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WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
Finance and Administrative Services Committee

March 30, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Ken Mann called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. in the Council Chambers, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, Washington.

ROLL CALL

Present: Kathy Kershner, Ken Mann and Carl Weimer.

Absent: None.

All Present: Barbara Brenner, L. Ward Nelson, Sam Crawford, and Bill Knutzen.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

1. WASHINGTON STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (WSAC) UPDATE PRESENTED BY WSAC PRESIDENT MERRILL OTT, VICE PRESIDENT JOHN KOSTER, AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ERIC JOHNSON (AB2010-118)

Crawford stated Whatcom County is concerned about the impact of a proposed tax on refineries in Whatcom County. WSAC made a decision to support the tax and give testimony to the legislature. The County wasn't sure if it wanted to continue to participate in WSAC. They would like to know what Whatcom County gets for participating in WSAC.

Merrill Ott, WSAC President and Stevens County Commissioner, described his background and experience as a Stevens County Commissioner, and stated he appreciates the opportunity to talk to Whatcom County. Things work better when they all know each other.

John Koster, WSAC Vice-President and Snohomish County Council Member, stated he is also against the tax. The legislative steering committee vote wasn't unanimous to support the tax. WSAC needs to make a better effort to listen to the counties. They will get a lot further with the legislature with a unified voice.

Eric Johnson, WSAC Executive Director, submitted information (*on file*) and described his background and the background of WSAC and the State. He described the documents in the handout. Most bills introduced at the legislature will have some effect on councilmembers as employers or policymakers. The biggest challenge is to have flexibility with existing revenue, not finding new revenue. There is also an effort to pause or suspend mandates during the time when they don't have the resources to meet mandates. WSAC deals mainly with advocacy and legislation, business services for the County, and training and education.

The following person answered questions:

- Karen Goens, Administrative Services Department

Discussion included the difficulty of part-time councilmembers devoting the time they should to WSAC; how WSAC doesn't want legislators to pass legislation that included

1 unfunded mandates; the effect of the difficult economy on the upcoming budget process;
2 what WSAC brings to the citizens of Whatcom County; how WSAC members agree on most
3 issues; how WSAC should have contacted Whatcom County about the refinery taxes; the
4 legislature's raiding of dedicated funds that are intended to clean up Puget Sound; clarifying
5 everyone's roles; WSAC's position on the one-tenth of one percent sales tax for mental
6 health; whether Whatcom County participates in the retro-pool or any other WSAC
7 programs; the voting process of the WSAC legislative steering committee (LSC); whether
8 any funding for WSAC is mandated to come from counties; how WSAC is funded, and;
9 County participation in the LSC.

10
11
12 **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**

13
14 **1. ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2010 WHATCOM COUNTY BUDGET, EIGHTH**
15 **REQUEST, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$462,943 (AB2010-142)**

16
17 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, gave a staff report.

18
19 *Kershner moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.

20
21 Discussion included a transfer of funds for the Civic Center; the purpose of the
22 Transpo Group contract; the point when the County stops funding a consultant that keeps
23 continuing; revisiting ongoing consulting contracts, given the changing economic situation;
24 how much longer they will have to continue funding the civic center building changes, and;
25 upgrades to the Civic Center building;

26
27 The motion carried by the following vote:

28 **Ayes:** Kershner, Mann and Weimer (3)

29 **Nays:** None (0)

30
31 **2. RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ALLOCATION RECEIVED FROM THE STATE OF**
32 **WASHINGTON OF RECOVERY ZONE FACILITY BOND TO THE PORT OF**
33 **BELLINGHAM (AB2010-148)**

34
35 *Weimer moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.

36
37 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, gave a staff report.

38
39 The following person answered questions:

- 40 • Dodd Snodgrass, Port of Bellingham Economic Development Specialist

41
42 Discussion included whether Whatcom County has any projects that would qualify;
43 the County's role in designating an agency to manage the bonds, and; whether the Port
44 has any interest in East Whatcom County.

45
46 The motion carried by the following vote:

47 **Ayes:** Kershner, Mann and Weimer (3)

48 **Nays:** None (0)

49
50 **3. REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE A**
51 **QUITCLAIM DEED WITH THE STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF**
52 **TRANSPORTATION FOR THE SALE OF APPROXIMATELY 10,424 SQUARE FEET**
53 **OF PROPERTY AT THE INTERSECTION OF MOUNT BAKER HIGHWAY AND**

1 **SMITH ROAD FOR THE COMPLETION OF A ROUNDABOUT, IN THE AMOUNT**
2 **OF \$12,600 (AB2010-149)**
3

4 *Weimer moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.
5

6 The following people answered questions:

- 7 • Mike McFarland, Parks and Recreation Department Director
- 8 • Joe Rutan, Public Works Department
- 9

10 Discussion included the location of the project and concerns from the residents.
11

12 The motion carried by the following vote:

13 **Ayes:** Kershner, Mann and Weimer (3)

14 **Nays:** None (0)
15

16 **4. RESOLUTION DESIGNATING A RECOVERY ZONE FOR PURPOSES OF**
17 **SECTIONS 1400U-1 AND 1400U-2 OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE**
18 **CODE OF 1986, AS AMENDED, AND THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND**
19 **REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 (AB2010-167)**
20

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

23 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, gave a staff report.
24

25 The following person spoke:

- 26 • Steve Oliver, County Treasurer
- 27

28 Discussion included using funds for the County jail; approving the resolution to have
29 access to these bond allocations, and; whether the declaration would make it difficult for the
30 County to do business with another agency or organization.
31

32 The motion carried by the following vote:

33 **Ayes:** Kershner, Mann and Weimer (3)

34 **Nays:** None (0)
35
36

37 **COUNCIL "CONSENT AGENDA" ITEMS**
38

39 **1. REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
40 **SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND SIEMENS**
41 **INDUSTRY, INC. FOR TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR THE HVAC CONTROLS FOR**
42 **THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, JAIL, JAIL WORK CENTER AND NW ANNEX, IN**
43 **THE AMOUNT OF \$21,771 (AB2010-150)**
44

45 *Weimer moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.
46

47 The motion carried by the following vote:

48 **Ayes:** Kershner, Mann and Weimer (3)

49 **Nays:** None (0)
50

51 **2. REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A LEASE**
52 **BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND WHATCOM COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION**

1 **DISTRICT NO. 21 FOR THE COST OF RENT AND UTILITIES AT THE LAUREL**
2 **FIRE STATION, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$44,222.75 (AB2010-151)**

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

5
6 The following people answered questions:

- 7 • Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator
- 8 • Jeff Parks, Sheriff's Office

9
10 Discussion included the different planned uses of the Olympic Coordination Center at
11 the airport, this facility, and at Cascade Business Park; sending a letter of support to
12 representatives, and; the Sheriff's current use of the Laurel facility.

13
14 The motion carried by the following vote:

15 **Ayes:** Kershner, Mann and Weimer (3)

16 **Nays:** None (0)

17
18 **3. REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO AWARD THE BID AND**
19 **ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SINGLE SOURCE BIDDER, THE BELLINGHAM**
20 **HERALD, FOR OFFICIAL PRINTING SERVICES (AB2010-152)**

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

23
24 The motion carried by the following vote:

25 **Ayes:** Kershner, Mann and Weimer (3)

26 **Nays:** None (0)

27
28 **4. REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
29 **CONTRACT WITH SOLE SOURCE VENDOR, THOMSON WEST, FOR ON LINE**
30 **AND HARD BOUND RESEARCH TOOLS FOR THE WHATCOM COUNTY LAW**
31 **LIBRARY, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,291 (AB2010-153)**

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

34
35 The motion carried by the following vote:

36 **Ayes:** Kershner, Mann and Weimer (3)

37 **Nays:** None (0)

38
39 **5. REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO AWARD BID #10-06**
40 **TO LOW BIDDER, MCASPHALT INDUSTRIES, FOR DELIVERY AND SUPPLY OF**
41 **ASPHALTIC EMULSIONS, IN THE ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$840,000**
42 **(AB2010-154)**

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

45
46 The motion carried by the following vote:

47 **Ayes:** Kershner, Mann and Weimer (3)

48 **Nays:** None (0)

49
50 **6. REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO AUTHORIZE THE**
51 **PURCHASE OF THE ANNUAL 2010 SUPPLY OF WATERBORNE TRAFFIC LINE**
52 **PAINT BY PUBLIC WORKS MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS USING AN**
53 **INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH PIERCE COUNTY, THROUGH VENDOR PERVO**

1 **PAINT PRODUCTS, IN THE AMOUNT OF APPROXIMATELY \$450,000**
2 **(AB2010-155)**

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

5
6 The following people answered questions:

- 7 • Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator
- 8 • Joe Rutan, Public Works Department
- 9 • Frank Abart, Public Works Department Director

10
11 Discussion included why they have to go through an interlocal agreement rather than
12 just a purchase; the reasons for the cost; the durability and application of the paint, and;
13 the County providing this service also to the Cities of Bellingham and Ferndale.

14
15 The motion carried by the following vote:

16 **Ayes:** Kershner, Mann and Weimer (3)

17 **Nays:** None (0)

18
19 **7. REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A LOCAL**
20 **AGENCY STANDARD AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND CH2M**
21 **HILL, INC. FOR GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATION, ANALYSIS, AND DESIGN**
22 **SERVICES FOR THE SOUTH PASS ROAD STRUCTURAL SLOPE REPAIR**
23 **PROJECT, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$39,990.03 (AB2010-156)**

24
25 *Weimer moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.

26
27 The following people answered questions:

- 28 • Joe Rutan, Public Works Department

29
30 Discussion included the reason for spending money on something they won't get
31 around to building for a few years.

32
33 The motion carried by the following vote:

34 **Ayes:** Kershner, Mann and Weimer (3)

35 **Nays:** None (0)

36
37 **8. REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO AN**
38 **INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN LUMMI NATION AND WHATCOM**
39 **COUNTY RELATED TO THEIR AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT**
40 **FUNDED PROJECT TO RAISE A SEGMENT OF MARINE DRIVE BETWEEN**
41 **LUMMI SHORE ROAD AND COUNTY BRIDGE #5 (AB2010-157)**

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

44
45 The following person answered questions:

- 46 • Frank Abart Public Works Department Director

47
48 Discussion included whether the County's money invested will be accounted during
49 the ferry negotiations and a cost estimate.

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51 The motion carried by the following vote:

52 **Ayes:** Kershner, Mann and Weimer (3)

53 **Nays:** None (0)

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9. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT WITH THE NATURE CONSERVANCY FOR THE ACQUISITION OF APPROXIMATELY 146 ACRES FOR PARK PURPOSES AT LILY POINT, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,316,915 (AB2010-158)

Weimer moved to recommend approval to the full Council.

The motion carried by the following vote:
Ayes: Kershner, Mann and Weimer (3)
Nays: None (0)

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 12:46 p.m.

Please contact the Council Office to obtain an official, signed copy:
360-676-6690 or council@co.whatcom.wa.us

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Ken Mann, Committee Chair