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WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
Public Works and Safety Committee

January 26, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Barbara Brenner called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, Washington.

ROLL CALL

Present: Barbara Brenner, Ken Mann and Carl Weimer
Absent: None

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIR (AB2010-021)

Mann nominated Barbara Brenner.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Brenner and Mann (2)
Nays: None (0)
Absent: Weimer (out of the room) (1)

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. DISCUSSION REGARDING FRANCHISE AGREEMENTS (AB2010-079)

Brenner stated she's received lots of calls from people in the east county who aren't receiving good or any high-speed internet service. It's a utility. Also, Comcast used to provide the County free space on Channel 26. The City keeps raising its price to broadcast County content. Comcast keeps withdrawing its amenities. She would like to know if the County can renegotiate its franchise with Comcast.

Rebecca Craven, Council Policy Analyst, stated the Comcast franchise agreement expires in March or April 2011. They should begin negotiating now.

Discussion included whether the County has franchise agreements with cell phone companies; franchises that have changed hands, and; sending a letter to the administration to request that someone from the Public Works Department give a presentation on franchises.

OTHER BUSINESS

Weimer stated this committee may want to address criminal justice this year. Start having discussions with the criminal justice departments to explain what they do.

1 **Brenner moved** to conceptually have discussions and presentations from the
2 criminal justice departments in 2010.

3
4 The motion carried by the following vote:

5 **Ayes:** Brenner, Mann and Weimer (3)

6 **Nays:** None (0)

7
8 **Brenner** stated she would like the administration's new advisory committee on
9 Superior Court funding to give a presentation. Another subject to discuss this year is jail
10 planning. She **moved** to have an update on jail planning.

11
12 The motion carried by the following vote:

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

14 **Nays:** None (0)

15
16 Brenner stated she wants to see a good breakdown of public works expenditures by
17 department, including equipment, and start talking about other ideas. She's tired of
18 auctioning off equipment that's still useable. Contract out some of the services that have to
19 do with big, heavy equipment instead of replacing equipment. She would like to look at
20 how a bid is written before it's let out.

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22 **The committee concurred.**

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25 **ADJOURN**

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27 The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

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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

Barbara Brenner, Committee Chair