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WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
Finance and Administrative Services Committee

March 31, 2009

Committee Chair Sam Crawford called the meeting to order at 11:14 a.m. in the Council Chambers, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, Washington.

Present:

L. Ward Nelson
Bob Kelly

Absent:

None

Also Present:

Seth Fleetwood
Laurie Caskey-Schreiber
Barbara Brenner
Carl Weimer

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. OVERVIEW OF THE CURRENT STATE OF THE DAIRY INDUSTRY (AB2009-162)

The following people spoke:

- Debbie Vanderveen, Veen Huizen Farms, submitted information (*on file*).
- Jeremy Vissar, Sumas, submitted information (*on file*).
- Ed Block, Lynden.
- Jason Vanderveen, Veen Huizen Farms.
- Sherm Polinder, Farm Friends President
- Chuck Antholt, Lummi Island.
- Carl Tayney, Carlgill Animal Nutrition, Ferndale, submitted information (*on file*).
- Henry Bierlink, Farm Friends.

Discussion included maintaining dairy and milk farms in Whatcom County, the reduction of dairy operations and milk production; feed costs; geographic areas nationwide where dairy farms have migrated; regulations in other states and jurisdictions; processing capabilities in Whatcom County and other areas; disadvantages of the local dairy industry; the reasons for a shrinking land base; how to maintain local feed; the effect of bio-fuels on feed costs; mitigation required on agricultural land; the industry's farm gate value; waiving or delaying property taxes as a farming benefit; anticipated milk prices for the remainder of the year; whether soybeans can be grown in Whatcom County; the Asian market; the value of the dollar; public policy issues that impact alternative income sources for farmers; getting an anaerobic digester in Whatcom County; the cash flow among the feed suppliers, dairies, and processors, and; public policy that could affect land costs.

Crawford stated the County Council would like to receive information from the farming community that would present ideas and suggestions for solutions. The Council will rely on the community to drive the effort to save the industry.

1 Nelson stated the Council can put the agricultural protection overlay (APO) on all
2 rural lands used for agriculture.

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4
5 **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**

6
7 **1. ORDINANCE REPLACING WCC 1.14 (IN ITS ENTIRETY), DESIGNATING THE**
8 **WHATCOM COUNTY VOTING PRECINCTS BASED ON NEW ANNEXATIONS,**
9 **LANGUAGE UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS TO BOUNDARY DESCRIPTIONS**
10 **(AB2009-152)**

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

13
14 Shirley Forslof, Auditor, gave a staff report.

15
16 ***Motion carried 3-0.***

17
18 **2. ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2009 WHATCOM COUNTY BUDGET, THIRD**
19 **REQUEST, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$720,867 (AB2009-153)**

20
21 The following people spoke:

- 22
23
 - Brad Bennett, Administrative services Department, gave a staff report.
 - Doug Chadwick, Sheriff Deputy
 - Eric Schlehuger, Public Works Department

24
25
26
27 Discussion included whether the money for the Economic Development Council (EDC)
28 is additional or budgeted; how the night vision goggles would be used; whether they can
29 use existing tanks instead of buying the biodiesel tank, and; the type of grain used for the
30 biodiesel.

31
32 Nelson stated he would like to know exactly how the night vision goggles will be
33 used. They are spending a lot of money on equipment.

34
35 Crawford stated the supplemental budget forms should be completed fully, unless
36 there is a security issue.

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

39
40 ***Crawford moved*** to amend the ordinance to withdraw EDC funding and address this
41 funding specifically in two weeks.

42
43 ***Motion to amend carried 2-1 with Kelly opposed.***

44
45 ***Motion to approve as amended carried 3-0.***

46
47 **3. RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2009 WHATCOM COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL**
48 **ZONE DISTRICT BUDGET, SECOND REQUEST, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$54,000**
49 **(AB2009-154) (COUNCIL ACTING AS THE FLOOD CONTROL ZONE DISTRICT**
50 **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS)**

51
52 This item was not discussed.

1
2 **COUNCIL "CONSENT AGENDA" ITEMS**
3

- 4 1. **REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO AWARD THE**
5 **BID AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SINGLE SOURCE BIDDER, THE**
6 **BELLINGHAM HERALD, FOR OFFICIAL PRINTING SERVICES (AB2009-164)**
7

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

10 *Motion carried 3-0.*
11

- 12 2. **REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
13 **CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND THE BELLINGHAM FOOD**
14 **BANK FOR THE COLLECTION, WAREHOUSING AND DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD**
15 **TO LOCAL FOOD BANKS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000 (AB2009-165)**
16

17 *Kelly moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.
18

19 Brad Bennett, Administrative Services Department, gave a staff report.
20

21 Discussion included whether the County can do this, since they're doing it through
22 collection, warehousing, and distribution and local food bank staffing.
23

24 *Motion carried 3-0.*
25

- 26 3. **REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE**
27 **SUPPLEMENT #1 TO THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM**
28 **COUNTY AND THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM FOR THE DESIGN AND**
29 **CONSTRUCTION OF WEST ILLINOIS STREET AND TIMPSON WAY (AB2009-**
30 **166)**
31

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

34 Jim Karcher, Public Works Department, gave a staff report.
35

36 *Motion carried 3-0.*
37

- 38 4. **REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
39 **CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND ESA ADOLFSON, INC. FOR**
40 **CONSULTANT SERVICES FOR THE BIRCH BAY WATERSHED ACTION PLAN IN**
41 **THE AMOUNT OF \$26,000 (AB2009-167)**
42

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

45 David Stalheim, Planning and Development Services Department Director, gave a
46 staff report.
47

48 *Motion carried 3-0.*
49

- 50 5. **REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
51 **CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND COLUMBIA VALUATION**
52 **GROUP, INC. FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING THE VALUE OF**

1 **CONSERVATION EASEMENT PURCHASES FOR FARMLAND PRESERVATION IN**
2 **THE AMOUNT OF \$20,000 (AB2009-168)**

3
4 *Kelly moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.

5
6 David Stalheim, Planning and Development Services Department Director, gave a
7 staff report.

8
9 Discussion included why the County doesn't use the County's hired appraiser.

10
11 *Motion carried 3-0.*

- 12
13 **6. REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO AWARD BID #09-10**
14 **AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND LOW**
15 **BIDDER IMAC FOR THE UPGRADE OF THE EXHAUST SYSTEM AT CENTRAL**
16 **SHOP IN THE AMOUNT OF \$135,301.05 (AB2009-169)**

17
18 *Crawford moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.

19
20 *Motion carried 3-0.*

- 21
22 **7. REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO AWARD BID #09-17**
23 **FOR THE ANNUAL DELIVERY AND SUPPLY OF ASPHALTIC MIXES IN THE**
24 **AMOUNT OF APPROXIMATELY \$85,000 - PUBLIC WORKS WILL AWARD ALL**
25 **BIDS AND SELECT THE VENDOR THAT HAS THE BEST VALUE BASED ON**
26 **PRICE AND COST TO TRANSPORT TO JOB SITE (AB2009-170)**

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

29
30 *Motion carried 3-0.*

- 31
32 **8. REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO USE WASHINGTON**
33 **STATE CONTRACT TO PURCHASE THE ANNUAL SUPPLY OF GLASS BEADS FOR**
34 **TRAFFIC MARKING PAINT FROM VENDORS, ALPINE PRODUCTS, INC. AND**
35 **POTTER INDUSTRIES IN THE ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$77,000 (AB2009-**
36 **171)**

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

39
40 *Motion carried 3-0.*

- 41
42 **9. REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO AWARD BID #08-94**
43 **TO LOW BIDDER, NORTHWEST PUMP AND EQUIPMENT, FOR THE SUPPLY OF**
44 **AN ABOVE GROUND FUEL STORAGE TANK AND PUMP STATION FOR**
45 **DISPENSING BIODIESEL FOR COUNTY VEHICLES IN THE AMOUNT OF**
46 **\$179,264.45 (AB2009-172)**

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

49
50 Discussion included using algae or methane instead of soybean biodiesel; the
51 County's decision to move toward biodiesel use, and; low-sulfur diesel.

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

- 3 **10. REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
4 **CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL FOR**
5 **SHELTER PLUS CARE HOUSING IMPLEMENTATION SERVICES AND MASTER**
6 **LEASE HOUSING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$86,763 (AB2009-173)**
7

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

10 Brad Bennett, Administrative Services Department, gave a staff report.

11 Brenner stated she would like an update on this item.

12 **Motion carried 3-0.**
13

- 14 **11. RESOLUTION ORDERING THE CANCELLATION OF CHECKS MORE THAN TWO**
15 **YEARS OLD (AB2009-174)**
16

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


19 **Motion carried 3-0.**
20
21

22 **OTHER BUSINESS**
23

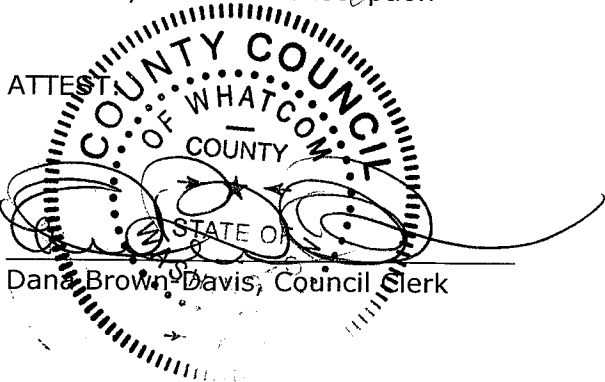
24 Crawford stated he reminds councilmembers of the substance abuse and mental
25 health stakeholders meeting tomorrow. The State legislature is cutting \$1 million from the
26 County Health Department, which is matched equally, for a total cut of \$2 million.
27
28
29

30 **ADJOURN**
31

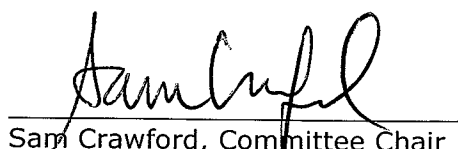
32 The meeting adjourned at 12:43 p.m.
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38 Jill Nixon, Minutes Transcription
39

40 ATTEST

41 
42 Dan Brown Davis, Council Clerk
43
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46

 WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
 WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON


 Sam Crawford, Committee Chair

