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WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
Finance and Administrative Services Committee

October 27, 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: Sam Crawford, L. Ward Nelson, and Bob Kelly.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Barbara Brenner, Carl Weimer, Seth Fleetwood, and Laurie Caskey-Schreiber.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

1. PRESENTATION REGARDING THE 2010 CENSUS (AB2009-395)

Laverne Lamoureux, Census Bureau, submitted information (*on file*). The Census is using the short form this year, with only ten questions. They are getting the word out to the public about the Census.

Discussion included counting everyone or just United States citizens; the accuracy of the Census; seasonal residents, and; hiring local census takers.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE 2010 SOLID WASTE BUDGET (AB2009-408)

Jon Hutchings, Public Works Department, gave a staff report. The projected ending fund balance for 2009 is a little over one million dollars. That remains stable through 2012, which was the goal. He read through Council packet pages 14 through 16.

Discussion included anticipated revenue for the 2009 and 2010 budget due to reduced construction activity; using students as unpaid interns to replace the Conservation Resource Analyst position; stimulus money related to the Opportunity Council's weatherization program; how tipping fees are taxed by the cities and distributed; the effects of recycling; renegotiating the contract for a forklift; the Disposal of Toxics facility program; the master composter program versus other programs; what types of education and outreach would continue to be funded, and; taxing the transfer stations.

Hutchings stated he's asking the committee to approve the Executive Committee's recommendation, with the understanding they will have more conversations with the City Council about clean green.

Nelson moved this recommendation to the Public Works Department.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Crawford, Nelson and Kelly (3)

Nays: None (0)

1 **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

2
3 **2. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE MID-BIENNIUM 2009-2010 BUDGET REVIEW**
4 **(AB2009-366A)**
5

6 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, submitted a handout (*on file*) and stated
7 discussion will occur after introduction of the material submitted earlier.
8

9 Crawford stated there are two issues. The first is whether the administration is
10 pushing one option for 2010 budget stabilization more than the other. The second issue is
11 closing the gap in Superior Court funding.
12

13 The following people spoke:

- 14 • Katie Esp, Whatcom County Bar Association Chair, stated the court activities
15 are mandated. She described the court activities.
- 16 • Mary Dickinson, Attorney, stated they are constitutionally required to
17 adequately fund the Superior Court. She thanked the County administration
18 for working cooperatively to resolve issues.
- 19 • N.F. Jackson, Superior Court Clerk, answered questions.
20

21 Discussion included Superior Court's tendency to overspend their budget each year;
22 reducing expenditures and finding additional revenue for Superior Court; complying with the
23 requirement for a speedy trial; electronically filing legal paperwork; making a decision on
24 the options in Attachment B of the handout in two weeks; using the real estate excise tax
25 (REET) funds; how much a general fund tax increase would be; the potential loss of Rural
26 Arterial Program (RAP) funds; other ways they can shift funds around that wouldn't affect
27 rural and urban residents differently; clarification of the items in attachment A; the levy
28 rate; hiring freezes, layoffs, and attrition; proposing budget cuts in the context of the
29 Executive's recommendation in the handout; \$4.5 million less in the general fund than
30 anticipated a year ago, and; including an option that uses reserve funds and lowers the
31 reserve percentage.
32

33 ***Nelson moved*** to request that the administration formulate an additional option
34 similar to Option B, only using the conservation futures fund.
35

36 Crawford asked if they should look at a tax increase as a fifth option, even though he
37 won't vote for it. It may not be worth bringing up, because they don't even want to go
38 there.
39

40 Caskey-Schreiber stated she is opposed to the motion because she doesn't want to
41 hack away at the farmland conservation funds, which is against their unanimous resolution
42 to establish an agricultural base of 100,000 acres.
43

44 Brenner stated they can still retain 100,000 acres if they include the small acreage
45 that's being farmed.
46

47 Desler stated the County collects and spends about \$1 million from the conservation
48 futures fund. The fund balance is about \$3.3 million. The direct transfer won't work
49 because it's only about \$1 million. They will need more.
50

51 Crawford stated the motion is simply to add this as an option on Attachment B.
52
53
54

1 The motion carried by the following vote:
2 **Ayes:** Crawford, Nelson and Kelly (3)
3 **Nays:** None (0)
4
5

6 **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**
7

8 **1. ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2009 WHATCOM COUNTY BUDGET, ELEVENTH**
9 **REQUEST, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$287,325 (AB2009-394)**

10
11 *Crawford moved* to recommend approval.
12

13 The motion carried by the following vote:
14 **Ayes:** Crawford, Nelson and Kelly (3)
15 **Nays:** None (0)
16

17 **2. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE**
18 **WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY ECONOMIC**
19 **REVITALIZATION BOARD ON BEHALF OF THE NORTHWEST ECONOMIC**
20 **COUNCIL (AB2009-399)**

21
22 *Nelson moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.
23

24 Nancy Jordan, Northwest Economic Council, stated they are moving forward on the
25 initiative.
26

27 Discussion included going after state grant funding.
28

29 The motion carried by the following vote:
30 **Ayes:** Crawford, Nelson and Kelly (3)
31 **Nays:** None (0)
32
33

34 **COUNCIL "CONSENT AGENDA" ITEMS**
35

36 **1. REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO**
37 **AMENDMENT #6 BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND THE WASHINGTON**
38 **STATE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY FOR PHASE IV WORK OF THE WRIA 1**
39 **WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, IN THE AMENDED AMOUNT OF**
40 **\$74,999 (AB2009-400)**
41

42 *Kelly moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.
43

44 Brenner asked for a presentation on the status and results of the water resource
45 inventory area (WRIA).
46

47 Nelson asked how many phases there are.
48

49 The following person answered questions:
50 • Jon Hutchings, Public Works Department
51

52 Discussion included the total number of phases in the project and flexible
53 implementation as new studies become available.
54

1 The motion carried by the following vote:

2 **Ayes:** Crawford, Nelson and Kelly (3)

3 **Nays:** None (0)

- 4
- 5 **2. REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
6 **CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND LAND DEVELOPMENT**
7 **ENGINEERING AND SURVEYING, INC. FOR DESIGN ASSISTANCE OF**
8 **STORMWATER PROJECTS IN THE SILVER BEACH CREEK DRAINAGE BASIN,**
9 **IN THE AMOUNT OF \$122,430 (AB2009-401)**

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

12
13 The motion carried by the following vote:

14 **Ayes:** Crawford, Nelson and Kelly (3)

15 **Nays:** None (0)

- 16
- 17 **3. REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
18 **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND**
19 **LINSLEY, KRAEGER ASSOCIATES, LTD FOR CALIBRATION OF THE LOWER**
20 **NOOKSACK RIVER HYDRAULIC MODEL TO THE JANUARY 2009 FLOOD EVENT**
21 **AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO COUNTY STAFF AS NEEDED, IN THE**
22 **AMOUNT \$25,000 (AB2009-402)**

23
24 *Crawford moved* to recommend approval to the Flood Control Zone District Board
25 of Supervisors.

26
27 The motion carried by the following vote:

28 **Ayes:** Crawford, Nelson and Kelly (3)

29 **Nays:** None (0)

- 30
- 31 **4. REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
32 **CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND WILSON ENGINEERING, LLC**
33 **FOR EVALUATION, INSPECTION AND PRE-DESIGN REPORT FOR THE SILVER**
34 **BEACH CREEK WATERSHED STORMWATER FACILITY RETROFITS, IN THE**
35 **AMOUNT OF \$49,767 (AB2009-403)**

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

38
39 The following person answered questions:

- 40 • Jon Hutchings, Public Works Department

41
42 Discussion included facility estimates.

43
44 The motion carried by the following vote:

45 **Ayes:** Crawford, Nelson and Kelly (3)

46 **Nays:** None (0)

- 47
- 48 **5. REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE ANNUAL PURCHASE OF 2009, 2010 SUPPLY**
49 **OF SNOW AND ICE CONTROL PRODUCTS USING WASHINGTON STATE**
50 **CONTRACT, IN AN AMOUNT THAT COULD EXCEED \$35,000 (AB2009-404)**

51
52 *Crawford moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.

53
54 The motion carried by the following vote:

1 **Ayes:** Crawford, Nelson and Kelly (3)

2 **Nays:** None (0)

- 3
4 6. **REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO AWARD BID 09-47 TO**
5 **LOW BIDDER, ANDGAR CORPORATION, FOR THE INSTALLATION OF**
6 **ADDITIONAL COOLING EQUIPMENT IN THE COURTHOUSE COMPUTER ROOM.**
7 **IN THE AMOUNT OF \$82,677 (AB2009-405)**

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

10
11 The motion carried by the following vote:

12 **Ayes:** Crawford, Nelson and Kelly (3)

13 **Nays:** None (0)

- 14
15 7. **REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
16 **GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND THE**
17 **WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY TO PROVIDE THE**
18 **COUNTY WITH \$50,000 TOWARD PHASE II STORMWATER PROGRAMS**
19 **(THIS PASS-THROUGH GRANT DOES NOT REQUIRE ANY MATCH FROM**
20 **THE COUNTY) (AB2009-418)**

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

23
24 Chip Anderson, Public Works Department, gave a staff report.

25
26 Discussion included whether this goes to the Council or Flood Control Zone District
27 Board of Supervisors.

28
29 The motion carried by the following vote:

30 **Ayes:** Crawford, Nelson and Kelly (3)

31 **Nays:** None (0)

32
33
34 **OTHER BUSINESS**

35
36 There was no other business.

37
38 **ADJOURN**

39
40 The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

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42
43
Please contact the Council Office to obtain an
official, signed copy:

360-676-6690 or council@co.whatcom.wa.us

52
53 Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Sam Crawford, Committee Chair