

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
Commissioners' Proceeding for February 27, 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.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Shults answered the Board's questions about the preparation of item 1 on the consent agenda.

**Motion** – Mr. Miller: Mr. Chairman, I move that we accept the consent agenda for February 27, 2008, as listed:

1. Approval of **Resolution 2008-090** adopting Revision 2 of the Franklin County Veterans' Assistance Fund Policy and Procedures in its entirety. (Exhibit 1: request for change)
2. Approval to submit a letter to Ben Franklin Transit supporting their efforts to secure \$5 million in federal funding from the Washington State Congressional Delegation for the Ben Franklin Transit Base Facility Expansion and Modernization Project. (Exhibit 2)
3. Approval of **Resolution 2008-091** for the 2008 City of Pasco - Franklin County Correctional Facilities Use Agreement, with said agreement effective January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008.
4. Approval of **Resolution 2008-092** authorizing Information Services to purchase a Dell computer for the Clerk's Office as identified on the quote, number 415918591, in the amount of \$921.90; authorizing the purchase of Windows Office operating software for a cost of \$675; and authorizing an inter budget transfer in the amount of \$1,580 from the County Clerk Budget, #001-000-160, line item 512.30.10.0000 (Salaries & Wages) to the Capital Outlay Budget, Number 001-000-710, line item 594.19.64.3501 (Computer 25%/+ Misc. Computer Equip.) to pay for said purchases.
5. Approval of **Resolution 2008-093** authorizing Information Services to purchase a Dell laptop computer for the County Clerk as identified on the quote, number 415920001, in the amount of \$1,237.36, and authoring the purchase of Windows Office operating software for a cost of \$675, utilizing funds from the

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
Commissioners' Proceeding for February 27, 2008

Miscellaneous Clerk LFO Collection Fund, Number 117-000-001, line item 594.12.64.0001 (Capital Outlay).

Second by Mrs. Corkrum.

Mr. Koch said he questions item #4 because it is a budget transfer. He asked, didn't we say we didn't want a bunch of budget changes during the year? Mrs. Corkrum said yes. Mr. Bowen said the county clerk said the Board authorized a new employee in the Clerk's Office. The clerk asked about a computer. The new position was not filled for a few weeks so the suggestion was made to the Clerk if you have the money in your employee line item, just transfer that out of the line item and buy the computer.

Mr. Bowen said he doesn't know where the request for a laptop computer is coming from as shown in Consent Agenda Item #5. He thought maybe it was something the Board had talked about.

Mr. Bowen said County Clerk Mike Killian was talking about doing a remodel. Mr. Bowen told Mr. Killian he doesn't know that a remodel was approved by the Board. Mr. Bowen said he has told Facilities Department staff that Mr. Killian needs to talk to the Board about a remodel. Mrs. Corkrum said we told him we would give him another employee but the remodeling and furniture was out of the question. Mr. Koch said Mr. Killian said if he could have the FTE employee, he would get around the remodel. Mr. Miller agreed.

Mr. Koch said the laptop is coming out of the Court LFO fund. Mrs. Corkrum asked isn't the LFO fund money that goes into Current Expense? Ms. Shults said she doesn't think so because it is Miscellaneous Budget #117. The Board reviewed the budget. Ms. Shults said the clerk said he is going to be using the laptop computer while working from home and when he is on trips.

Mr. Koch said we've asked to not change anything during the middle of the year. Talking about it doesn't help any. Mrs. Corkrum said we can stop the transfers by refusing to allow it.

**Vote: 3:0 vote in favor.**

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
Commissioners' Proceeding for February 27, 2008

Mr. Koch said that's what I was so against because it's tough enough keeping up with the budget without trying to get to the end of the year and having this and that moved around. Mrs. Corkrum and Mr. Miller agreed. Mr. Koch said the Clerk has a bottom line budget. He could have taken it out of anyplace and then adjust it in July. Ms. Shults said the Chief Accountant will not use a Capital Expense budget line item if it's coming out of something other than Capital Expense. She said the only other way we could have done it is to take it out of Information Services line item showing it was for the clerk. Mrs. Corkrum said that's what we should have done and then at the end of the year have the Information Services budget reimbursed by the Clerk's budget.

Vouchers/Warrants

**Motion** – Mr. Miller: I move that we accept the 2008 vouchers in the amount of \$297,285.34: Current Expense warrants 61833 through 61881 for \$34,792.39; FC RV Facility warrant 427 for \$3064.47; TRAC warrants 1066 through 1131 for \$87,630.20; Current Expense warrants 61974 through 61998 for \$18,589.90; Election Equipment warrants 458 through 461 for \$836.00; Courthouse Facilitator warrants 96 and 97 for \$964.67; Clerk LFO Collection warrants 31 and 32 for \$517.49; Current Expense warrants 61882 through 61973 for \$150,659.10; FC RV Facility warrant 428 for \$144.72; and DARE Fund Sheriff warrant 12 for \$86.40. Second by Mrs. Corkrum. 3:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 3)

**WSU EXTENSION OFFICE**

WSU Extension Director Kay Hendrickson, Alissa Schneider, Natalie Kinion and Amelia Gomez met with the Board.

Pathways Program

Ms. Hendrickson said the Pathways team is now at full staff level. Alissa Schneider is the program coordinator, having moved from a program specialist to the Pathways Coordinator. The Pathways program is funded by the Gates Foundation. She introduced Natalie Kinion and Amelia Gomez. Ms. Gomez and Marisol Stevens have been hired as mentors. In addition, Patty Ramirez has been hired as a half-time secretary. Ms. Kinion has replaced Ms. Schneider as the WRAP program specialist.

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
Commissioners' Proceeding for February 27, 2008

Gates Foundation sent a check for \$323,000 in January. Ms. Hendrickson is working with Information Services to appropriately allocate the .1 FTE for computer backup that was allowed by the grant for Franklin County computer support.

Ms. Schneider explained how the employees do evaluation work.

Tri-City Herald Reporter Joe Chapman joined the audience.

Ms. Schneider said we did testing to see the students' reading comprehension and writing skills to see if they can go to CBC and take classes. Six of the former students will go on, along with 18 other people. We have 24 students who will be taking classes at CBC as part of the project. The classes will be in English and child education.

We also have 16 students staying with us and have added additional new students for a total of 40 people who meet Mondays and Wednesdays in our office. On Monday, 36 came. It's a very tight squeeze into the room. We hope to have 20 in one room and 20 with computers but we'll never be able to be all together because we don't fit. The computers are all set up and updated. There are 21 computers in the lab. It's great to see some of the students interact. The ones who have already been participating spoke about the experience. Some of the new ones are nervous. Within the next few months, quite a few will be able to get a certificate from Mexico for passing the primary and secondary program.

A lot of people want to learn English. They can start learning on the computer now.

A few people will be working at home and come in once a month to work on writing with one of the mentors.

In total, we have 64 students and a few others who will come once a month to work on writing skills.

Two representatives from the Mexican Consulate were here this past week. Ms. Hendrickson said they were looking at some of the issues regarding consumer protection for Latinos in the community. In addition, they came on Saturday morning and saw the room and heard about the community. They're coming back in April. They are pleased with the program.

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
Commissioners' Proceeding for February 27, 2008

Ms. Hendrickson told the Board that if it weren't for your support, this wouldn't have happened. We have seen incredible impact, not just on the citizens of Franklin County and the program but also for the students and the kids they take care of. The licensors are absolutely thrilled at the change in behavior in taking care of kids. Originally we were going to check on student readiness but the Gates Foundation just wants to know what is happening from the change in environment and change in quality of child care in Franklin County and also the difference in the provider themselves and let someone else worry about the student readiness aspect.

Subsidy Rate

Mrs. Corkrum asked have we heard anything from the legislature in regards to an increase to the subsidy rate for child care in Franklin County? Ms. Schneider said a representative from the Boys and Girls Club said it got put into the budget line. Mr. Koch said he heard differently. He will check some more.

Update on other Extension Office programs

The agricultural program called Cultivating Success Program is meeting Thursday nights.

A technician is now working with Agents Tim Waters and Phil Petersen.

The person running the Food Sense program is currently doing all of her work in the north end of the county because of demand. We will probably hire another person to work in the program.

A WSU Recruiter is now located in the Extension Office.

We have 14 employees now out of our office. We are running programs 3-1/2 nights a week. We have taken up the basement space and we have two classrooms upstairs.

**PLANNING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

Planning Director Jerrod MacPherson, Assistant Director Greg Wendt, Planner Jeremy Underwood and Consultant Mike Corcoran met with the Board. Present in audience: Joe Chapman.

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
Commissioners' Proceeding for February 27, 2008

Public Hearing: Comprehensive Plan Amendment CPA 2007-01, amend and/or re-establish the Urban Growth Area Boundaries for the incorporated cities (Connell, Kahlotus, Mesa and Pasco) within Franklin County

Public Hearing convened at 9:36 am. Present: Commissioners Koch, Corkrum and Miller; County Administrator Fred Bowen; Planning Director Jerrod MacPherson, Assistant Director Greg Wendt, Planner Jeremy Underwood and Consultant Mike Corcoran; and Clerk to the Board Mary Withers. Present in audience: Joe Chapman.

Mr. MacPherson said we are here for regarding Comprehensive Plan Amendment 2007-01 in conjunction with adoption of our new Comprehensive Plan as well. First we're going to go through the series of urban growth boundaries. He gave some background information. The process started in 2003 in preparation for the state-required 2007 update requirements. In 2003, 2004 and 2005 we had a series of open houses, public meetings and workshops throughout the county which culminated with a public hearing before the Board in 2005 for the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan and urban growth boundaries (UGB). We just did it earlier than was required. The cities are also required to do that and have been evaluating their UGBs and bringing them back to us. It prompted us to re-open the Comprehensive Plan and make sure it's in compliance with the Growth Management Act (GMA). We want to make sure it's consistent with 2007 GMA requirements. Some laws were tweaked a little bit since 2005. We hired Mike Corcoran to assist us.

We have a series of four urban growth boundaries that we're evaluating today. The respective city councils and staff reviewed their UGBs and did not request any changes. The City of Connell denied a request from a citizen to enlarge their UGB before sending it to us. The City of Kahlotus requested a reduction in 2005 and again in 2007. The City of Pasco in 2005 requested a reduction in an area stretching north along the Columbia River that was unfeasible to supply services. In 2007 they requested a more logical expansion along the north end of their UGB.

Mr. Wendt said we'll start with CPA 2007-01. He reviewed the information on the Action Summary (Exhibit 4).

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
Commissioners' Proceeding for February 27, 2008

Mr. MacPherson showed the City of Connell UGB on the screen. They did not request any changes. Mr. Koch asked if the boundary goes up to Muse Road or the Adams County line. Mr. MacPherson said no. It goes to Coyan Road.

Mr. MacPherson showed the UGB for the City of Mesa on the screen, which has not changed.

Mr. MacPherson showed the UGB for the City of Kahlotus on the screen. He told the Board about the reduction in boundary that has been requested by the City of Kahlotus. It generally follows the coulee walls and uses topography features.

Mr. MacPherson showed the UGB for the City of Pasco. He told the Board about the work the City of Pasco has done leading to their request for an UGB expansion including using the services of a consultant. Mrs. Corkrum asked wouldn't it have been better to straighten it out on the section line? Mr. MacPherson said they have to justify the need and meet the state requirements.

Mr. Bowen asked if there are Federal GMA boundaries in that area. Mr. MacPherson is not aware of any Federal GMA boundaries; they are all state.

Mr. Bowen said yesterday during discussion of the Road 100 extension, some Federal requirements were mentioned. Mr. Corcoran said the Census Department established rural and urban areas and it may be that's the line they are talking about. It may be that's the line they're talking about. That's a Federal line. It applies to where money can be spent for roads. Mr. MacPherson asked would it have anything to do with the state-required urban growth boundaries? Mr. Corcoran said no. Mr. MacPherson does not think the Federal boundary would play a role in this particular instance.

Mr. MacPherson showed the changes that Pasco is requesting. A small portion on the eastern end is being reduced out of the UGB and re-designated appropriately to agricultural use.

Mr. MacPherson said staff, Planning Commission and the state are recommending support of the re-establishment of Connell and Mesa's urban growth boundary, the reduction in Kahlotus' boundary, and the increase and reduction of the City of Pasco's boundary.

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
Commissioners' Proceeding for February 27, 2008

Mr. Bowen asked if the Board agrees to this, how long will it be before it is implemented? Mr. MacPherson said it would be today. Mr. Bowen asked would that throw the Road 100/Dent Road project out because all of a sudden that boundary is north by a half mile now and it would be inside the city's urban growth boundary and those funds are not to be used inside the city's urban growth boundary? He asked did I misunderstand that? Mr. Corcoran asked you're talking about transportation projects? Mr. Bowen said yes. Mr. Corcoran said no. The urban/rural for transportation projects isn't decided by where we put our urban growth boundaries; it's where the Federal government establishes them. He expects it will be changed again after the 2010 census. He said there is a map at the Council of Governments (CoG) office that has urban and rural areas.

Mr. Bowen said yesterday County Engineer Tim Fife was very clear that it had to be addressed with the city, it had to be changed with the state, and then it had to go on to the Federal authorities. Mrs. Corkrum said that's if we change the Federal -- Mr. Bowen said Mr. Fife was talking about the cities and the states also. Mr. Koch said he referred to a boundary line adjustment. Mr. Koch gave his understanding of yesterday's conversation about urban and rural matters that affect payments for road work. Mr. MacPherson said we've been working with Mr. Fife on this and he's never said a word about a potential problem. Mrs. Corkrum said yesterday was the first she realized the Federal government has an urban/rural boundary but it has to do with the census, not anything the counties do. Mike Corcoran gave an example from the City of West Richland.

Mr. Corcoran said you can request changes to the line through the Council of Governments. They can make a recommendation to the Federal government.

Mr. MacPherson asked by calling that area urban, that doesn't affect its Federal rural designation? Mr. Corcoran said no.

County Engineer Tim Fife joined the meeting by speaker phone. He said he is familiar with what is being proposed. Mr. Bowen asked Mr. Fife if the monies that are being used for the Road 100/Dent Road project can be used inside the city's urban growth

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
Commissioners' Proceeding for February 27, 2008

boundary. Mr. Fife said he has already called on that and the project was started before that took place and that is a state boundary, not a Federal boundary. Our classifications of roads are based on the Federal classifications, not state ones. Mr. Bowen said so if the Commissioners adopt this today and it becomes effective today, you're not going to lose your funding? Mr. Fife said he won't lose the funding but here's what will happen: You need to know. In right-of-way negotiations, the price just went up on the property. Mr. Bowen asked how important is it that this be done on this particular one today? Mr. Fife said if there's no push to do it, I'd hold off until after we got right-of-way acquired because there would be some savings on our part. But that's up to you guys. They know it's coming anyway. During negotiations they're going to be asking for it anyway, what they could get from an urban standpoint versus a rural or ag standpoint.

Mr. MacPherson said another thing to keep in consideration is that this has to be done and into the state before March because if it isn't, then there's a possibility that the state could withhold Public Works Trust Funds (PWTF).

Mr. Fife said you're not jeopardizing the project. By doing this, you're making it more costly. Mr. MacPherson said they're going to ask for that value anyway because they know it's coming. Mr. Fife said they know it's coming because you've had all the hearings and they're going to probably stand put on it anyway.

Mr. MacPherson said we've been having a conversation with that area for about three or four years now so they know it's coming. (The telephone call with Mr. Fife was concluded.)

Mr. Koch said he thinks there are some people up there waiting for this so they can sell parcels for homes. They know about the right-of-way acquisition already.

**Motion** – Mrs. Corkrum: I move we approve CPA 2007-01 subject to the five specified findings of fact and recommendations.

Mr. Miller asked for clarification: This is the UGB projected for the next 20 years' growth; that's it? Mr. Wendt said yes. Mr. Miller said the city doesn't annex anything like that at this point? They can, but it takes requirements from the population and other factors? Mr. Wendt said yes, it's eligible to be annexed.

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
Commissioners' Proceeding for February 27, 2008

Second by Mr. Miller. 3:0 vote in favor. This is Resolution 2008-088.

Public Hearing: CPA 2007-02, the 2007 GMA-required Comprehensive Plan Update to the Franklin County Growth Management Comprehensive Plan (RCW 36.70A.130)

Public Hearing convened at 10:06 am. Present: Commissioners Koch, Corkrum and Miller; County Administrator Fred Bowen; Planning Director Jerrod MacPherson, Assistant Director Greg Wendt, Planner Jeremy Underwood and Consultant Mike Corcoran; and Clerk to the Board Mary Withers. Present in audience: Joe Chapman.

Mr. Wendt reviewed the information on the Action Summary (Exhibit 5). He said this is the text update to the county Comprehensive Plan to meet the 2007 update. He has listed what changed in 2005 as we did that portion of this process. He has also listed the proposed 2007 changes.

Mr. MacPherson said we have a series of maps that are incorporated as part of the Comprehensive Plan, as well as urban growth boundaries. On the screen, he showed the ag land map identifying prime irrigated and prime dryland.

He showed a community facilities map that identifies fire districts including the new Fire District #5 and areas not included in fire districts near Juniper Dunes. The map also identifies the Columbia Plateau Trail System that Washington State Parks received approval for in late 1999 or 2000. It identifies pedestrian/bicycle trails.

He showed a public facilities map which identifies utilities, gas lines, and substations.

The functional class map shows different levels of roads.

Mr. MacPherson said the maps are required with each individual element of the comprehensive plan. He listed some of the different elements of the plan such as housing and transportation.

He showed a mineral resources map identifying active gravel pits on both county facilities and private land.

He showed a future land use map.

Mr. MacPherson asked Mr. Corcoran to tell some of the process he went through. Mr. Corcoran described the work he did to prepare the update including review of the

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
Commissioners' Proceeding for February 27, 2008

2005 plan, legislation that has been adopted, checking RCW references, and checking of all the sections of the existing comprehensive plan. Some sections did not need any changes. He made some changes in some sections.

The reason for doing the Economics section originally in 2005 was to determine whether agriculture is a viable business in America. There was some question about whether agriculture is viable or not. Mr. Corcoran said he has determined that it definitely is a viable industry and should be preserved. He thought it was important to be included in the Comprehensive Plan.

We completely revised the transportation element because the CoG had revised their regional transportation plan. They are required to provide a 20-year plan that demonstrates that for all of the projects the cities and counties have within their jurisdiction, there will be enough revenue available through traditional sources to be built. They're required to do that to demonstrate consistency between the land use and the transportation elements of all of the plans. Our plan is okay and all of the projects are feasible.

Tim Fife and Phil Merrell joined the audience.

Mr. MacPherson noted that Franklin County has still not been taken to the Growth Management Hearings Board. It is one of the few counties that has not.

**Motion** – Mr. Miller: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a motion to approve CPA 2007-02 subject to the seven specified findings of fact/recommendations. Second by Mrs. Corkrum. 3:0 vote in favor. This is Resolution 2008-089.

**Recessed** at 10:18 am.

**Reconvened** at 10:23 am

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

County Engineer Tim Fife and Engineer Phil Merrell met with the Board.

### Vouchers

**Motion** – Mr. Miller: I move for approval of vouchers/warrants for County Road Fund for \$225,671.88; and MV & PW Equipment Fund for \$20,047.87. Second by Mrs. Corkrum. 3:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 6)

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
Commissioners' Proceeding for February 27, 2008

**BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Benton County Commissioner Leo Bowman called on the telephone. He asked the Board to call legislators regarding some current legislative issues.

**PUBLIC WORKS** (continuing)

Troy Woody and Tri-City Herald Reporter Joe Chapman joined the audience.

R-170 Discussion

Mr. Fife said we do have traffic count numbers for the R170 road but he didn't have the answers when people were questioning him during Monday's Board meeting.

We've seen a 40% reduction in traffic since the slide for traffic on R-170 from south of Klamath Road. That is made up of primarily those that were using it for a through route for whatever reason. A lot of the vehicles are cars. The information was collected using counters. The figures are preliminary because we haven't had a chance to analyze that yet. Mr. Fife said the people who commented on Monday are right; there are a substantial number of trucks that turn and go up the Klamath hill.

The way I put it is it's been two years since the slide. It's going to be difficult to go back to what we had before. I'm hearing some resistance because of that. Then they have some different ideas. They are wanting to design for the traffic in their own neighborhood. A major arterial is a backbone for the entire county. Once we build this road back, we are going to see that the amount of traffic will go back up. What I'm hearing is they want us to design to the way traffic is right now. Our mission from day one is so traffic flows like it did before. They had some ideas and we can go through an analysis and give our opinion but I'm also hearing based on if we want to do what they want us to do, we're probably going to have another public workshop or hearing setting so we can hear from the rest of the public because they kind of represented themselves as the public but he thinks they are more of a special interest group as part of the public. If we do some of the stuff they're asking us to do, you're going to hear from some of the rest of the public later on after you build it. He thinks we will have another public meeting.

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
Commissioners' Proceeding for February 27, 2008

Mr. Koch said that's what we ended up with unless we write it in stone, one of those alternatives. Are you ready to do that yet?

Mr. Fife said he thinks we'll stand behind our recommendation to go with the fourth alternative that kind of takes property from all three parties and kind of spreads the pain. That beats the engineering solutions to it. But before we go back to that again, I think we need to analyze what they're saying about having the through route up the hill. We need to determine what's good about it, what's bad about it, whether it will work. My gut feeling is it doesn't really fit the traffic pattern.

Mr. Koch said the majority of loaded trucks are coming down the hill. He said there are only two ways down the hill, either Klamath Road or go clear north and come off Wahluke. Mr. Fife said those two roads, while they are minor collectors, really serve the needs of the local people on the plateau. He said the English's have a great need for it with their operation. It is their primary route.

Mrs. Corkrum said the way the new route or conceptual design is when they come off the hill, they've got a longer flat area to stop than it is right now.

Mr. Fife said we don't have a history of any trucks blowing that intersection but that doesn't mean there isn't potential. Mr. Koch said he has driven it with loaded trucks. The way it is now, if someone blows the intersection they would come across and go across Klamath, but not into English's yard. Mr. Fife described some design features that can be examined.

Mr. Merrell said one alternative we have discussed with English's is putting a farmable slope on the inside of the curve, maybe at 6:1 or 8:1. Then it is a runoff area that could be traversed in a truck. If you can make that curve at the speed you would be going, you would survive that.

Mr. Miller said he thinks they also were saying, it's going to create more traffic that didn't have to be there. Besides that point, if they didn't, they're going to go to Glade most likely. Mr. Miller said what they're saying is why put all that money in for that convenience over there as opposed to -- you know, make that a stop there. He has talked to a number of people besides the ones who attended the Board meeting on

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
Commissioners' Proceeding for February 27, 2008

Monday. They're happy to just put a stop there and be able to take the trucks up because you don't have to stop and then start up the hill. That's their problem, if you're coming from Klamath the other way, stop, go up the hill. Now even with the turnout that's proposed, they're going to have to slow down and curve and go up. That's the problem they have is going up that thing slowing down. This way on Klamath they're going to just be able to continue to drive up. Mr. Fife asked from which direction? Mr. Miller said going west, coming from the east, going towards the river, up the hill.

Mr. Fife said when we were out there meeting with them, he saw a lot of trucks coming from the south that were turning up that hill, too. Mr. Miller said he saw trucks coming from all directions, coming down and from the south. Mr. Fife said hopefully based upon the traffic counts we can kind of give you an idea.

Mr. Koch said the traffic count for trucks will basically be the same going up or down except going up, the majority of the trucks will be unloaded.

Mr. Miller asked for convenience and maybe the safety of having a stop there, what's wrong with having a stop. Mr. Fife said we have a conceptual drawing. He said we could design to do that and it will meet all the design criteria.

Mr. Koch said if this was designed on a 50 mile an hour road, do we have to leave it at 50 mile an hour signs? Do we restrict the speed even though the road is a 50 mile an hour road?

Mr. Fife said you can put whatever speed limit out there you want but people will drive what they're comfortable driving. Mr. Merrell said if a design was reduced, the sharper curves are more dangerous. Mr. Koch said to keep the design at 50 and post it lower. Mr. Fife wouldn't recommend that. Mr. Koch gave an example of speed limits near Seattle. He is just thinking of mitigating some of the concerns.

Mrs. Corkrum said the group that was here the other day isn't the total group in the area.

Mr. Fife said we need to have a workshop so you can hear from the other people if the design is changed significantly. Mr. Koch has received a phone call from people who did not attend the meeting on Monday.

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
Commissioners' Proceeding for February 27, 2008

Mr. Merrell showed a conceptual drawing labeled Alt 5A. Mr. Fife said it is rough and probably not how it would finally end up.

Mr. Fife said Mr. Merrell and he are looking at this as what's best for the public. We may say the other one is better for the public in general and that might be our recommendation but I'm not saying we can't make this one work and meet design standards.

Mr. Miller said what he hears from the people out there, not just the group that was here, is that we're the county commissioners and what's best for the county and they're the taxpayer. Mr. Fife said they're one of many, yes. Mrs. Corkrum said we've got 60,000 people. Mr. Miller said they feel they use it the most. Mr. Fife said they probably do. Mrs. Corkrum said people who drive to Othello go through that area, too.

Mr. Fife said he uses their roads and his expectation is they are going to look out for what's best for the entire public. Here's what happens when you don't: If you go to a 35 mile an hour curve, the first vehicle that goes off there from Othello, we go to court and lose and pay lots of money and liability because we chose not to follow design standards. Mr. Miller said even if you put a stop there, somebody could pull out. It's a safety issue. I know that's what you guys are trying to do is reduce the risk.

Mr. Fife told the Board he checked about the deviation process. Typically a deviation request would be approved for certain reasons. He gave two examples, such as a critical habitat for some environmental reason that you have to avoid, or if you have a sheer cliff and from a practical standpoint you can't go down the cliff and come back up. They will take our deviation request but the sense he got from them is that it's not likely they would approve it just based on the neighbors want it.

Mrs. Corkrum asked what if we just left it as is? Mr. Fife said he doesn't think that would be acceptable to the public.

Mr. Merrell said for a 9000-foot level look at this, there's a county road hierarchal system that's developed that includes main arterials, collectors, minor collectors and local access roads. The system has been in place for a long time. If you look at this from a systems standpoint, the route that was created north-south there was one of the original

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
Commissioners' Proceeding for February 27, 2008

state roads. Right now there is a lot of commerce going up and down the hill but the land uses can change. It's an issue of 30 years from now, is your system intact? Is it what is best? And again, not reinforcing what Mr. Fife says, if system-wise it's best to go up the hill that's the way we should go. If you look at it from a systems standpoint, what's the best route is the issue he would raise.

Mr. Koch said he can foresee the commerce on top of the hill coming down the hill going straight across Klamath and going south on Glade rather than going to Ringold, climbing the hill, and turning. He thinks Easterdays probably have about 100 trucks moving every day. He can foresee this working for the long haul, too, as far as the commerce side of it.

Mr. Merrell said if you choose to change the system, then re-looking at the classification of roads would be a critical element. We would have to design to appropriate standards and the standard up and down the hill is not appropriate. If you have an arterial that is improved, if you design to a lower standard, which really from a liability standpoint you can't, I think you have to weigh that and take it into consideration. These are Federal functional classifications approved by the Federal government. That process is not quick.

Mr. Fife said Klamath Road was built at the minimal design standards for mountainous terrain based upon the traffic use at the time. It was done in the late '80s, early '90s.

Mr. Fife does not see potential increase of traffic except normal increase.

Mr. Koch asked would something like that work for financing? If it does, we owe it to the rest of the public to have a public workshop at a minimum, maybe in Basin City. Would it stay within our parameters of revenue as far as acquiring the revenue? Mr. Fife said it would not affect it. We're going for Federal fiscal year 2009 so that won't be decided until next year anyway.

Mr. Koch asked about the north end of the project. Mr. Merrell said he thinks there are changes we can make there. He met with Schroeders and Coopers after the meeting on Monday. We start with the most desirable route from a transportation

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
Commissioners' Proceeding for February 27, 2008

standpoint. We just hadn't had a chance to meet with them yet. There are 30 other people we've met with also. There are things we can do to make that possible.

Mr. Koch said it's still a work in progress. Mr. Merrell said absolutely. Mr. Fife said we needed to pull off the road work to do the work on the canal.

### **TRAC**

TRAC Manager Troy Woody met with the Board.

#### Trip Summaries: Yakima and Clark County, Nevada

Mr. Woody said we saw something good at every site tour and have good ideas and conceptually turned the entire cart upside down from what we thought TRAC should look like to what we now know it should look like.

He got some good contact information from the State Parks department, although he thinks it's a long shot to get funding for the warm-up arena roof.

#### Property Insurance Update/Question

Mr. Woody said we can separate property insurance out of the current Risk Pool insurance and there would be a reduction in rate to the county but the number hasn't been determined. He hopes to proceed with getting a legitimate bid for TRAC's property insurance and then determine whether it's in our best interests or not.

The liability insurance will need to remain with the Risk Pool.

#### Customer Comments

Mr. Woody showed the Board a thank you from a customer.

#### 2007 Closeout Final Financial Information

Mr. Woody gave the Board the final 2007 Year-End Closeout accounting paper (Exhibit 7). The three sources of information were close, within thousands of dollars (TRAC, County Administrator and Auditor numbers). The City of Pasco has been billed for \$2400. The county will also pay \$2400. It puts everything whole.

#### Rigging specifications

The certification process has been finished for flying in the arena and expo hall. Point Loads charts were shown to the Board. With no snow load we could hang a 72,000 pound show in the building. A big show weighs about 60,000 pounds. An architect has

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
Commissioners' Proceeding for February 27, 2008

told Mr. Woody that's tremendous. If there is snow, nothing will be hung from the ceiling.

Other Business

Mr. Woody showed the Board a sheet listing internal goals of TRAC departments.

The TRAC web site will be updated in the next few weeks. He gave the Board the new business cards.

The Home and Garden Show just finished with good attendance. A busy weekend is coming up that includes a Father/Daughter Ball for about 2200 people, then a convention Saturday morning, a dinner Saturday night for 300 and Bull Bash Saturday night, then a team roping event on Sunday morning.

**VOUCHERS/WARRANTS**

**Motion** – Mrs. Corkrum: I move for approval of payroll as follows:

Salary Clearing payroll warrants 45114 through 45206 for \$177,786.06; warrants 45207 through 45218 for \$219,923.84; and Direct Deposit for \$265,843.42; for a total amount of \$663,553.32. Second by Mr. Miller. 3:0 vote in favor.

The cover sheet also includes the following amounts:

Emergency Management payroll warrants 9292 through 9302 for \$3562.03; warrants 9303 through 9312 for \$5009.44; and Direct Deposit for \$7560.97; for a total amount of \$16,132.44; and

Irrigation payroll warrants 13296 through 13312 for \$7640.41; and warrants 13313 through 13320 for \$4496.82. (Exhibit 8)

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

County Administrator Fred Bowen met with the Board.

Basin City Water and Sewer District

The owner of the water and sewer system in Basin City is not willing to work with attorneys or title companies or have any dealings with IRS work that might be involved in a sale of the system to the district. Mr. Bowen gave the Board an update on the project.

**SUPERIOR COURT**

Superior Court Administrator Pat Austin met with the Board.

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
Commissioners' Proceeding for February 27, 2008

Arbitrators and Judges Pro Tem

Ms. Austin said the IRS states arbitrators and judges pro tem are employees of the county. She said the State Office of Court Administration received an Attorney General's opinion late last year that they were in agreement that we should be treating them as employees based on IRS and Social Security Administration's determination. We are still debating the issue on arbitrators. We've been advised by the state office and the Attorney General that at this time we should be paying Social Security and Medicare on these people and treating them as part-time temporary employees. We have prepared resolutions for your signature to make these individuals part-time employees of the counties. One reason to proceed is that we have received notice by IRS and Social Security. Secondly, the state pays half of this hourly rate to the individuals and they're not willing to do that if we don't go by the AG's opinion.

The state will be reimbursing us for 100% of the benefits related to pro tem judges. In most cases that would be Social Security and Medicare only. We do have a judge pro tem that is also our part-time court commissioner. It will probably put her up into a retirement accrual status. At this point Ms. Austin does not have immediate fiscal impact information. If it gets to the point where that occurs, she will come back later in the year with the information.

Mrs. Corkrum asked if we're going to be reimbursed for the benefits and half of the salary, aren't we better off financially? Ms. Austin said yes. Basically we'll be getting the same as we were before. The only difference is we have to pay the benefits upfront and the state reimburses us. We may need to supplement our budget temporarily, perhaps to meet payroll in December. We can look at that in the fall.

Mrs. Corkrum asked what does this do to our pro tem judges in District Court? Ms. Austin does not know how the District Court will be handling it. Mrs. Corkrum said we don't get reimbursed for District Court pro tem judges.

Ms. Austin said arbitrator fees are a separate line item. We're requesting to move that money into the salary line item so we can access the money through that billing

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
Commissioners' Proceeding for February 27, 2008

system other than just processing vouchers. It's just moving money around. She expects the costs to be the same.

Ms. Austin said Juvenile Justice Center Administrator Sharon Paradis planned to be here too because it will affect their budget also, maybe needing a supplement in December.

**Motion** – Mr. Miller: Mr. Chairman, I move for approval to establish a bi-county, nonbargaining employment classification for judge pro-tempore in the Benton and Franklin Counties Juvenile Court. Second by Mrs. Corkrum. 3:0 vote in favor. This is Resolution 2008-094.

Sharon Paradis joined the meeting.

**Motion** - Mrs. Corkrum: I make a motion in establishing a bi-county, nonbargaining employment classification for judge pro-tempore in the Benton Franklin Counties Superior Court. Second by Mr. Miller. 3:0 vote in favor. This is Resolution 2008-095. (Exhibit 9: Information sheet.)

**Motion** – Mr. Miller: I move approval in the matter of establishing a bi-county, nonbargaining employment classification for an arbitrator in the Benton-Franklin County Superior Court. Second by Mrs. Corkrum. 3:0 vote in favor. This is Resolution 2008-096. (Exhibit 10: Information sheet.)

**Recessed** at 11:25 am.

**Reconvened** at 11:29 am.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR (continuing)**

Human Resources Director Rosie H. Rumsey joined the meeting.

**Treasurer**

Ms. Rumsey said the Classification Review Committee has reviewed the Treasurer's request for employee salary placement and approved it. She asked for approval of the change of status. The Board **gave approval** for Change of Status for Yesenia Torres (Exhibit 11). Ms. Rumsey left the meeting.

**Security Media Release**

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
Commissioners' Proceeding for February 27, 2008

Mr. Bowen said since the news cameras have already come, Captain Rochleau is preparing a security media release rather than trying to bring reporters back.

Mrs. Corkrum said if there is a press conference regarding security, the Commissioners should be involved.

**Recessed** at 11:34 am.

**Reconvened** at 2:00 pm.

County Administrator Fred Bowen was absent on county business.

**SUPERIOR COURT**

The Board reviewed a proposed resolution for transfer of funds regarding the Superior Court request that was heard this morning from Pat Austin (Exhibit 12).

Mr. Koch is concerned about transferring money any time during the year. Mrs. Corkrum said the affected budgets are bottom line budgets so she does not think the resolution is necessary. The Board decided to table the resolution at this time.

**AUDITOR**

Auditor Zona Lenhart met with the Board. Present in audience: Tri-City Herald Reporter Joe Chapman and Merle Booker.

Moving Estimate

Bekins gave an estimate of \$22,000 for moving the Auditor's storage materials from one facility to another. Ms. Lenhart has received a second quote for \$8800 not including sales tax. The Board reviewed the proposal (Exhibit 13). She said the proposal includes tear down and set up of the storage racks as well as the moving of the materials.

Ms. Lenhart plans to use Express Storage on Court Street which is a secure facility that requires password security to get in and out. Mr. Koch asked is this a regular storage place? Ms. Lenhart said yes. It will cost \$200 a month for two units, one for Elections storage and one for regular Auditor storage. Ms. Lenhart plans to store the materials that are located in the bay area of the Franklin County Annex while remodeling is occurring. The most time we need the rented storage area is for six months. It will probably only be three months. The cost will be paid from the Auditor's Revolving Fund,

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
Commissioners' Proceeding for February 27, 2008

not Current Expense. After remodeling, some of the materials will be sent to Archives in Ellensburg instead of being brought back to the regular county storage.

Mr. Koch said we just paid a voucher this morning to have it moved out of Bekins and back into the Franklin County Annex. He thinks it still costs a lot of money for the move at about \$9000.

The Board asked that a resolution be prepared for the consent agenda to approve the moving costs with D&L Delivery.

Commissioner District Boundaries

Ms. Lenhart reviewed two maps that are drafts of proposed Commission district boundaries labeled Draft 1 and Draft 2. After the Board initially saw Draft 1 several months ago, Ms. Lenhart's staff prepared Draft 2 based on requests from Mr. Miller. The Board reviewed the maps and asked for some other changes. Ms. Lenhart asked if anyone has any other suggestions. Mr. Koch asked her to put the numbers together and give us notice and give us an idea if we're still close or not before preparing a new map. Ms. Lenhart will plan to prepare another draft for the Board to review, probably on March 12.

**MINUTES**

**Motion** – Mrs. Corkrum: I move for approval of Commissioners Proceedings for February 20, 2008. Second by Mr. Miller. 3:0 vote in favor.

**Recessed** at 2:29 pm.

**Reconvened** at 2:35 pm.

**OFFICE OF PUBLIC DEFENSE**

Ray Gonzales and Judy Paxton of the Office of Public Defense met with the Board.

Resolution

Mr. Gonzales asked for approval to permit the Office of Public Defense to authorize expenditures for expert and investigator services and other professional services items. He said the judges have been doing this but want to move out of that arena. The financial framework is set up with the Franklin County Auditor's Office.

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
Commissioners' Proceeding for February 27, 2008

The advantage is the court does not like to be in the position of granting the expenditures. We are tracking some cases separately for these kinds of services. If there is a financial judge, then the financial judge will sign these types of things.

**Motion** – Mrs. Corkrum: I will move that we approve the matter of creating a standardized process for appointment and compensation of expert witnesses, investigators and other providers of professional services to assist indigent criminal defendants in Benton and Franklin Counties Superior Courts. Second by Mr. Miller. 3:0 vote in favor. This is Resolution 2008-097.

**Other**

Mr. Gonzales answered the Board's questions about current work in his office.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Final Approval Short Plat SP 2007-28, Larry Ledington**

**Motion** – Mrs. Corkrum: I move for final approval of Short Plat 2007-28 for Larry Ledington. Second by Mr. Miller. 3:0 vote in favor. This is Resolution 2008-098.

**Commissioner Approval Authorization**

**Motion** – Mr. Miller: I move that Neva Corkrum can sign vouchers and other county business in the absence of the other two commissioners next week. Second by Mrs. Corkrum. 3:0 vote in favor.

**Adjourned** at 2:52 pm.

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
Commissioners' Proceeding for February 27, 2008

There being no further business, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned until March 12, 2008.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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Chairman

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Chairman Pro Tem

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Member

Attest:

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Clerk to the Board

Approved and signed March 17, 2008.