

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49
FRANKLIN COUNTY
Commissioners' Proceeding for April 7, 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. Present in audience: Sharon Paradis and Jerrod MacPherson.

Consent Agenda

Motion - Mr. Miller: I move for approval of the consent agenda as follows:

1. Approval of **Resolution 2008-147** for the Internet Vehicle / Vessel Information Processing System (VIPS) User Agreement between the Washington State Department of Licensing and the Franklin County Treasurer.
2. Approval to submit a letter to the Department of Energy requesting reconsideration to renew permits, easements and licenses for access to Rattlesnake Mountain. (Exhibit 1)
3. Approval to submit a letter to the Benton Franklin Community Action Committee to support their application to the Washington State Child Care Resource & Referral Network to continue the Service Delivery Area for Child Care Resource and Referral Services in Benton, Franklin and Adams Counties. (Exhibit 2)

Second by Mrs. Corkrum. 3:0 vote in favor.

Vouchers/Warrants

Motion – Mrs. Corkrum: I move for approval of payment of the following vouchers/warrants: Current Expense warrants 62602 through 62613 for \$3,401.14; Current Expense warrants 62614 through 62632 for \$4,391.41; Current Expense warrant 62633 for \$50.41; Current Expense warrants 62634 through 62667 for \$20,118.00; Current Expense warrants 62668 through 62682 for \$154,719.27; Current Expense warrants 62683 through 62694 for \$1,710.41; Current Expense warrants 62695 through 62699 for \$848.63; DOC Building Inspection warrant 69 for \$15.22; Courthouse Facilitator warrant 100 for \$810.00; Clerk LFO Collection warrant 33 for \$381.72; Growth Management warrants 210 through 211 for \$499.08; Jail Commissary warrants 2451 through 2456 for

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\$16,330.30; Franklin County Capital Projects warrants 394 through 398 for \$5,621.99; Franklin County Public Facilities warrants 843 through 847 for \$17,492.54; and Liability Reserve warrant 34 for \$171.84; for a total of \$226,561.96. Second by Mr. Miller. 3:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 3)

Planning and Building Department

Planning Director Jerrod MacPherson met with the Board. Present in audience: Sharon Paradis.

Final Approval Short Plat SP 2008-02, Robert Tippett

Motion – Mr. Miller: Mr. Chairman, I move that we accept the final approval for Short Plat 2008-02 for Robert Tippett. Second by Mrs. Corkrum. 3:0 vote in favor. This is Resolution 2008-148.

Final Approval Short Plat SP 2008-01, Jonathan Bauman

Motion – Mrs. Corkrum: I move for final approval of Short Plat 2008- for Jonathan Bauman. Second by Mr. Miller. 3:0 vote in favor. This is Resolution 2008-149.

Minor Plat Correction for Chiawana Estates

Mr. MacPherson said a subdivision was recorded earlier this year off of Road 88 and Argent, built by Sullivan Rowell Homes. They have started to do the building. When the plat was originally recorded, the addresses were established through the 911 system but there were some mistakes. Planning Department staff met with Public Works Department staff who authorizes minor plat corrections. Mr. MacPherson asked for approval to re-establish the addresses correctly.

Motion – Mrs. Corkrum: So moved. Second by Mr. Miller. 3:0 vote in favor. This is Resolution 2008-150.

JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER (JJC)

JJC Director Sharon Paradis met with the Board.

Juvenile Justice Needs Assessment

As part of the MacArthur project, the JJC anticipated doing a needs assessment survey, particularly relating to mental health issues. We asked them to increase the scope of the survey to include some information about truancy as well as other information

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regarding relationship issues. Ms. Paradis said the information is critical for people to understand if parents have children become involved in the juvenile justice system. Largely people think of us as a detention facility and don't recognize the great programs and services that we provide. She gave the Board a one-page general description of the process prepared by the University of Washington (UW), which has been sent to a number of entities (Exhibit 4).

Ms. Paradis showed the Board the Needs Assessment survey. It is a combination of two surveys, one largely aimed at parents and another that is a youth survey. The University of Washington has hired some interns from Washington State University (WSU) in this community to administer the survey.

Mr. Koch asked where the assessment will be sent. Ms. Paradis said the workers (generally WSU or UW interns) are conducting the survey face-to-face with individuals. They anticipated it would take half an hour but it's taking an hour so that may adjust the time frame for completion or how many surveys are done. We wanted people to give us a narrative if they wanted to instead of just check boxes. The workers have tried to identify major events in the community so they can try to contact people in order to gather information. Ms. Paradis has cautioned the folks to not just ask the Latino community because then there isn't a basis for comparison.

WSU is doing the truancy piece of the MacArthur work. They will also be doing work specifically related to schools.

Volunteer Appreciation Event

A volunteer appreciation event will be held in May. Certificates will be given to various places including a Baptist Church in Kennewick and a church in Prosser that let us use their facilities for meetings such as the Underage Drinking meeting held last week.

Truancy

Truancy is a part of the MacArthur project. JJC employee Daryl Banks has done a lot to remodel the truancy program. We have three people working in the Franklin County school districts this year. One person, Brittany, is an AmeriCorps volunteer. We used \$8000 of Becca money to match with AmeriCorps money and have her working for

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30 hours a week for nine months. She works in the schools and meets with kids. It is early intervention, pre-truancy prevention work. We're a little bit cautious. She gave the Board some charts showing numbers of various types of cases filed. The overall number of truancy petitions filed so far is about the same as last year. The number of Franklin County's truancy petitions is down significantly from last year. The problem is we took a significant nose dive last year in terms of the Pasco High School petitions. That situation has not improved. We used some clerical support and ran group sessions to try to get truancy petitions filed. The funding for truanancies follows the number of petitions filed. We don't get money for the program unless a petition is filed. There needs to be some concentrated effort to have the school district get truancy petitions filed. Ms. Paradis is concerned that there is not enough attention at the level needed because she thinks we're losing a lot of kids.

Once there's a court order for a student to continue to attend school but they don't, then a contempt is filed.

By the end of the year when we have gathered all the information and completed the studies, Ms. Paradis thinks we'll have a lot better understanding of the issues and where the gaps are.

PUBLIC WORKS

Engineer Tim Fife met with the Board.

Vouchers/Warrants

Motion – Mr. Miller: I'll make a motion to approve vouchers for County Road Fund for \$422,976.29; MV & PW Equipment Fund for \$16,677.85; and Solid Waste Fund for \$3064.42. Second by Mrs. Corkrum. 3:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 5)

Resolution: Contract between Franklin County Public Works and Copenhaver

Construction, Inc., CRP 592/2006 Gravel Road Paving Upgrades, Group 3 -- Rock

Crushing

Copenhaver was the low bidder for rock crushing on Group 3. Mr. Fife asked for approval of the contract.

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Motion – Mr. Miller: Mr. Chairman, I move that we approve the contract between Franklin County Public Works and Copenhaver Construction, Inc., CRP 592/2006 Gravel Road Paving Upgrades, Group 3 – Rock Crushing. Second by Mrs. Corkrum. 3:0 vote in favor. This is Resolution 2008-151.

Columbia River Corridor Study for a Bridge

Mr. Fife said the bridge study has turned back to just one study, splitting it into two phases. One phase is to consider a bridge to be placed between the Blue Bridge and the Richland bridge and other options in that area. The second phase would have a broader scope, looking at the north Franklin area and into Walla Walla County.

Mr. Fife is still recommending approval of putting \$10,000 into the study. Mrs. Corkrum asked if you can bring something to the Board to do it officially. Mr. Fife said he will when the money has to actually be spent. The Board **gave approval** to spend the \$10,000.

Mr. Fife said there are three obvious options for a new bridge: a twin bridge next to the Blue Bridge that would provide more lanes and improve the traffic flow; a crossing at Road 68; or a crossing at Road 100. There may be other possibilities that come up. There will be public comment during the process.

Mr. Koch thinks the Road 68 bridge makes more sense than Road 100. Mr. Fife said there is already an interchange at Edison which would line up with Road 68. Mrs. Corkrum said at certain times, it has heavy traffic.

INFORMATION SERVICES (IS)

IS Director Kevin Scott met with the Board.

Accounting Software

Mr. Scott said Chief Accountant Tom Westerman had planned to meet with the Board but is not available today.

Mrs. Corkrum said the CompuTech system the county is using now is 23 years old. She knows it's obsolete but it's still getting the job done. Mr. Scott said in some respects, it is. Mrs. Corkrum said the system is still putting out payroll and doing an annual report. She does not want to spend \$500,000 to \$1 million on a software package

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that might be obsolete in five years. She said Treasurer Tiffany Coffland said she doesn't think we're looking at that. Mrs. Corkrum just wants the basic system. She was told we're getting support from CompuTech but we're getting charged every time we call. Mr. Scott said CompuTech is stopping support on our program. Mrs. Corkrum said she understands that but it's been three years since the Board said to go forward with a new system. She wants to spend the money allocated for software elsewhere if it is not needed there.

Mr. Scott said it has been a struggle to get the people involved available at the same time for meetings. The group has decided to find out how much it would cost to hire a consultant to help determine what is needed and what programs are available. He expects to receive a quote from one company very soon.

Mr. Scott said the current system does not have job costing. Mrs. Corkrum asked is that something we need? Mr. Scott said most systems use that. He said the current system for billing is inefficient in a digital world. He thinks our cost per transaction is extremely high. Currently, each department does their asset management separately. It needs to be streamlined. The new systems have a lot of functionality that we don't have.

Mrs. Corkrum wants to buy a system that will do our annual report, pay our bills, pay our payroll, and do what the treasurer needs on the revenue side. She does not think any more is needed. Mr. Koch asked why would you spend money on software and not have what's available today, if we're spinning our wheels and it's costing us more to do each piece of it, doing paperwork instead of electronic work? Mrs. Corkrum asked will we get away from paperwork? Mr. Scott said you'll never get away from paperwork totally.

Mr. Scott said we don't have to get the full package from day one. We can add functions later. We can start with the basics and have asset management, general accounting, and payroll. Mrs. Corkrum said cost accounting is required for Public Works and she thinks they obtained a software program from the County Road Administration Board (CRAB) that is working.

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Mr. Scott said for any software now, we pay the ongoing maintenance fee yearly. It allows installation of updated software and keeps us current with new technology.

Mrs. Corkrum said \$50,000 has been listed as the expected annual maintenance fee for new software. Mr. Scott said that is a ballpark figure but no one really knows what it will cost yet. It's usually based on percentage of total sale.

Mr. Koch asked have you checked with other counties around the state that have recently purchased software? Mr. Bowen said the project was headed up by the Auditor's and Treasurer's offices. They were supposed to do the legwork and compare to other counties. Then once they had some products in mind, they were going to involve IS. We need to have a system that allows us to know where we are when the books are closed at the end of a day. Mr. Scott said he has talked to a few other counties but does not have much information yet.

Mr. Scott will come back when the quote for a consultant is received.

GIS Update

Mr. Scott said the Board has asked for an update regarding GIS. He asked if the Board has specific questions or just wants an overall update. Mrs. Corkrum said she just wants an update. Mr. Scott said South Columbia Basin Irrigation District (SCBID) and the Franklin Public Utility District are still involved.

DISTRICT COURT

District Court Judge Jerry Roach, Administrator Terrie Yonts and Probation Supervisor Kelly Martin met with the Board.

District Court Filings

A chart showing the number of District Court filings from January 1 through March 31, 2007, and January 1 through March 31, 2008, was given to the Board (Exhibit 6). DV is an acronym for domestic violence cases. They are all being handled by Superior Court now.

Citations

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Mr. Miller said he is often told law enforcement workers are pulling people over because they're trying to get more funding. He knows there is a larger population. He asked how do you explain that to someone?

Ms. Yonts told about the distribution of the ticket funds, with part going to the Law Library, part to Crime Victims, part to the county, and part to the state. The minimum fine for tickets has gone up significantly.

Judge Roach said more people are being pulled over because, if you look at statistics, the amount of road that has increased since 1970 is 10% but there are 400% more cars. There is more traffic. Another factor is the way people drive. He thinks law enforcement is doing a good job. We are seeing more cases in court which is a natural function of increased fines. The people want to present their case and ask for a reduction in fines and they have the right to do that. Judge Roach wonders if the executive branch is giving less warnings. He gave an example. He has anecdotal information regarding warnings but not statistics.

Judge Roach said in Franklin County Courts, an overview of people in court is that they are 18- to 25-year-olds, particularly males. They didn't have to take driver's education if they arrived in this country after the age of 18. Their driving behavior isn't the same as those who took driver's education. There are many cases of defective license plates and tail lights, and not signaling when turning. He said it's not simply that more tickets are being written but many factors contribute to it. There are always places to improve the system but he thinks there is basic fairness.

The legislature passes the amount of fines, not the county.

Mr. Koch asked if a drop box would be of benefit. Judge Roach said it probably would, just for convenience. Mr. Koch asked do you have some people making ongoing payments? Ms. Yonts said instead of having to come through security, yes, a cash box might help. A lot of people pay by cash. We have a drop box at the side of the office.

From January 1, 2008, through March 31, 2008, District Court brought in \$229,798.25 gross and Probation has brought in \$63,195.91. The 2008 Budget has revenue projected at \$820,000.

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Courtroom Needs

Ms. Yonts said with the growth in the county, we'll be looking at more courtroom time at some point.

Judge Roach said we're going to have to look at how we're going to assure security, particularly for anti-harassment issues. J&J Security was doing the security work but now they can't be there the whole time. When there are in-custody matters, the jailers have to stay in the courtroom. The jailers bring in up to seven prisoners at a time. They are very close to the judge.

Judge Roach said one thing the Board may want to keep in mind four years from now when the City of Pasco moves out of the courthouse is that it would probably be fairly simple to take the present District Court Clerk's Office and turn it into a courtroom with shared bathrooms and abandon the smaller courtroom. We would want you to consider that because something needs to change. If we continue to be the fastest-growing county in the state four years from now, we'll need a second judge. It is unknown how the City of Pasco will handle courts. Ms. Yonts said we've been running two courtrooms on Thursdays. As the criminal docket goes up, it all costs the same for an indigent defendant to go to trial.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

County Administrator Fred Bowen met with the Board.

Space Needs

Mr. Koch asked what are we going to do? Mrs. Corkrum said they'll have to hold on until the City of Pasco moves out.

Mr. Bowen showed the Board a proposed parking lot design that might be placed in the spot where the Health Department building is going to be demolished. He has asked architect Brian Johnson to do some preliminary work on three projects: parking lot, expansion of jail, and TRAC arena. However, he asked to stop the parking lot project this morning after talking to other staff. If the jail is expanded northward, Work Release and possibly Information Services and the Coroner could be housed in the old Health Department building temporarily.

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Mr. Bowen thinks there would be enough funds available from the quarter percent fund to commit to a \$200,000 payment per year for up to \$4 million after payments are completed on an existing Public Works loan. We need a 60-room dorm for the jail, 50-room Work Release center, Sheriff's Office, IS office and Coroner's office. He asked the architect to prepare estimates based on the most inexpensive construction that we can use and still accomplish that. If those numbers come in and it's practical to do that, the county can probably get a bond and do that work right away. It would alleviate some growth problem we have. Mr. Bowen still thinks there should be a lot of consideration for the criminal justice tax.

Mrs. Corkrum asked, we would not put in new carpeting and do anything other than maybe paint and clean up in the old building? Mr. Bowen said no. There are already bathrooms. Mr. Koch said showers would have to be installed. Mr. Bowen said we would probably have to put some temporary things in place such as a fire alarm on the door so the building could be evacuated.

Mrs. Corkrum asked can you shut Work Release down for a time? Mr. Bowen does not know. We would lose revenues by shutting Work Release down.

Accident Report

Mr. Bowen received an accident report from the Sheriff's Department. The Public Works shop has not been able to assess the vehicle's condition yet but it is still being driven.

Workshop Meeting

The Board decided to have a workshop meeting with David Reploeg, Senator Maria Cantwell's new assistant in the Tri-City area, on Thursday, April 10, at 2:00 pm.

Commissioners Salaries

Mr. Bowen said the Commissioners salaries have not been adjusted since the HayGroup study was completed but other Elected Officials salaries were adjusted. The Board reviewed a memo from Chief Civil Attorney Ryan Verhulp stating what is required to make a change to the Commissioners salaries. One drawback is that Mr. Miller's salary would not be able to be adjusted until the term is expired. The adjustment that was

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made by Resolution 2007-238 was based off the preliminary information before the final HayGroup report was completed. The other Elected Officials' salaries have been adjusted based on the completed report. A resolution would bring the Commissioners salaries up comparable to other elected officials. Mr. Miller said we need to do what we need to do if we keep up with rest of elected officials. Mr. Bowen said next year they will be at \$83,336. He said the HayGroup study was done professionally and this is the results. We live in an expensive economy. You should be at least equal with the other elected officials. Now is the time to do it if you decide to do it.

The Board discussed Commissioner salaries from previous years and how at one point they were significantly below other elected officials and the efforts made to have the salaries be more equal. Mr. Koch would rather not see the salaries fall back below other elected officials again.

Mr. Bowen recommends running a flat 3% COLA. Mr. Koch asked Mr. Bowen to prepare a resolution. Mr. Bowen said the Board has a basis for making the change because of doing the HayGroup salary study which shows the Commissioners salaries would simply be catching up with the other salaries.

OTHER BUSINESS

Official Payment Corporation – District Court

Motion – Mrs. Corkrum: I move for approval of Resolution 2008-152 regarding electronic transaction processing agreement between Official Payment Corporation and Franklin County District Court and allow the chairman to sign the contract. Second by Mr. Miller. 3:0 vote in favor.

MINUTES

Motion – Mrs. Corkrum: I move for approval of Commissioner Proceedings for April 2, 2008. Second by Mr. Miller. 3:0 vote in favor.

Adjourned at 10:51 am.

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There being no further business, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned until April 9, 2008.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Chairman

Chairman Pro Tem

Member

Attest:

Clerk to the Board

Approved and signed April 14, 2008.