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WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
Public Works and Safety Committee

May 26, 2009

Committee Chair Barbara Brenner called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, Washington.

Present:

L. Ward Nelson
Laurie Caskey-Schreiber

Absent:

None

Also Present:

Bob Kelly
Carl Weimer

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE SPEED LIMIT STUDY COMPLETED FOR THE PORTION OF HAXTON WAY BETWEEN SLATER ROAD AND KWINA ROAD (AB2009-259)

Mike Donahue, Public Works Department, gave a staff report.

The following people spoke:

- Joe Rutan, Public Works Department, answered questions.
- Henry Cagey, Lummi Nation Chairman, stated the Lummi Nation would like the speed reduced, because there have been many accidents. Changing the speed will require a behavior change. It's a dangerous road for kids and elders. Many people are using the road more often because of the growing population.
- Curt Vinish, Lummi Nation, submitted information (*on file*) and stated the number of deaths on Haxton Way is significant. The State and County have many options for reducing deaths on a road, but they are all expensive. Wetlands in the path of the pedestrian trail increased the cost of the project, and they had to make adjustments. The goal is to protect the pedestrians as much as possible. Reducing the road speed significantly reduces the likelihood that someone will die in a crash.
- Ramon Lanos, Lummi Nation Consultant; the right-of-way has been negotiated without guardrails. Neighbors may be required to share driveways, which will be a problem. Enforcement must ensure that people drive the speed limit.

Discussion included the speed at the intersection; the traffic count along Haxton Way; the reasons for the staff technical information; a guardrail requirement at 50 miles per hour; State and federal funding; the cyclist and pedestrian pathway; the possibility of making the speed limit change as the road work is done; the number of tickets that Lummi Police have issued at the section of road that is 35 miles per hour now; installing a speed display to educate drivers of the speed change, and; the number of properties with access on this portion of Haxton Way.

1 **Caskey-Schreiber moved** to ask staff to prepare an ordinance to change the speed
2 limit from 50 miles per hour to 35 miles per hour, effective at the completion of the trail
3 project on Haxton Way.

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5 **Motion carried 2-1 with Nelson opposed.**
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8 **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL**
9

10 **1. RESOLUTION TO CONSIDER VACATING A PORTION OF EDWARDS DRIVE**
11 **(AB2009-260)**

12
13 Brenner asked for a better location map.

14
15 **Caskey-Schreiber moved** to recommend approval of the resolution to the full
16 Council.

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18 The following person answered questions:

- 19 • Frank Abart, Public Works Department Director

20
21 Discussion included the road vacation process.

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23 **Motion carried 3-0.**
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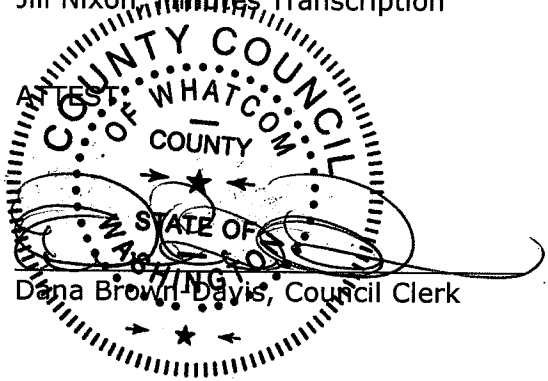
26 **OTHER BUSINESS**
27

28 There was no other business.
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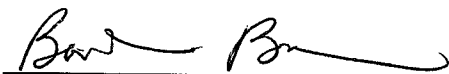
31 **ADJOURN**
32

33 The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.
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37 Jill Nixon, Minutes Transcription

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40 The seal of Whatcom County Council is circular with a double border. The outer border contains the text 'WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL' at the top and 'STATE OF WASHINGTON' at the bottom. The inner border contains 'COUNTY OF WHATCOM'. In the center, there is a star and the text 'COUNTY'.
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45 Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk
46

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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49 Barbara Brenner, Committee Chair