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WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
**Finance and Administrative Services Committee**

August 10, 2010

**CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Chair Ken Mann called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, Washington.

**ROLL CALL (11:05:35 AM)**

**Present:** Ken Mann and Carl Weimer.  
**Absent:** Kathy Kershner.  
**Also Present:** Barbara Brenner, Sam Crawford and Bill Knutzen.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

**1. VISITOR ANALYSIS AND INDUSTRY UPDATE FROM BELLINGHAM WHATCOM TOURISM CEO AND PRESIDENT LONI RAHM (AB2010-017) (11:05:39 AM)**

Loni Rahm, Bellingham/Whatcom Tourism CEO and President, submitted and described the visitor analysis. She submitted and read from a presentation (*on file*). They focus only on visitor promotion because they are funding by lodging tax dollars. This outside revenue source has a specific, restricted use. (11:25:39 AM) She submits an monthly activity report to the County Executive. Upon request, they send out visitor and event planner guides. Meetings and conventions are a large component of the visitors. They produce a monthly activity brochure.

Discussion included whether the Fairhaven visitors also visited other areas of Bellingham; whether there is data on visitors to the Meridian area; the amount of direct visitor spending each year; whether the hotel industry will benefit from a new direct airline route between Bellingham and Hawaii; marketing in airline destination cities; marketing to those closer to this area due to the economic condition; the percentage of people who are visiting the area for medical purposes, and; marketing to niche markets.

**COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**

**1. ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2010 WHATCOM COUNTY BUDGET, FOURTEENTH REQUEST, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$771,900 (AB2010-290) (11:37:19 AM)**

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

The motion carried by the following vote:

**Ayes:** Mann and Weimer (2)  
**Nays:** None (0)  
**Absent:** Kershner (1)

1 **2. RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF THE BANK REPAIR PROJECT**  
2 **AT DOZER CORNER (AB2010-292) (11:37:49 AM)**  
3

4 Brenner gave a staff report and stated this is a small project than can prevent a  
5 worse problem from getting bigger. The cost is less than \$15,000. They are under a  
6 deadline to do the work this summer.  
7

8 The following people answered questions:

- 9 • Paula Cooper, Public Works Department
  - 10 • Frank Abart, Public Works Department Director
  - 11 • Theresa Sygitowicz, Acme/Van Zandt Flood Subzone Advisory Committee  
12 Chair
- 13

14 Discussion included work scheduled on this project next year; how this project is  
15 prioritized; whether this is a new emergency; the administration's recommendation for  
16 moving forward on this project this year; what has changed technically to make the dozer  
17 hole more important to fix; whether the County can get the permits for this project this  
18 year; the costly consequence of not doing the project now; the project review and advisory  
19 committees; the actual cost of the project, including staff time and mitigation; whether the  
20 subzone can pay for some or all of the project;  
21

22 **Weimer moved** to recommend approval to the full Council, to have the discussion,  
23 but he is against the motion. It is not high on the countywide resource integration project  
24 (CWRIP) or other lists. If it becomes an emergency, the County Executive can move it  
25 forward.  
26

27 Mann stated he agreed with Councilmember Weimer. Stick with the prioritization  
28 system.  
29

30 Brenner stated it's more difficult and expensive to fix an emergency. Respect the  
31 Subzone on this issue.  
32

33 The motion failed by the following vote:

34 **Ayes:** None (0)  
35 **Nays:** Mann and Weimer (2)  
36 **Absent:** Kershner (1)  
37

38 **3. REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
39 **SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WHATCOM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
40 **AND THE US FOREST SERVICE FOR BAKER LAKE RECREATIONAL AREA**  
41 **PATROLS AND FOR PURCHASE OF A MOBILE DATA TERMINAL AND OTHER**  
42 **EQUIPMENT, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$42,400 (AB2010-293) (11:58:00 AM)**  
43

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

46 The motion carried by the following vote:

47 **Ayes:** Mann and Weimer (2)  
48 **Nays:** None (0)  
49 **Absent:** Kershner (1)  
50  
51  
52

1 **COUNCIL "CONSENT AGENDA" ITEMS**

- 2  
3 1. **REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO AN**  
4 **AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND THE WASHINGTON STATE**  
5 **OFFICE OF PUBLIC DEFENSE FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF CONTRACTED**  
6 **ATTORNEYS' FEES FOR INDIGENT PARENTS IN JUVENILE DEPENDENCY AND**  
7 **TERMINATION CASES IN WHATCOM COUNTY, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$32,000**  
8 **(AB2010-294) (11:58:26 AM)**

9  
10 *Weimer moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.

11  
12 The motion carried by the following vote:

13 **Ayes:** Mann and Weimer (2)

14 **Nays:** None (0)

15 **Absent:** Kershner (1)

- 16  
17 2. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING WHATCOM COUNTY'S APPLICATION FOR A**  
18 **SHOOTING RANGE DEVELOPMENT GRANT FROM THE WASHINGTON**  
19 **DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE TO MODIFY EXISTING WINDOWS IN**  
20 **THE INDOOR RANGE MEETING ROOM TO REDUCE NOISE (AB2010-295)**  
21 **(11:58:55 AM)**

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

24  
25 The motion carried by the following vote:

26 **Ayes:** Mann and Weimer (2)

27 **Nays:** None (0)

28 **Absent:** Kershner (1)

- 29  
30 3. **REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
31 **FARMLAND PRESERVATION GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM**  
32 **COUNTY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AND THE WASHINGTON**  
33 **STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000**  
34 **(AB2010-296) (11:59:23 AM)**

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

37  
38 The following people answered questions:

- 39
  - Samya Lutz, Planning and Development Services Department
  - Wain Harrison, Planning and Development Services Department

40  
41  
42 Discussion included whether the County will be obligated by the grant to do a lot  
43 more costly things and whether staff reductions would affect the cost.

44  
45 The motion carried by the following vote:

46 **Ayes:** Mann and Weimer (2)

47 **Nays:** None (0)

48 **Absent:** Kershner (1)

- 49  
50 4. **REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A LAND**  
51 **LICENSE AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND JIM SNYDAR TO**  
52 **HAY APPROXIMATELY 80 ACRES OF FARM LAND AT HOVANDER HOMESTEAD**  
53 **PARK, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,000 (AB2010-297) (12:02:40 PM)**

1  
2 **Weimer moved** to recommend approval to the full Council.  
3

4 The motion carried by the following vote:

5 **Ayes:** Mann and Weimer (2)

6 **Nays:** None (0)

7 **Absent:** Kershner (1)  
8

- 9 5. **REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
10 **CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND DRAYTON ARCHAEOLOGICAL**  
11 **RESEARCH FOR PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES FOR LILY**  
12 **POINT MARINE PARK, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,000 (AB2010-298) (12:03:03**  
13 **PM)**

14 **Weimer moved** to recommend approval to the full Council.  
15

16 The following person answered questions:

- 17 • Mike McFarland, Parks and Recreation Department Director  
18  
19

20 Discussion included the reason for this project; the hourly rates for an expert  
21 witness; whether the County would have to pay the cost of defending any decisions, and;  
22 what happens if they find artifacts.  
23

24 The motion carried by the following vote:

25 **Ayes:** Mann and Weimer (2)

26 **Nays:** None (0)

27 **Absent:** Kershner (1)  
28

- 29 6. **REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
30 **CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND AQUATECHNEX FOR**  
31 **HERBICIDE TREATMENT AND MONITORING OF FLOWERING RUSH IN SILVER**  
32 **LAKE, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000 (AB2010-299) (12:11:29 PM)**  
33

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

36 The following person answered questions:

- 37 • Laurel Baldwin, Noxious Weed Board  
38

39 Discussion included how the herbicide is applied; whether the herbicide will have  
40 negative side effects; the invasiveness of the weed, and; how they will notify the public of  
41 the application.  
42

43 The motion carried by the following vote:

44 **Ayes:** Mann and Weimer (2)

45 **Nays:** None (0)

46 **Absent:** Kershner (1)  
47

- 48 7. **REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
49 **CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND SHELTERBELT, INC. FOR**  
50 **HERBICIDE TREATMENT AND MONITORING OF JAPANESE/BOHEMIAN**  
51 **KNOTWEED ON THE UPPER REACHES OF THE NORTH, MIDDLE AND SOUTH**  
52 **FORKS OF THE NOOKSACK RIVER, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$85,000 (AB2010-**  
53 **300) (12:18:25 PM)**

1  
2 **Weimer moved** to recommend approval to the full Council.  
3

4 The following person answered questions:

- 5 • Laurel Baldwin, Noxious Weed Board

6  
7 Discussion included whether this weed will ever be controlled and the method of  
8 application.  
9

10 The motion carried by the following vote:

11 **Ayes:** Mann and Weimer (2)

12 **Nays:** None (0)

13 **Absent:** Kershner (1)  
14

- 15 **8. REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO AWARD BID 10-64,**  
16 **TO ALL SIX NAMES ON THE ON-CALL HERBICIDE SPRAYING**  
17 **CONTRACTOR/EQUIPMENT LIST AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH EACH,**  
18 **IN AN AMOUNT THAT MAY EXCEED \$35,000 (AB2010-301) (12:21:39 PM)**  
19

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

22 The motion carried by the following vote:

23 **Ayes:** Mann and Weimer (2)

24 **Nays:** None (0)

25 **Absent:** Kershner (1)  
26  
27

28 **OTHER BUSINESS**

29  
30 There was no other business.  
31  
32

33 **ADJOURN**

34  
35 The meeting adjourned at 12:22 p.m.  
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38

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40 Please contact the Council Office to obtain an  
41 official, signed copy:  
42 360-676-6690 or council@co.whatcom.wa.us  
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47 \_\_\_\_\_  
48 Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

47 \_\_\_\_\_  
48 Ken Mann, Committee Chair