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

February 24, 2009

Committee Chair Sam Crawford called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, Washington.

Present:

L. Ward Nelson  
Bob Kelly

Absent:

None

Also Present:

Carl Weimer  
Seth Fleetwood  
Barbara Brenner

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

**1. PROJECT UPDATE ON THE MT. BAKER FOOTHILLS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VISITOR CENTER (AB2009-017)**

The following people spoke:

- Carole MacDonald, Mt. Baker Foothills Chamber of Commerce and The Inn at Mt. Baker Owner, who submitted information and gave a presentation.
- Russ Angus, Bellingham.
- Ellen Baker, 9945 Mt. Baker Highway, Glacier, who stated she is concerned about this project as a taxpayer.

Topics of the presentation included the history of the Chamber; site selection, purchase, and development of a Chamber visitor center on the south side of the highway, and; the Mt. Baker Foothills Foundation.

Discussion included the cost of and funding for the building; planned visitor center services; funding for increased operational costs; Nooksack Tribe's previous plans for a visitor center; historical plans for the property; leasing opportunities; changes to the lodging tax laws; better uses for the tax money.

**COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**

**1. ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2009 WHATCOM COUNTY BUDGET, SECOND REQUEST, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,084,653 (AB2009-113)**

This item was divided and substituted with two separate items, below.

**1. ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2009 WHATCOM COUNTY BUDGET, SECOND REQUEST, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$768,266 (AB2009-113)**

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

1 The following people spoke:  
2

- 3 • Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, gave a staff report.
- 4 • Brad Bennett, Administrative Services Department.
- 5 • John Hutchings, Public Works Department.
- 6

7 Discussion included the allocation of funds and changing cost centers; cost-tracking  
8 for stormwater management, and; the County capacity to build a new jail.  
9

10 ***Motion carried 3-0.***

11  
12 **2. RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2009 WHATCOM COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL**  
13 **ZONE DISTRICT BUDGET, FIRST REQUEST, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$316,387**  
14 **(AB2009-113A)**

15  
16 ***Nelson moved*** to recommend approval to the Flood Control Zone District Board of  
17 Supervisors.

18  
19 ***Motion carried 3-0.***  
20

21  
22 **COUNCIL "CONSENT AGENDA" ITEMS**

23  
24 **1. REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A SALE**  
25 **AND PURCHASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND PEEPLES**  
26 **ENTERPRISES, INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE BUILDING AT 215 N.**  
27 **COMMERCIAL STREET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,800,000 (AB2009-119)**  
28

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

30  
31 ***Motion carried 3-0.***  
32

33 The following person spoke:  
34

- 35 • Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, gave a staff report.
- 36

37 There was discussion about purchasing public buildings with REET funds and the  
38 subsequent sale of those buildings.  
39

40 **2. REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
41 **CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND WHATCOM GUARDIAN AD**  
42 **LITEM SERVICES, LLC FOR SERVICES FOR 2009 IN THE AMOUNT OF**  
43 **\$310,000 (AB2009-120)**  
44

45 ***Kelly moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.

46  
47 The following person spoke:  
48

- 49 • Chuck Snyder, Superior Court Judge.
- 50 • Dave Reynolds, Juvenile Court.
- 51

52 There was discussion about the efficiency of the guardian ad litem (GAL) process;  
53 GAL registry and training requirements, and; GAL appointees.

1  
2 (Clerk's Note: End of tape one, side A.)  
3

4 Discussion continued on training, the GAL appointment process, and a GAL registry.  
5

6 Snyder stated the court has made it clear to the guardians ad litem services when  
7 they entered into this contract that this budget is all the money that is available this year,  
8 they must handle the entire caseload with the amount budgeted, and the County doesn't  
9 have more money for this service. The Court doesn't intend to ask for more money for  
10 these folks from the Council.  
11

12 Brenner stated she is concerned that some people are appointed to GAL positions  
13 who shouldn't be appointed. The GAL appointment process hasn't worked well. Don't use  
14 the same people for the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program, or the County  
15 will experience the same problems. She is concerned about getting adequate services for  
16 the kids from these paid positions who haven't been able to do that before.  
17

18 **Motion carried 3-0.**  
19

- 20 **3. REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
21 **CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND NW YOUTH SERVICES FOR**  
22 **THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TEEN COURT PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF**  
23 **\$18,500 (AB2009-121)**  
24

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

27 **Motion carried 3-0.**  
28

- 29 **4. REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO AUTHORIZE THE**  
30 **PURCHASE OF LIGHT BARS AND RELATED EQUIPMENT FOR SHERIFF'S**  
31 **DEPARTMENT VEHICLES USING WASHINGTON STATE CONTRACT FROM**  
32 **VENDOR AUTO ADDITIONS, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$62,520.48 (AB2009-**  
33 **122)**  
34

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

37 **Motion carried 3-0.**  
38

- 39 **5. REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO AWARD BID #09-09**  
40 **TO LOW BIDDER, MCASPHALT INDUSTRIES, FOR DELIVERY AND SUPPLY OF**  
41 **ASPHALTIC EMULSIONS IN THE ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$950,000 (AB2009-**  
42 **123)**  
43

44 *Kelly moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.  
45

46 **Motion carried 3-0.**  
47

- 48 **6. REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO PURCHASE**  
49 **LIGNOSITE FOR DUST CONTROL ON COUNTY ROADS FROM SOLE VENDOR,**  
50 **MEENDERINCK, LLC, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000 (AB2009-124)**  
51

52 *Nelson moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.  
53

1           **Motion carried 3-0.**  
2

- 3   **7.    REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO AN**  
4    **AMENDED CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND CATHOLIC**  
5    **COMMUNITY SERVICES TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING IN ORDER TO**  
6    **INCREASE HOUSING CASE MANAGEMENT CAPACITY NEEDED TO HANDLE**  
7    **INCREASED CASELOADS (IN ASSOCIATION WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE**  
8    **WHATCOM HOMELESS SERVICE CENTER) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,094 FOR A**  
9    **TOTAL AMENDED AMOUNT OF \$103,613 (AB2009-125)**

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

12  
13       The following person spoke:

- 14  
15           • Gail deHoog, Health Department.

16  
17       There was discussion on a citizen looking for housing at local hotels.

18  
19       **Motion carried 3-0.**

- 20  
21   **8.    REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO AN**  
22    **AMENDED CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND THE OPPORTUNITY**  
23    **COUNCIL TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING IN ORDER TO INCREASE**  
24    **HOUSING CASE MANAGEMENT CAPACITY NEEDED TO INCREASE CASE**  
25    **MANAGEMENT AND PROGRAM INTAKE CAPACITY (IN ASSOCIATION WITH**  
26    **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WHATCOM HOMELESS SERVICE CENTER) IN THE**  
27    **AMOUNT OF \$20,539, FOR A TOTAL AMENDED AMOUNT OF \$134,593**  
28    **(AB2009-126)**

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

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32       **Motion carried 3-0.**

- 33  
34   **9.    REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
35    **CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND THE WASHINGTON**  
36    **ASSOCIATION OF SHERIFFS AND POLICE CHIEFS FOR THE PURCHASE OF**  
37    **SMALL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES TO AID IN COMBATING THE**  
38    **METHAMPHETAMINE PROBLEM IN WHATCOM COUNTY IN THE AMOUNT OF**  
39    **\$18,804.30 (AB2009-127)**

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41       **Kelly moved** to recommend approval to the full Council.

42  
43       **Motion carried 3-0.**

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45  
46    **OTHER BUSINESS**

47  
48       Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated the federal budget includes funding for  
49    Whatcom County projects including Lake Whatcom stormwater planning, data integration,  
50    and border costs.

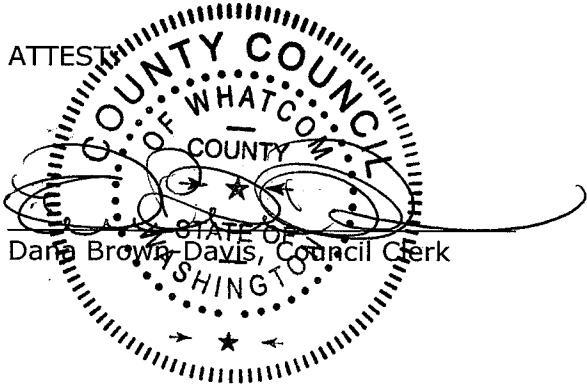
51  
52       There was discussion of federal funding of Sheriff vehicles and coordination amongst  
53    jurisdictions regarding new programs and costs that impact Whatcom County.

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**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jill Nixon, Minutes Transcription

ATTEST  
  
Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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

