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WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
**Special County Council**

April 17, 2007

Council Vice-Chair Seth Fleetwood called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. in the Whatcom County Civic Center Annex, Second Floor Meeting Room, 322 N. Commercial, Bellingham, Washington.

Present:

Barbara Brenner  
Dan McShane  
Sam Crawford  
Laurie Caskey-Schreiber  
L. Ward Nelson

Absent:

Carl Weimer

**1. DISCUSSION WITH COUNTY EXECUTIVE PETE KREMEN AND DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR DEWEY DESLER REGARDING WHATCOM COUNTY JAIL SITING RECOMMENDATIONS**

Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated he would provide the Council with an update. They are working on larger capital facility issues that the Council has already adopted. Now, focus on the new main jail. They have identified certain sites. He submitted and read from a handout (*on file*) on the future main jail and public safety complex. He will come to the Council to present information on resources for this project and to request authority for entering into contracts for the site selection analysis work that has to happen.

Brenner stated they should select the site as soon as possible. Desler stated they have to respect the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) process and other proper procedures. He continued to read from the handout on the site selection process.

Nelson asked the top four heavy-weighted criteria. Desler stated there are 14 criteria in the capital facility chapter. They have to use all of the criteria.

Nelson asked if a site will be excluded from consideration if it doesn't meet one of the 14 criteria. Desler stated it does not. Any criterion can be mitigated in some way. There are transportation, zoning, utility, cost and other issues.

Caskey-Schreiber asked if they are talking about the Slater Road site. Desler stated they must do appropriate analysis on any site before making a decision. The administration would come back to the Council with a request for proposal (RFP) process.

Fleetwood asked if the Council will participate in selecting the criteria.

Crawford stated the utility issues should be restricted to water and sewer. Desler stated the utility considerations would include energy and traffic.

Desler stated they are doing some financial planning on capital facility issues. That will come forward to the Council for discussion later in the year. He would like to stay away from obligating the general fund for bond repayment.

1 Crawford asked if the Law Enforcement Officer and Fire Fighter (LEOFF) set-aside  
2 was sufficient to pay that debt. Desler stated that it probably will cover most of the debt.  
3 They will know more in four or five years.  
4


5 Nelson stated the criteria must be clearly defined so they can decide which site  
6 makes the best sense. The next step for the administration and Council is to review the  
7 criteria. Desler stated the administration would bring forward the criteria for Council input.  
8 Also, include the cities of Ferndale and Bellingham in selecting the criteria.  
9

10 McShane stated those cities need to participate because there is no location that is  
11 already appropriately zoned.  
12

13 Desler stated this is a multi-year project that will be the most significant public  
14 facility developed for many years to come.  
15

16  
17 **ADJOURN**

18 The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

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23 Jill Nixon, Minutes Transcription  
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25 The Council approved these minutes on May 22, 2007.

26  
27 ATTEST  
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Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Carl Weimer, Council Chair