

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49
FRANKLIN COUNTY
Commissioners' Proceeding for February 4, 2008

The Honorable Board of Franklin County Commissioners met on the above date. Present for the meeting were Bob Koch, Chairman; Rick Miller, Chair Pro Tem; and Neva J. Corkrum, Member; Fred Bowen, County Administrator; and Mary Withers, Clerk to the Board.

OFFICE BUSINESS

Secretary Patricia Shults met with the Board.

Vouchers

Motion - Mr. Miller: Mr. Chairman, I move for approval of **2007** Vouchers for Current Expense warrants 61301 through 61302 for \$2,445.05. Second by Mrs. Corkrum. 3:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 1)

Motion - Mrs. Corkrum: I move for approval of **2008** Vouchers in the amount of \$493,474.50 as follows: CE Cumulative Reserve warrant 132 for \$246,737.25; and Current Expense warrant 61300 for \$246,737.25.

Mr. Koch said the vouchers are to pay for the Public Works shop property in Connell. Mrs. Corkrum said it should have been a transfer rather than a warrant. Mr. Bowen said the Treasurer needed a warrant to transfer the money out of the Rainy Day fund inside of the Current Expense budget. Mrs. Corkrum said we have never done it that way before. Mr. Bowen said the Treasurer wants it done that way so there is a paper trail.

Second by Mr. Miller. 3:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 2)

Motion – Mr. Miller: Mr. Chairman, I move that we accept the 2008 vouchers for Current Expense, warrants 61303 through 61318, in the amount of \$14,094.55. Second by Mrs. Corkrum. 3:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 3)

PLANNING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Planning Director Jerrod MacPherson met with the Board.

Final Approval Subdivision SUB 2004-04, Dennis Gisi and Richard Davenport (original applicants John and Debra Fox)

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Motion – Mr. Chairman, I move that we approve the final approval for Subdivision SUB 2004-04 of Dennis Gisi and Richard Davenport. Second by Mrs. Corkrum. 3:0 vote in favor. This is Resolution 2008-052.

Mr. MacPherson said the original applicant was John Fox. He sold the preliminary approval to Dennis Gisi and Richard Davenport.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

County Administrator Fred Bowen met with the Board.

Out-of-County Travel

Motion – Mr. Miller: I move approval of the out-of-county travel request of Fred Bowen for a total amount of \$123.00. Second by Mrs. Corkrum. 3:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 4)

2008 Legislative Concerns

The Board reviewed a list of legislative concerns in preparation for their meetings with legislators in Olympia this week.

Recessed at 9:34 am.

Reconvened at 9:38 am.

Mr. Bowen gave the Board a draft version of a portion of the study showing cost impacts from the state prison at Connell to Franklin County, City of Connell, and special districts. Charts showing one-time costs and on-going costs were reviewed.

Economic Development Funds

Mr. Bowen has talked to Attorney Jeff Nave. Mr. Nave told him that if Basin City Sewer and Water District cannot use the economic development funds that have been allocated for their project, the funds can be transferred to other projects on the list such as TRAC. The \$300,000 for the water system has to be spent by December 1, 2008. Basin City Water and Sewer District also has \$500,000 available for the sewer system.

Mr. Bowen explained his concerns about the effect on the county's bonding capacity if the funds are not spent in a timely manner. Basin City Water and Sewer District has had three years to use the funds.

PUBLIC WORKS

Engineer Tim Fife met with the Board.

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Bid Award: CRP 596 / R-170 Landslide Area, Phase I Canal Relocation Electrical Work

Mr. Fife asked for approval of award of bid to Sierra Electric. The other bid was from Valmont for more than \$10,000. He explained what electrical work needs to be done.

Motion – Mrs. Corkrum: I move approval for CRP 596 / R-170 Landslide Area Phase I Canal Relocation Electrical Work, award to Sierra Electric, Inc., of Pasco for \$2541.72. Second by Mr. Miller. 3:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 5)

Vouchers

Motion – Mr. Miller: I move that we approve the vouchers for County Road Fund for \$112,338.22; MV & PW Equipment Fund for \$25,194.03; Solid Waste Fund for \$24.45; and Solid Waste Fund for \$20.00. Second by Mrs. Corkrum. 3:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 6)

Bi-Monthly Reports

The Board reviewed the Bi-Monthly Reports.

Damage to County Roads from winter weather/melting snow and ice

Mr. Fife said there was some washing out of road areas on Friday because of flooding and plugged culverts.

Erwen Boat Launch Project

Mr. Fife gave the Board an update about the progress of the Erwen Trust Boat launch project.

Juniper Dunes and R170 Landslide

Mr. Bowen asked Mr. Fife to prepare a letter for legislators to sign that would go with the application for Federal funding.

PROSECUTOR

Prosecutor Steve Lowe and Kelly Schadler met with the Board.

Office Staffing

Mr. Lowe said he is not asking to add full staff positions at this point but he will be coming back later to ask for those positions. There is not any available office space

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for additional full-time positions. Today he is specifically asking that a half-time position be made a full-time position.

Mr. Lowe said one office space is being used on a part-time basis for the STOP grant applicant program. The space is used at other times by employees through the cooperative education program. The cooperative education program is a great program.

Mr. Lowe said prior to the remodeling of the Public Safety Building, he had asked for the entire area that is currently where the courtroom and a judge's office are located but that was not possible at the time because the City of Pasco required the courtroom space and the judge was allowed the office space.

Mr. Lowe said the Prosecutor's Office now has the same square footage (7000 feet) that it had when it was housed in an office on Clark Street. He said the amount of space has remained the same from 1963 to now. He said my office needs to grow. I want to give you an idea of where I think we're going and the additional needs. He knows other offices also need office space.

Mr. Lowe said we need to tell the City of Pasco now that they need to be out of the space they are using by the expiration of the agreement with them, if not sooner. He said most of my work on the criminal side comes from the City of Pasco.

Mr. Lowe said there are three areas specifically that he needs additional help: Civil, Juvenile and District Court.

He said the civil work has grown tremendously over the past 10 years because of the size of the community and the complexity of operation of county government. There is a huge workload.

The felony workload is busy but fairly stagnant. There were about 200-some felonies in 1995 but we have done a lot of things to take cases out of the system. One is the Drug Court. Even so, it takes one of my deputies half a day a week. Another help is the Felony Diversion Program that was started last year. About 18 people are in the program now that would have gone through the court system if the diversion program was not in place. District Court does the supervision under contract. It is working out very well and Mr. Lowe is pleased with the results. He expects to expand the program in the

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next few weeks to include domestic violence cases. He will change the name, perhaps to the Prosecutor's Diversion Program.

The Juvenile Justice work has experienced a lot of growth. We hit a record of 800 cases last year, almost double over the last three years. He has the same one person and one-half or three-quarter staff support doing it now. We're making mistakes. The deputy is coming in on weekends and taking work home. The problem in Juvenile is they have to have a trial within 30 days. Adult court requires trials in 90 days.

District Court work load has also increased. Mr. Lowe said the county added a bunch of sheriff's deputies. He said prior to the county signing the contract to handle the Port of Pasco work at the airport, he and the sheriff had a conversation about the Port of Pasco contract for the airport work being a city job. The contract did not consider the impact on the Prosecutor's Office of having six more Sheriff's deputies. District Court numbers went up. It has increased our workload. A full-time person is not needed but some help is needed.

Mr. Lowe said my proposal would be to add a deputy prosecutor that would swing between duties, sharing District Court duties and handling misdemeanors in the Juvenile Justice Center. That's the big picture. He said I'm not asking for it today.

He said clearly a full-time civil deputy is needed. In the civil work, there were 604 requests for review in 2006. In 2007 we had 1044 civil requests. That's a 40% growth in one year. The support staff has traditionally been a lead in the office. We consolidated the lead into one position. She also does all mental health hearings, appeals, civil support work, and safety committee (which is really a risk management job). All that work has gotten too big. He has taken the lead away. He is trying to cross-train people but the ability is not there to add the staff.

Mr. Lowe summarized that we will need another support staff and basically two more attorneys and one support staff. That would set me for probably the next 10 years.

Mr. Lowe said in the short term, he received money last year from the state to hire a part-time crime victim person. We hired that person and have had three people in that

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job since it was first advertised last May. He is having a difficult time filling the job and keeping it filled because it is part-time.

He said he will propose something that will not have an impact on Current Expense to make the position full-time. The state is going to add additional money from the Office of Crime Victims Advocacy. The funds come from the state's share of traffic fines. He said the state fund has grown but has not had more expenses so some of the money is being sent back to the counties. He expects an additional \$8000 to \$10,000 this year at a minimum, with the possibility of up to \$15,000 to \$20,000, to each county.

Mr. Lowe told the Board about splitting one office in half to accommodate the current position. There is no more office space. He will not split other offices in half.

Mr. Lowe said he knows the county is working on getting more space prepared and knows the need for space.

Mr. Lowe said the Coyote Ridge prison will open in November and that will have a big impact on staff.

Motion – Mrs. Corkrum: I move that we approve the crime victim/witness secretary from half-time to full-time and the funds will be in the Crime Victim/Witness budget. Second by Mr. Miller. 3:0 vote in favor.

Mr. Lowe answered the Board's questions about how the change will affect the crime victim/witness budget. The 2008 budget was reviewed briefly. It appeared no public hearing would be necessary. Ms. Schadler asked when the change from part-time to full-time will take effect. Mr. Lowe said as soon as possible.

Recessed at 10:37 am.

Reconvened at 10:43 am.

HUMAN SERVICES

Human Services Director Rosie H. Rumsey met with the Board.

Executive Session at 10:43 am based on RCW 42.30.140(4) for contract negotiations expected to last 30 minutes.

Open Session at 11:06 am.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR (continuing)

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The Board continued their discussion regarding a list of items to speak to legislators about when they meet with them later this week.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor Ryan Verhulp met with the Board.

Revised Resolution: Rescind Resolution 2008-049 and approve a resolution for payment of lien on personal property taxes

Mr. Verhulp asked for approval of a revised resolution. The Treasurer has recommended an alternative so that her office will process the tax refund just because it would be consistent with what she has to do with taxing districts. Mr. Verhulp said technically it could be processed either way.

Motion – Mr. Miller: Mr. Chairman, I move that we rescind Resolution 2008-049 and approve Resolution 2008-053, approval of claim for damages as reimbursement for payment of lien on personal property taxes on tax parcel #700-093-0550 paid to the Franklin County Treasurer's Office to Home Boys, Inc., and that is in the amount of \$2076.05. Second by Mrs. Corkrum. 3:0 vote in favor.

Adjourned at 11:14 am.

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There being no further business, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned until February 6, 2008.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Chairman

Chairman Pro Tem

Member

Attest:

Clerk to the Board

Approved and signed February 11, 2008.