

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49
FRANKLIN COUNTY
Commissioners' Proceeding for April 14, 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

Present in audience: John Talbott and Troy Woody.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Koch questions why the Sheriff's office would want to store a metal file cabinet and wooden cabinet instead of destroying them. Mrs. Corkrum questions why the wall clock needs to be approved for disposal since the value is only \$50. Mr. Bowen talked to Ronelle Nelson from the Sheriff's Office by phone. The Sheriff's Office wants to dispose of the cabinets.

Motion – Mr. Miller: I move that we accept the consent agenda for April 14, 2008, changing the word “storage” to “disposal” for Resolution 2008-157:

1. Approval of **Resolution 2008-157** for ~~storage~~ disposal of a metal file cabinet and wooden cabinet as identified on the *Franklin County Storage – Salvage* form received from the Sheriff's Office, in conjunction with RCW 36.32.210 (inventory).
2. Approval of **Resolution 2008-158** for disposal of a wall clock as identified on the *Franklin County Storage – Salvage* form received from Facilities, in conjunction with RCW 36.32.210 (inventory).

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

Columbia Basin Books

John Hite made a request of Mr. Koch to ask Franklin County to donate the cost of five books. Mr. Hite will be asking other entities and businesses to also pay for the cost of some books so a book can be distributed to all state legislators to be placed in their offices. Mr. Koch feels it is a good idea. If everybody chips in so all the legislators can receive a book, it will be helpful to the legislators on the west side of the state that

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have not been here. Mr. Hite plans to prepare a sponsor page that would be glued on a blank page at the beginning of the book.

Mr. Miller wonders how the legislators would receive it. Mrs. Corkrum can't imagine anybody not liking the book. Mr. Koch will talk to Mr. Hite and make sure there's enough money to commit to cover a copy for all the legislators.

Mr. Miller asked would a legislator put something for an area that they don't represent on their desk? Mr. Koch said if it's done well and like this one coffee table book, yes.

Vouchers/Warrants

Motion – Mrs. Corkrum: I move for approval of payment of the following vouchers/warrants: Current Expense warrants 62700 through 62732 for \$24,071.05; Current Expense warrants 62733 through 62770 for \$19,653.40; Auditor O&M warrants 485 through 489 for \$51,055.68; Auditor O&M warrant 484 for \$487.42; Election Revolving warrant 466 for \$527.50; Election Revolving warrant 467 for \$487.42; Landfill Closure warrant 15 for \$1,526.46; Current Expense Cumulative Reserve warrants 133 through 134 for \$10,270.89; Franklin County RV Facility warrants 440 through 443 for \$17,503.17; TRAC Operations warrants 1193 through 1249 for \$81,807.11; and Franklin County RV Facility warrants 444 through 445 for \$1,139.61; for a total of \$208,529.71. Second by Mr. Miller. 3:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 1)

MINUTES

Motion – Mrs. Corkrum: I move for approval of Commissioners Proceedings for April 7 and April 9, 2008. Second by Mr. Miller. 3:0 vote in favor.

Motion – Mr. Miller: I move that we accept the vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer for April 14, 2008, as listed: Salary Clearing Payroll warrants 45451 through 45552 for \$177,584.70; warrants 4553 through 45559 for \$72,160.11; and Direct Deposit for \$295,423.49; for a total amount of \$545,168.30. Second by Mrs. Corkrum. 3:0 vote in favor.

The cover sheet also includes the following amounts:

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Emergency Management Payroll warrants 9399 through 9405 for \$3304.31; warrants 9406 through 9409 for \$1563.10; and Direct Deposit for \$7818.69; for a total amount of \$12,686.10; and

Irrigation Payroll warrants 13392 through 13406 for \$9708.60; and warrants 13407 through 13410 for \$1634.07; for a total amount of \$11,342.67.

(Exhibit 2)

TRAC

TRAC Manager Troy Woody met with the Board. Present in audience: John Talbott.

Meeting Room 2 renovation work is complete as of today.

March 2008 Profit and Loss

The March 2008 profit and loss information was reviewed.

Advisory Labor Analysis

Mr. Woody said Pasco City Manager Gary Crutchfield gave him a chart that shows 10 years of revenues and 10 years of subsidies from the city with the question why are the costs going up faster than the revenues. Mr. Woody made an assumption that it probably was in payroll and prepared a spreadsheet covering the years 2004 through 2008. The food and beverage service became available during this time period, probably in 2004. In 2008 we're projected to spend \$870,000 and have \$1,800,000 in revenue. Mr. Woody said the relevant information is that as a percentage of revenues, it has been relatively flat since 2000. He has concluded wages are not the problem.

The next step is to look through other big costs such as leases and electricity.

Comment Card: Mr. Woody showed the Board a copy of a letter of appreciation to TRAC from GAPWEST Broadcasting regarding the Irish Games event held at TRAC.

Joint Study

Mr. Woody showed the Board a copy of an editorial from the Tri-City Herald newspaper suggesting having a joint study regarding public facilities such as TRAC, the Toyota Center and the Toyota Arena. Mr. Woody said he concurs. He would like to see a joint study and thinks it would benefit TRAC for sure. He also knows the politics

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involved in that is that it's not likely to happen. He would support Franklin County being in favor of it. He thinks it makes sense. (Exhibit 3)

Mr. Woody responded to Mr. Miller's question regarding an event that chose not to schedule at TRAC.

April calendar of events

The April calendar of events was reviewed.

Participation at the Mid-Columbia Quarter Horse show was way down from previously. The promoters say it was largely the result of the cost of fuel.

Mr. Woody said an alpaca group will be purchasing sod for their event that TRAC crews will lay down. In return, the sod will stay at TRAC and be used to re-sod some areas.

Freeway Sign

The freeway sign is now working. We've had some tentative discussions with the PUD about buying the sign. If the Board agrees, Mr. Woody would like consensus to make the PUD an offer of \$10,000 for the sign and send the PUD a letter to assure them that the intent is there. Then we would officially own the sign. We would keep the PUD drop box at TRAC as a service to the PUD. There will be some cost to renovate the sign.

The Board **gave consensus approval** to offer \$10,000 to purchase the sign.

Hockey

Mr. Woody gave the board cost estimates to convert the Pavilion to year-round ice. When the concrete was poured, it was not prepped underneath. Mr. Woody said Mr. Bowen suggested building a barrier on top of the concrete and raising the rink up in the air. It would cost about \$150,000 for a company to do the work. Mr. Woody said there is a company that would be his preferred choice because that's what they do is build ice rinks.

Mr. Woody described the work that would take place, including building barriers, placing sand, replacing the pipes, and building a warm coil system that would be heated from the excess heat off the compressors. It's a great recycling scenario so the concrete won't freeze and the ground won't freeze below the concrete. The cost is to do all the

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engineering work and basically everything except the manual labor of putting the sand down.

Then software will need to be purchased. The software will show in and out temperatures of coolers and shut off compressors, which is a significant energy savings, as well as other functions.

The lighting will be converted as was done in the other two buildings at TRAC. The lighting portion project value is about \$17,000 but due to energy savings incentives it will cost about \$8500. Mr. Woody anticipates it would take about a year for return on investment for the lighting changes.

Insulation would be installed on the walls, to help particularly during the summer.

A Miscellaneous category is also included in the figures.

The total cost of the project would be about \$250,000.

Mr. Woody said he figured the annual operating costs.

For the power figure, he took the actual figures from seven months that we currently run the ice and spread that over 12 months and then added \$7000 a month through the summer months because we haven't run it in the summer.

Staffing: A full-time person including benefits and full-time staff will be needed because the ice rink now will be running seven days a week, 365 days a year.

The total annual operating costs are almost double from the current cost.

Mr. Woody said there's nothing in the costs that is low. He put everything higher than he thinks it actually will be.

Mr. Miller asked you show a profit off this so it will pay itself off? Mr. Woody said the profit is based on the rates we would charge.

Executive Session at 9:37 am regarding contract negotiations expected to last 10 minutes based on RCW 42.30.140(4). Mr. Talbott left the room.

Open Session at 9:43 am.

Present in audience: John Talbott, Jerrod MacPherson, Greg Wendt and Jeremy Underwood.

Pavilion: Hockey

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Mrs. Corkrum asked if we did this, how soon would we start on it? Mr. Woody said we'd do it this summer. The last reservation for the Pavilion space is scheduled on Memorial Day weekend. Typically the Pavilion is not rented during the summer. The intent would be to have the area ready for the official hockey season.

Mr. Miller asked would you sign an agreement with the team before we work on it? Mr. Woody said yes, with a five-year minimum with big penalties if they back out. Mr. Miller said he thinks that's positive.

Mrs. Corkrum asked how much money is available in the fund. Mr. Bowen said we would have to talk with the committee members because the work is not currently in the Economic Development Plan. The funds are available for the rodeo arena itself at an estimated cost of \$3 million. Mr. Bowen said if it's a five-year contract and it's written in stone, why wouldn't we finance it from the profits? Mrs. Corkrum asked don't you have to have the money upfront? Mr. Bowen said the county probably would have to pay some money upfront. He said it is preliminary to discuss this right now. He said if we're anticipating \$180,000 a year profit after expenses, why couldn't it finance itself? Mr. Bowen said for a year and a half if it does what it says, if it is financed for two years, it pays for itself, and then you can start putting money back in your pocket. He thinks we have to discuss it a lot more. Mr. Woody said it would make sense because we could avoid dealing with the funds for the arena. Some figures were reviewed again.

Freeway Sign

Motion – Mrs. Corkrum: I move we offer to purchase the freeway sign at TRAC for \$10,000. Second by Mr. Miller. 3:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 4)

PLANNING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Planning Director Jerrod MacPherson, Assistant Director Greg Wendt and Planner Jeremy Underwood met with the Board.

Public Hearing: (continued from March 17, 2008) Certification of Compliance Application: An application to certify that the Franklin County Development Regulations (Zoning Ordinance 7-2005) are consistent with and implement the 2008 Franklin County Comprehensive Plan as amended, as required by RCW 36.70A.130 (seven year update requirement).

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Public Hearing convened at 9:48 am. Present: Commissioners Koch, Corkrum and Miller; Planning Director Jerrod MacPherson, Assistant Director Greg Wendt and Planner Jeremy Underwood; and Clerk to the Board Mary Withers. Present in audience: John Talbott. Mr. Bowen was absent on other county business.

Mr. MacPherson said this hearing is the final step for review of the other development regulations, which is the zoning ordinance. He told the reasons that the certification of compliance is required. He explained the process that has occurred. He said we're wrapping up our 2007 requirements. The Certification of Compliance is the final step.

Mr. Wendt reviewed information on the Action Summary (Exhibit 5). The Planning Commission reviewed the proposal on April 1 and forwarded a positive recommendation. An analysis was done to review the development regulations and make them consistent with the zoning ordinance and comprehensive plan. The work is required by the state so they can verify the county is in compliance with the Growth Management Act (GMA).

Mr. Wendt said we still may be doing a zoning code update later in the year but it won't be for consistency purposes but just to make modifications and changes to the zoning.

Mrs. Corkrum asked if the transportation element was reviewed. Mr. MacPherson said yes, it has been updated as part of the 2008 comprehensive plan.

Mr. MacPherson said the Planning Commission held a hearing on April 1, 2008, and recommended approval with four findings of fact. It was not a unanimous vote from the Planning Commission. There was one dissenting vote but no rationale was given. The public hearing was advertised.

Mr. Koch asked if anyone would like to speak against the zone ordinance change.

John Talbott said he would like to speak, not necessarily to speak against. He said his questions may not be appropriate to ask at this time. I was primarily concerned with the balance within the southern part of Franklin County. On one side of my street, I'm in

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the city. On the other side I am in rural Franklin County. With the population explosion that Franklin County is experiencing, primarily in the southern part, the rural area of Franklin County is going to become urban. It's just going to happen. As those rural areas are incorporated into the urban, we're going to have outbuildings, oversized from a perspective of an urban city dweller, oversized storage facilities, fences that don't conform to the urban standards, curbs on one side of the street and none on the other side of the street.

I'm wondering whether your plan is compatible with that kind of growth that is imminent in our area. If it's not, as people migrate into our area and as industry is going to migrate into the area, it's going to look for a place that will enhance the quality of life of its employees. It will invite its superiors, its supervisors, its managers, who will come from other parts of our economy, other states other than Washington state, and they're going to come here and look around at us and say wow, this is a great place to live. It has balance. It reflects good planning between the emerging and the existing parts of our economy. I suspect that's not happening.

I have friends who choose to build on this side of the street because the rules on the other side of the street are different and are more costly. That's an imbalance I think that we can't afford to leave to posterity, to our children, to the families that are coming after us, because they are going to have to fix it and the fix is very, very expensive if it isn't done right.

I would hope that we haven't looked at the state Growth Management Act simply from the perspective of Franklin County but have looked at it from the perspective of its citizens and the people who are going to live there.

In that I'm a day late and a dollar short in participating in any open meetings with regard to how this evolved, I would just ask that you will have considered that, and that, Commissioners, you will ask those hard questions before you approve this, because this is our future. This is how we're going to look.

I look across the river and look at the economy growing over there, I look at the residential areas that are growing over there, I look at the services that are available over

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there, and I look at our Pasco. This is my home. This is where I'm going to live for the next 30 to 40 years. I'm going to want my grandchildren to live here. So I would ask your indulgence. Look seriously at this. Does it protect the future of the citizens of Franklin County?

I just picked up the book (referring to the book by John Hite). Thank you for that. It's outstanding but it doesn't talk about vision, it talks about history. My children are looking to vision. I would ask you to look to that vision. Thank you for your time.

Mrs. Corkrum said for an example, we just had a request from the city engineer that now they're going to put sidewalks and curbs by the new high school on Argent, maybe Franklin County could put sidewalks and curbs and gutters on the Franklin County side, and we, this Board, pretty much said rather than blacktop and swells for drainage that we should do curbs and gutters. I think we're trying to do that as funds are available, Mr. Talbott, and according to our engineer there is some money available for that work in the Paths and Trails Fund. We are trying to do that sort of thing. We're living with some ills of the past when the county and the city were not cooperating but with our staff now that we have, we are doing that cooperative planning. Our comprehensive plan is meshed pretty much with the City of Pasco.

Mr. McPherson said the only difference is the development standards.

Mrs. Corkrum said that's correct but we can't do anything about the development standards because our lots have to be large enough to service a drainfield for a septic system plus have enough land if that one fails that they could build a new one. Now, if the city would allow people in the urban growth boundary with sewers available to hook on, then we could do smaller lots in Riverview and that's what we would like to do and the developer would make more money.

Mr. MacPherson said it's a cost thing to the developer. If you are forced through health restrictions to have such a large lot to comply with those standards, it just doesn't pencil out to be able to have the curb, gutter, sidewalks and street lights. If we could get to the table with the City of Pasco and get that interlocal agreement in place and have true

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joint development standards, I think it is a win-win situation. But we're having real difficulty getting that done.

Mr. Talbott said I might point out that the day will come when you will be told by the Health District and by the environmental concerns within our area and outside our area and say you no longer can have septic tanks. You must hook up to sewer and you're going to have to do it. That means we're going to pay those costs downstream to run sewers around those areas where we are. It's going to be an enormous cost. It's all about infrastructure. If there is a problem between the county and the city with regard to those standards, quite frankly it's up to you, the commissioners, to break that problem apart and reduce it to something that's workable so that we and the Planning Department can go forward with a good, equitable system. Septic tanks are not the way to go looking ahead because the environmental concerns are going to come in and tell you they have to be taken out. That's going to be an enormous cost, not only to the individual but the cities will end up subsidizing it and there will be a mandate and a deadline you have to comply with. That's looking to the future. We must be ahead of the future here today in the present.

Mr. Talbott said it's nice to say we're moving in that direction. That's good. Show me where it's codified. Show me where it's in the law that you say this is where we're going to go. And there will be some people that don't like it quite frankly but our job is to represent the people so that they will have a good family environment to live in at the least cost in the future. Our job, your job, I would ask that you lean in that direction. It may mean that you don't get re-elected but you're doing the right thing. I know sometimes doing the right thing is going to get you thrown out of office but you're going to win. You're going to be serving the people. Take a hard look at that. We must be in balance with the city because they're moving out into the county.

Mr. Miller asked if this passes now, when would we have to look at this again? Mr. MacPherson said we have to do it at least every five to seven years but we can do it no more than once a year. He said I totally respect what Mr. Talbott has to say and agree with him wholeheartedly. He does not know if it's really applicable for this situation.

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This is a rural comprehensive plan. The City of Pasco has the urban area comprehensive plan. We're just doing an analysis of our zoning text in accordance with our rural text of our comp plan. Again, I agree with everything Mr. Talbott has to say. It is a related but separate issue.

Mr. Miller asked how do we go about it and when is the time to look to the future? The biggest complaints I hear are, okay, they've got to put the money in to put the sewer and water in but also they've got animals or a shed or whatever they've got. What John is saying is we need to be consistent with the city on these ordinances. How do we go about that?

Mr. MacPherson said we currently are pretty consistent with the city as far as what is required such as animal units. We differ a little bit in size on what we allow but we have the same mechanisms in place. They're not exactly the same. The city might allow 1000 square feet and we allow 1200 square feet. They are fairly consistent. There is just some difference in the numbers. We might be a little bit more flexible on our animal unit standards because we typically have the larger unit acreage. Any time any annexation occurs, there will be nonconforming activities and structures that can continue. It's just part of growth and progress in annexation and the transferring from rural suburban into urban areas. Over time they get phased out. It's just part of the growing pains, I guess.

Mr. Wendt said the engine that drives everything is sewer. It drives all of the infrastructure, the size of lots, sidewalk improvements, curb, gutter. You have to have sewer to do that. The City of Pasco to this point in time has not been interested in conversing about it.

Mr. Koch asked is there an ongoing discussion with the city about that? Mr. MacPherson said there has been off and on for a long time. He had a conversation with the city manager probably six months ago. Mr. MacPherson was told that the city was going to look at putting together a proposal for the county and city to enter into a joint discussion with a consultant to have him weigh the pros and cons of extending sewer and the costs and any interlocal agreements but he hasn't heard since. That is

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typically how the conversation has gone. Mr. Wendt said we raise the issue and never hear back.

Mr. MacPherson gave an example from several years ago when the City of Pasco wanted to run city sewer and water through Chiawana Park. The city said they would sit at the table and assured us that they would look at an interlocal agreement for development standards annexation. We started that process and it never got anywhere.

Mrs. Corkrum said when we tried to bring them to the table, they were willing to go around Chiawana Park and cost the taxpayers a lot more money. That's when we decided we can't punish the taxpayers. So we allowed them to go through Chiawana Park at the time which was a more direct route.

Mr. MacPherson said to him personally it makes good business sense to allow the sewer extension. They worry quite a bit about annexation agreements and having those signed for hooking up of sewer and water. He doesn't see the difference between sewer and water. He doesn't understand that philosophy.

Mr. Wendt said the city receives a surcharge for water and they could do a surcharge for sewer.

Mr. Talbott said as the infrastructure expands, there is an ideal opportunity to reduce costs by combining the various infrastructure elements in the same dig. You have to put conduit in so underground power can be run and put conduit in so that communications can be run. You get the stuff off of the overheads and get it underground and you start changing the whole face of our whole community and the costs go down significantly. He said it's not just putting in a sewer. Mr. Talbott gave an example of how many times the street is torn up in some cities to put in water, then sewer, then cable. There are great economies to be realized by the kind of planning I'm hearing you discuss right now. You're in charge. The county is yours to lead. They can't jerk you around. You're in charge economically. You're in charge from the planning perspective. You're in charge between the city and the state. You control it. You can do what the Planning Department is saying. This is where we've got to go.

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There was no one present to speak in favor. Mr. Koch asked if there were any other comments. There were not other comments.

Mr. Bowen rejoined the meeting.

Motion – Mr. Miller: I move that we approve the certification of compliance assuring consistency between the Franklin County Development Regulations and the 2008 Franklin County Growth Management Comprehensive Plan. Second by Mrs. Corkrum. 3:0 vote in favor. This is Resolution 2008-159.

Mr. Miller asked this is just one step of your comprehensive plan? Mr. Wendt said yes, the final step of our 2007 update. We'll have everything done for that. We'll have no more deadlines. Our next deadline is that the critical area ordinance has to be completed and adopted by the end of the year so we will be having workshops with you this summer on the critical area ordinance.

Mr. Miller asked this does not affect that in any way? Mr. Wendt said this has nothing to do with the development regulations. This is just ensuring consistency between the comp plan and the zoning ordinance and the text.

Recessed at 10:13 am.

Reconvened at 10:24 am.

PUBLIC WORKS

Engineer Tim Fife met with the Board. Present in audience: John Talbott.

R170 Basin City Meeting

Mr. Miller asked if a new traffic count could be done in the R170 road area. Mr. Fife said it could be done but if you put new counters there, people will drive over them more to get higher counts. He said to be realistic, we wanted to use the counts that were done before the slide. He said some turning movement counts could be taken by having someone physically do that work.

Mrs. Corkrum asked how much truck traffic occurs on Taylor Flats Road? Mr. Fife said the traffic is probably about 10% trucks out of about 4000 vehicles a day. Mrs. Corkrum said a bridge located on Taylor Flats Road between Alder Road and Selph Landing Road is really narrow. The bridge they're talking about is 28 feet wide, a lot

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wider. Mr. Fife said we don't have a big accident history on the bridge between Alder Road and Selph Landing. It's not pleasant but it is functional.

Mrs. Corkrum said she heard one person who was a trucker at the public meeting in Basin City say, "Well, I guess I don't care either way, because it's going to make the Klamath Hill intersection a lot safer either way."

Mr. Fife said a suggestion was made at the meeting by someone who wants to have the ability to go up the hill without stopping. He showed the Board a drawing of the roads and intersection and indicated a possible way to do that with a Yield sign. He described other elements of the design that could occur. Mrs. Corkrum asked how much more would it cost? Mr. Fife said it would not be significant.

Mrs. Corkrum asked if a lot of acquisition costs are paid for with the initial money. Mr. Fife said yes.

Mr. Fife said his office has received a request for more of the comment forms.

Mr. Miller asked on the portion of the road where we covered the canal, did that take a lot of the farmers' land away from them or did it take unused land? Mr. Fife said there is a certain amount that they lost but it wasn't significant. They got compensated for it. The landowners compromised.

Mr. Koch said according to what he heard the other night, the current landowners won't give in.

Mrs. Corkrum asked when they were talking about the dropoff if brakes failed, is that going to be a bigger dropoff than it is now? Mr. Fife said no. He showed on the drawing where it will be safer than it is now with a large flat area. He said the thought is let's improve it if we can but it will be safer than it is now. The curves now are pretty tight.

Steve Cooper joined the audience.

2007 Snow and Ice Budget Status

Mr. Fife gave the Board a status report on the 2007 snow and ice budget (Exhibit 6). The budget goes from January through December. We're \$7000 over budget now. It is part of the maintenance budget.

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In answer to the question what is the difference between anti-icing and de-icing, Mr. Fife said anti-icing is done before a storm. De-icing is done after a storm.

Body Shop at CBC

Mr. Koch gave an update on the work done on a county vehicle at the CBC body shop.

OTHER BUSINESS

COMMISSIONER SALARIES

The Board reviewed two resolutions, one that would leave all three commissioners' salaries as they are for two years, then change all three commissioners' salaries to match each other, and another resolution that would change Commissioner District 1 and 2 salaries for 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012. Mr. Miller said, "At this point I don't feel compelled to make a motion on either one of these resolutions." Mrs. Corkrum said it can wait. Mr. Koch said we have a couple of weeks.

COMMISSIONER REDISTRICTING

Mr. Miller said he thinks the redistricting has to be done because you have to get it in the newspaper, the Connell Graphic, by Thursday. Mrs. Corkrum said if we want to consider it this year; it could be considered next year when no one is up for election. Mr. Miller said yes. Mrs. Corkrum said that would take the politics out of it. Mr. Miller said when he ran for election last time in 2006, it was stated that it would be done before the next election by the auditor. Mrs. Corkrum said the auditor does not have anything to say. She said the auditor does the legwork on it. Mr. Miller asked so we do? Mrs. Corkrum said we do. It's our responsibility.

Motion – Mr. Miller: I'll move for resolution reinstating and modifying Resolution Number 2002-142 and 2004-365 clarifying date of previous redistricting and approval of Commissioners' redistricting plan, whereas it is compared with the new map that has been done by the Auditor. Second by Mr. Koch. Vote: 2:1 vote in favor. Yeas: Mr. Miller and Mr. Koch. Nay: Mrs. Corkrum. This is Resolution 2008-160.

John Talbott asked are you going to have a discussion about that last motion? Mr. Koch said "At the public hearing."

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RIGHT TO FARM ORDINANCE

Steve Cooper asked about the status of the county's right-to-farm ordinance that the Farm Bureau brought to the Board several weeks ago. Mr. Koch said you asked permission to take it to our prosecuting attorney and we gave it to you. Mr. Cooper said we dropped it off to him and haven't heard anything back. Mr. Koch said you're the ones that took it to him so you need to work with him. The Prosecutor's Office is behind because of such a big workload.

CITIZEN COMMENT

John Talbott said I had hoped to talk to you about our government structure. As you know, we are a government of the people and by the people and for the people. Our government was organized to have states and counties and cities. With regard to Franklin County, it's districts. The districts should be well-balanced and well-defined and representative of the demographic distribution of its people. Franklin County is not that. Washington State put into code RCW 29.A.76.010. He summarized the RCW, stating it's your responsibility to ensure that periodically those districts are redefined to ensure a balance among the people and to ensure that the workload of those elected officials they have is equally distributed among the people as closely as it possibly can be so that if one has 100 citizens that that person represents, each of the others have about 100.

Mr. Koch asked are you getting to the disparity of the voters?

Mr. Talbott said no, no. Let me go on.

Mr. Talbott said we had a census taken a number of years ago. The results of those censuses were reported to the county commissioners. According to state code you had eight months in which to prepare a plan, bring it forward and present it to the people. You did that. Then lawsuits ensued. Why, I don't know. At the behest of who, I don't know. But it involved you. That was two years ago, maybe three years ago. Your responsibility under Washington State Code has not been satisfied, has not been met. I quite frankly feel each of you are derelict in fulfilling that responsibility. Now you're proposing let's put it off for another two years. And at the end of those two years, we're going to be up here doing the same thing and "let's put it off for another two years."

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Where is the representative form of government? Where is representative participation by the people? Where is balanced representation? I submit to you that we don't have that here.

Mrs. Corkrum said I submit to you that I am nominated from my district but I represent this whole county. I'm just as concerned in the rural area as I am with what happens in the urban city area. I just happen to have the core of City of Pasco. Now, that's taken away from me.

Mr. Talbott said very interesting. Should have a balanced opportunity within the state to see to it that the people are represented by the person of their choosing. That's exactly why we have this RCW. We don't have a balance here and it has been put off and put off and put off. Right now the time is crucial for you to act on behalf of all of your citizens.

Mrs. Corkrum said we have.

Mr. Talbott said you've delayed.

Mr. Koch said I think you've missed – (Mr. Talbott interrupted.)

Mr. Talbott said you haven't acted. You have acted not to represent all of the people but to represent your own personal interests with regard to districting. I'm sorry, that's what it boils down to. Politics is one thing. Representing the people is another. I would ask you to reconsider that resolution and bring it forward and allow the people to be represented fairly. This is not the case in Franklin County.

If we're going to go forward with a true vision for our city, for the county, for the demographics that exist within it, we need a representative form of government that truly represents all of the people. In this case it doesn't.

Again, I submit to you, bring this forward. This is a cancer that's growing in you and you've allowed that to happen over the years. Two years ago you could have moved very deliberately and had this taken into hand well over a year ago and the change would be in place right now and you would have good distribution, good equitable representation.

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Mr. Koch said I think there's some misunderstandings about what has happened. What you mentioned about redistricting, that was in 2002. It was appealed or challenged. It went through the Superior Court which upheld the appeal. Franklin County then took it to the Supreme Court of the state which reversed the appeal which made that redistricting stand at that time. It was redistricted in 2002. There was some disparity. There was some argument back and forth. The Supreme Court of the State of Washington upheld the original redistricting.

Mr. Talbott said that was defined six years ago. Mr. Koch said correct.

Mr. Talbott said we are now in 2008.

Mr. Koch said we just got done redefining it today, sending out a notice for public hearing in a week or two weeks, to finalize redistricting in 2008.

Mr. Talbott said this could have been done months ago. Mr. Koch said I realize that. Mr. Talbott said it could have been done years ago.

Mrs. Corkrum said you can only redistrict every four years as a minimum.

Mr. Talbott said that's right and in 2006 you could have completed the redistricting. You delayed and delayed and delayed and now we have an election.

I submit to you that this could result in court challenges to the election that is coming because you all didn't do your job properly. It could lead to an effort to recall because you didn't do your job properly. Now is an opportunity; today is the opportunity to correct that. I would ask you to do that. Those are very real possibilities I just described. Let's look at it. You don't stand alone on this. What I am seeing here and others see is a reflection on where Franklin County stands with regard to going ahead in the future. You are the future. Don't let this cancer be a part of that future.

Mr. Koch asked have you seen the fourth version of the redistricting maps?

Mr. Talbott said yes. Mr. Koch asked you're not happy with them?

Mr. Talbott responded is anyone ever happy with a redistricting map? But you have one. You met and you agreed to it being as it is now described and you did that some time ago. That could have been completed by now. Is it ideal? No, it's not ideal. None of them are. Will it have to be done again? Absolutely it will have to be done

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again. What's the best possible option? Who knows what the best possible option is? I would submit that looking down the road someday you will see Franklin County's districts representing the demographic distribution of its people in somewhat of a pie-shaped format going from north to south, you having good demographic representation of all groups. One could even say that right now you've got two different ethnic groups that are vying for control. You have one here in Pasco which is primarily Hispanic and you have the others. That doesn't look good and it could be corrected. You're moving in the right direction. You have the plan. Implement it. No one's at risk. There's no danger in implementing it. Elections are coming up. It doesn't affect your election chances. You know how good you people are, how you've worked with your people. You know how strong you are. To think this will disrupt the elections? Give me a break. That's simply not the case. You're good based on what you do and how you represent the people. Changing districts isn't going to change how people are going to vote for you.

Mr. Talbott said again, I urge you reconsider. Put it out there. You've redefined it and in your good wisdom you've looked at it and said this is what is best for Franklin County right now. Do it. Four or five years from now, there will be chance to look at taking another step. I would appeal to you on behalf of the citizens that I talk to, on behalf of your commitment to your citizens and your voters, to your respective parties -- it's all part of the milieu of intergovernmental discipline. Do it. Take that step. Be bold.

Adjourned at 11:00 am.

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There being no further business, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned until April 16, 2008.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Chairman

Chairman Pro Tem

Member

Attest:

Clerk to the Board

Approved and signed April 28, 2008.