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WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
Finance and Administrative Services Committee

April 14, 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:

Laurie Caskey-Schreiber
Barbara Brenner
Carl Weimer
Seth Fleetwood

SPECIAL PRESENTATION/COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. PRESENTATION BY THE GLACIER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REGARDING ACTIVITIES AND PURPOSE, AND A POSSIBLE DISCUSSION OF THE CURRENT LODGING TAX ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERSHIP AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESS (AB2009-188)

The following people spoke:

- Jan Eskola, Glacier Chamber of Commerce, submitted information (*on file*).
- Ellen Baker, 9945 Mt. Baker Highway, submitted information (*on file*).
- Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, explained the process for submitting an application to receive lodging tax funds.

Discussion included the history, background, and membership of the Chamber; Chamber events; involvement in community meetings; Chamber benefits; an application for use of funds from the lodging tax fund; the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee; combining efforts with the Foothills Chamber of Commerce; including businesses outside the Glacier community; using private resources instead of government resources to sustain Chamber activities; existing revenue and expenditures in the lodging tax fund; finding event sponsors and developing a business plan; considering the future of revenues given a pending annexation; funds being spent on tourism-related activities, and; using money for staff positions.

Crawford asked the Executive's Office to provide more information on how the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee meets and makes decisions. He would like the minutes of their meetings, member information, and the requirements so the committee can have another brief discussion in two weeks. They may need to make decisions on thresholds of community involvement, matching funds, and geographic area. None of that is defined.

Caskey-Schreiber stated the Foothills Chamber of Commerce has promoted the area. She wants to figure out the redundancy issue. She is willing to support local organizations for communities, but she needs to figure out the redundancy issue.

Crawford stated the Council will probably not provide funds to the Glacier Chamber this year, but the Chamber should be persistent with the Council. The Glacier should keep

1 the Council updated on its activities, get corporate sponsorships, and begin to build a record
2 of credibility. Someone from the Chamber should be appointed to the Lodging Tax
3 Committee.

4
5
6 **OTHER BUSINESS**

7
8 (Clerk's Note: End of tape one, side A.)
9

10 **DISCUSSION ON FUNDING REQUEST FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
11 **COUNCIL (EDC) (AB2009-153)**

- 12
13
 - Nancy Jordan, Northwest Economic Council, submitted and read from a presentation (*on file*). The Economic Development Council (NEC) has changed its name to the Northwest Economic Council. She described examples of the companies that the EDC has helped.
 - Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, spoke about the history of County funding to the NEC and the supplemental budget request.
 - Bruce McCormick, Northwest Economic Council Chair, submitted information (*on file*) and spoke about his background and the future of the Economic Council.

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23 Discussion included the name change; the organizations restructure; a recent
24 community survey; convening industry meetings; working with existing industries; retaining
25 family-wage jobs in the community; educating and counseling companies; requests to the
26 NEC from businesses and companies that want to either start up or expand; a recent
27 funding request from the County; developing a regional strategy, and; the strength of the
28 new current NEC management.

29
30 Caskey-Schreiber stated the Council should consider whether it's worthwhile to
31 continue funding the NEC to manage the Economic Development Investment (EDI) funds.
32 They are not getting as many applications as they once did. More of the funds should go
33 into the community. She wants accountability to the taxpayers. She will support the new
34 NEC if they commit to bringing forward results. The Council should approve a one-year
35 agreement instead of a two-year agreement so it can review their progress again in a year.

36
37 Nelson stated the Northwest Economic Council should reach out to local businesses
38 that have succeeded and would be willing to help the NEC set up business plans to attract
39 new businesses and retain existing businesses. Use existing community resources to
40 identify problems and barriers to business.

41
42 Fleetwood stated new management can't guarantee success in attracting new
43 businesses. The NEC should acknowledge that the approach needs to be fundamentally
44 different from what it has been.

45
46 Desler stated the administration will bring forward a new supplemental budget
47 request for this item.
48
49

50 **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**

- 51
52 **1. REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO AN INTERLOCAL**
53 **AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND THE WHATCOM**
54 **CONSERVATION DISTRICT TO IMPLEMENT A PILOT SMALL FARM COST-**

1 **SHARE PROJECT IN THE DRAYTON HARBOR SHELLFISH PROTECTION**
2 **DISTRICT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000 (AB2009-190)**

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

5
6 Scarlett Tang, Public Works Department, gave a staff report.

7
8 Discussion included funds for staffing and keeping flexible in how much money is
9 given to farmers.

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

12
13
14 **COUNCIL "CONSENT AGENDA" ITEMS**

- 15
16 **1. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A LEASE**
17 **AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND JIM SNYDAR FOR A FARM**
18 **LEASE OF 80 ACRES AT HOVANDER HOMESTEAD PARK, IN THE AMOUNT OF**
19 **\$3,000 (AB2009-191)**

20
21 **Kelly moved** to recommend approval to the full Council.

22
23 Mike McFarland, Parks Department Director, gave a staff report

24
25 Discussion included whether this goes out to bid and the specific use for the
26 property.

27
28 Nelson stated next year, make it more enhancing for farmers to get hay.

29
30 **Motion carried 3-0.**

- 31
32 **2. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A LEASE**
33 **AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND JEFF RAINEY, COLDSTREAM**
34 **FARM, LLC FOR APPROXIMATELY 64 ACRES OF LAND KNOWN AS "EAST**
35 **ACME FARM" IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,400 (AB2009-192)**

36
37 **Nelson moved** to recommend approval to the full Council.

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

- 40
41 **3. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO THE**
42 **RENEWAL AND EXTENSION OF THE USE OF PREMISES AGREEMENT**
43 **BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND THE LUMMI COMMERCIAL COMPANY FOR**
44 **A FERRY VEHICULAR TRAFFIC PARKING AREA, IN THE AMOUNT OF**
45 **\$50,975.09 (AB2009-193)**

46
47 **Crawford moved** to recommend approval to the full Council.

48
49 **Motion carried 3-0.**

- 50
51 **4. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
52 **RENEWAL OF THE CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND DFM**
53 **ASSOCIATES FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ANNUAL MAINTENANCE FEE**
54 **FOR THE ELECTION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$48,000**
55 **(AB2009-194)**

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

3
4 *Motion carried 3-0.*

- 5
6 5. **REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
7 **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND**
8 **NORTHWEST HYDRAULIC CONSULTANTS, INC. FOR SCOUR EVALUATION AT**
9 **VARIOUS COUNTY BRIDGES, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$18,862 (AB2009-195)**

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

12
13 Joe Rutan, Public Works Department, gave a staff report.

14
15 Discussion included the reason for hiring a consultant when the County has
16 equipment.

17
18 *Motion carried 3-0.*

- 19
20 6. **REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FROM THE COUNTY COUNCIL AND THE**
21 **WHATCOM COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL ZONE DISTRICT BOARD OF**
22 **SUPERVISORS FOR PUBLIC WORKS RIVER & FLOOD DIVISION TO AWARD**
23 **BID #09-28 FOR ON-CALL CONTRACTOR/EQUIPMENT FOR PUBLIC WORKS**
24 **PROJECTS, IN AN AMOUNT THAT MAY EXCEED \$35,000 (AB2009-196)**

25
26
27 *Kelly moved* to recommend approval to the full Council acting as the Whatcom
28 County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors.

29
30 Paula Cooper, Public Works Department, gave a staff report.

31
32 Discussion included the amount per hour and preference given to low bidders.

33
34 *(Clerk's Note: Kelly left the meeting at 12:25 p.m.)*

35
36 *Motion carried 2-0 with Kelly absent.*

- 37
38 7. **REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO AWARD BID #09-29 FOR ON-**
39 **CALL RENTAL EQUIPMENT FOR PROJECTS FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND OTHER**
40 **DEPARTMENTS, IN AN AMOUNT THAT MAY EXCEED \$35,000 (AB2009-197)**

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

43
44 *Motion carried 2-0 with Kelly absent.*

- 45
46 8. **REQUESTS AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO AN**
47 **AMENDED CONTRACT WITH WILSON ENGINEERING FOR THE ACME EARLY**
48 **CHINOOK RESTORATION PROJECT, IN THE AMENDED AMOUNT OF \$33,000,**
49 **FOR A TOTAL CONTRACT OF \$159,000 (AB2009-198)**

50
51 *Crawford moved* to recommend approval to the full Council acting as the Whatcom
52 County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors.

53
54 *Motion carried 2-0 with Kelly absent.*

- 1 9. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO AN
2 AMENDMENT TO THE CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND
3 SUSTAINABLE CONNECTIONS TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL WORK ON THE
4 ZERO WASTE INITIATIVE EFFORT, IN THE AMENDED AMOUNT OF \$30,000,
5 FOR A TOTAL CONTRACT OF \$50,000 (AB2009-199)
6

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

8
9 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, gave a staff report.

10
11 Discussion included a recommendation from the Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

12
13 *Motion carried 2-0 with Kelly absent.*
14

- 15 10. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO APPLY FOR A
16 DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY COASTAL PROTECTION - WATER QUALITY
17 GRANT ON BEHALF OF THE WHATCOM LAND TRUST FOR THE ACQUISITION
18 OF FIVE ACRES OF WETLANDS ON THE SAMISH RIVER IN THE AMOUNT OF
19 \$21,000 (AB2009-200)
20

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


22
23 Mike McFarland, Parks Department Director, gave a staff report.

24
25 Discussion included the location of the property.

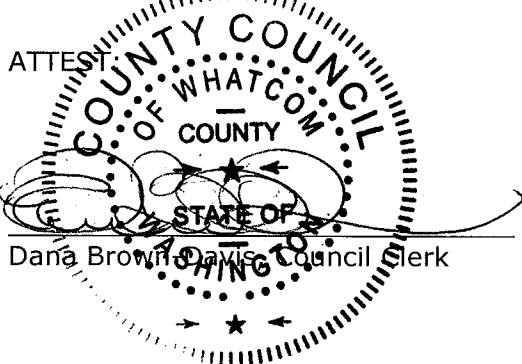
26
27 *Motion carried 2-0 with Kelly absent.*
28
29

30 **ADJOURN**

31
32 The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

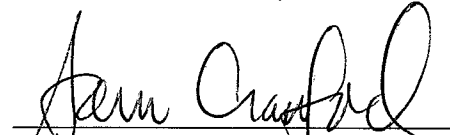
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36 Jill Nixon, Minutes Transcription

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39 ATTEST



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44 Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk
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WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Sam Crawford, Committee Chair

