 31 **10. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A SUB-**  
32 **RECIPIENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND THE CITY OF**  
33 **BELLINGHAM, BELLINGHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE PARTIAL**  
34 **FUNDING FOR ONE FTE FROM THE BELLINGHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
35 **ASSIGNED TO THE NORTHWEST REGIONAL DRUG TASK FORCE, IN THE**  
36 **AMOUNT OF \$47,222.50 (AB2006-163)**  
37

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

40 **Motion carried 2-0 with Nelson absent.**  
41

- 42 **11. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO AN**  
43 **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT PROGRAM INTERLOCAL LOAN AND**  
44 **GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND THE CITY OF SUMAS**  
45 **TO FINANCE THE BOWEN FIELD EXPANSION PROJECT, IN THE AMOUNT OF**  
46 **\$350,000 (AB2006-164)**  
47

48 **Crawford moved** to recommend approval to the full Council. He asked the  
49 recommendation of the Economic Development Investment (EDI) Board.  
50

51 Brad Bennett, Finance Division manager, stated it was approved.  
52

53 **Motion carried 2-0 with Nelson absent.**

1  
2 **12. RESOLUTION IN THE MATTER OF THE SALE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY AND THE**  
3 **SETTING OF A DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING THEREON PURSUANT TO WCC**  
4 **1.10 (AB2006-165)**

5  
6 **Crawford moved** to recommend approval to the full Council.  
7

8 **Motion carried 2-0 with Nelson absent.**  
9

10  
11 **OTHER BUSINESS**

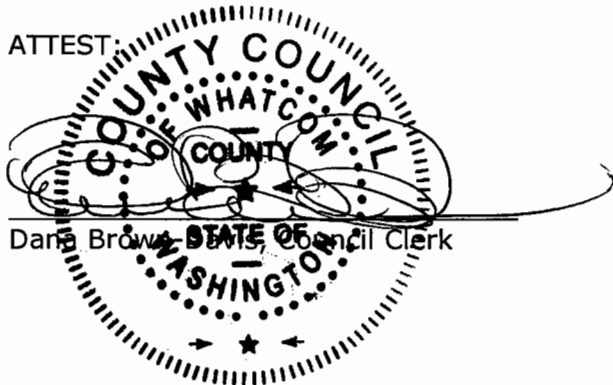
12  
13 There was no other business.  
14

15  
16 **ADJOURN**

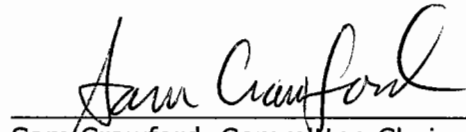
17  
18 The meeting adjourned at 11:41 a.m.  
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22 \_\_\_\_\_  
23 Jill Nixon, Minutes Transcription

24  
25 ATTEST:

26  
27   
28  
29  
30 \_\_\_\_\_  
31 Dan Brown, Council Clerk

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sam Crawford, Committee Chair