

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49
FRANKLIN COUNTY
Commissioners' Proceeding for April 28, 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: Tri-City Herald Reporter Joe Chapman.

Vouchers

Motion – Mr. Miller: I move for approval of the 2008 vouchers as listed; Current Expense warrants 63050 through 63054 for \$2,592.53; TRAC Operations warrants 1250 through 1298 for \$69,806.05; Grand Old 4th warrants 177 through 178 for \$4,030.00; and Auditor O&M warrants 492 through 493 for \$262.46; for a total of \$76,691.04. Second by Mrs. Corkrum. 3:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 1)

TRAC

TRAC Manager Troy Woody met with the Board. Present in audience: Joe Chapman.

Freeway Sign

The freeway sign has been purchased from the Franklin PUD. The PUD will retain their drop box at TRAC. At some point in time, the sign will have to be updated. It's now TRAC's sign sitting at TRAC's location.

Exposition Curtain Project

The curtains are a nice addition to the Expo Hall.

Alpaca Group

The alpaca group finished their event at TRAC this week. Mr. Woody said it was a fabulous group and all went well. We signed a five-year deal originally to start but they can opt out after one year with no penalties. However, he fully expects the other four years to be executed.

Tractor Purchase

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We have only one tractor left in the equipment rental pool and it is completely depreciated and paid for. Technically, we have about \$20,000 left to purchase a tractor. We don't get as much benefit as the others because we don't have fuel. Mr. Woody said Mr. Bowen's recommendation is to create TRAC's own equipment rental and return (ER&R) fund so we make ourselves payments. We would take the \$20,000 and buy the tractor we need, then make payments to ourselves so that in the future we would have enough money to buy tractors.

Mr. Bowen said over the next 10 years which is what Public Works estimated the tractor's life to be, we would pay them an additional \$58,000 so that would be a cost of \$78,000 for a \$30,000 tractor. He likes the idea of ER&R but he thinks it would be beneficial to create that fund for TRAC. It would have the same rules: those funds cannot be used for anything else. Mrs. Corkrum asked why couldn't we add computers to that? Mr. Bowen said we've been trying to do that within the county. Mrs. Corkrum said why couldn't we do that just for TRAC? Mr. Bowen said there's no reason we can't. Mr. Koch said chairs and everything else could also be included. Mr. Woody said we won't need as many computers, maybe \$3000 worth this year. Most of the computers are replacements, not additions.

Mr. Bowen said he sees no reason why we can't put all of TRAC's vehicles and equipment into an ER&R program. In a 10-year period, there would be about \$78,000 in the fund. He thinks it's worth doing. He said if the Board is in favor, he will pursue it.

Mrs. Corkrum asked that the TRAC Advisory Board be consulted. She thinks it sounds like a good idea. The other Board members agreed.

Mr. Koch asked how big the tractor will be and whether it will be new or used. Mr. Woody wants to buy a used Skid Steer. We will get the brush attachment so we can sweep the parking lots without hiring that work done. We will also put a forklift on it to be used as a backup forklift. The Skid Steer can go through narrow barn doors. It's a good multipurpose tool. He thinks we can buy a very good used Skid Steer and get 15 years of service out of it.

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Mr. Bowen said in a facility in Clark County, Nevada, the center section that divided individual pens was on rollers so it could be rolled out. The tractor could go through all the barns and push out the material. Mr. Woody said the aisles never get messy using that system. He said it's a great idea. However, it will not work in a similar way at TRAC.

Mr. Koch said he has been talking to the City of Connell about purchasing a used sweeper when they receive their new one. It remains to be seen if TRAC will want it. Mr. Bowen said Public Works Equipment Supervisor Darrell Farnsworth could go to Connell and look at it. Mr. Woody said if he has a sweeper on the end of the tractor, he won't need a full-sized sweeper. He thinks maybe Public Works will need the sweeper more than TRAC.

Mr. Bowen said it's possible a sweeper could be used jointly by Public Works and TRAC. Mr. Woody said it would depend upon the price. Mr. Koch will call Connell and see what the price is expected to be.

Comment Cards

Mr. Woody gave the Board a copy of comment cards that TRAC has received recently.

Rodeo Arena Project

Mr. Bowen said the consultant from the Seattle area looked at TRAC to determine if it could be enlarged as had been hoped. However, the building is about five feet too short in height and about 40 feet too narrow in width. In order to do what we wanted to do, the consultant recommended we build a brand new building. We know that's not going to happen. Mr. Bowen still hopes the Board would want to move forward with changing the seats so we can get more seats into the building, put in concrete floors, and doing some modification on the inside. He said we've talked about a \$5 million figure to do what we need to do. If the Board is still interested in moving forward, he and Mr. Woody are in agreement we need to do something.

Mrs. Corkrum asked if the consultant can give us any type of estimate on what we could do with the existing building to modify it. Mr. Bowen said the building is just not

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the size to do seating of 6000. There are still things we could do with the inside of the building. The building is not physically able to accommodate our vision of it. The consultant said he can still work with us to modify the interior of the building.

Mrs. Corkrum said I think we have to consider the modifications. No matter how much you wash it down, there will still be dust and dirt.

Mr. Bowen said the projects he would like to do include: install concrete floor, upgrade seating as best we can, put heat and air in the building, and try to put concession stands in there. Mr. Woody said in addition there would be some aesthetics that go with that. Mrs. Corkrum asked can the concession stands be underneath the bleachers? Mr. Woody said they could be under the seats.

Mr. Bowen and Mr. Woody will continue to work on it.

Mr. Bowen hopes the legislature will work on extending the .09 funds for an additional 10 or 15 years. The county still has some .09 money that can be dedicated to that project.

Legislative Concerns

Mr. Koch said we need to start a list of things we want to push for during the upcoming long legislative session. Mrs. Corkrum said maybe when we have the reception here we can mention it. Mr. Koch said it needs to stay in the forefront.

The WSAC Legislative Steering Committee has ideas also.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

County Administrator Fred Bowen met with the Board. Present in audience: Joe Chapman.

Animal Control

August 12 is the deadline to put an animal control tax measure on the ballot. Mr. Bowen has sent information to the City of Pasco asking about what their requirements would be to join the county and the dollar amount. His intention is the animal control would be county-wide. We have a dangerous dog situation that happens throughout the county. Rather than trying to start our own animal control, it only makes sense for us to get involved in the City of Pasco's animal control. After he knows more

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about Pasco's thoughts, he will bring it back to the Board. Mrs. Corkrum asked who would be voting? Mr. Bowen said it would be county residents, not city residents. Mr. Bowen can talk with the small cities if they are interested in it.

Mr. Miller asked would it be just for dangerous dogs? Mr. Bowen said right now his discussion would be for all animal control. Mrs. Corkrum said some farmers get animals dumped on them and they don't want them.

Mr. Bowen said the City of Pasco has sent a letter saying the rules would be consistent with their regulations.

Mr. Koch said he has no idea what the cities of Kahlotus and Mesa do. The City of Connell has handled animal control through their police department. He thinks they would be interested in discussing it.

Podiums for Courtrooms

Mr. Bowen has requested that podiums be built for the courtrooms. It will be several months, perhaps as much as eight months, before the work can be done.

INFORMATION SERVICES (IS)

Information Services Director Kevin Scott and GIS Manager Dann Borden met with the Board. Present in audience: Joe Chapman. Present in audience: George Goulet.

GIS Projects

Mr. Scott said the Board requested an update on GIS the last time he met with them. He gave the Board a list of GIS projects dated April 28, 2008 (Exhibit 2).

FRIS

Mr. Borden gave an update on the Franklin County Regional Information System (FRIS). Mr. Bowen said when FRIS was organized, the PUD, Public Works, Courthouse and South Columbia Basin Irrigation District (SCBID) came together with one thing in common, to build a Franklin County map.

Mr. Borden said we're in contact with one another basically every day. We had new software come out so we're learning how to use it. We just changed the way we're networked with the irrigation district. Now they are connected to us only on the internet

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so we have revised how we do some things like how we share data back and forth. Everything is in place and we're working together.

Mr. Bowen asked are we done with the map? Mr. Borden said that never happens. We've got things in maintenance mode that we work on as data changes. We have things we're working on now that are new things. We are creating new data sets, new ways of looking at the data. The day-to-day routine maintenance is being done as needed. We're always building something new. The two biggest things we're working on now are ways to greatly enhance and speed up the way we put data into the 911 Dispatch system. Our goal is to try to simplify and maintain so it's all in one place with no lag in between. We're eliminating a lot of duplication that had occurred historically.

We're also working a lot with Planning. They're doing their critical areas mapping, geological hazards, and species protection. In one week, he produced about 14 different maps for that project.

Mr. Borden said his office just did a data update for the Census Bureau, providing them addresses. We are constantly sending them data.

Mr. Scott said we've set up a web or internet server to provide information to other countries. We get requests from all over the United States and from other countries, in particular The Netherlands and South Korea. Mr. Borden said people are usually looking for the key word "Franklin" and they find us. The average person stays for about 10 minutes, which is a long stay in the web world. The county is averaging 500 or 600 hits per month with no advertising.

We're generating hundreds of map views. We can share data to outside agencies.

SPAM Email filter

Mr. Scott said the county is blocking well over 1 million email spam messages a month.

OTHER BUSINESS

Code Enforcement

George Goulet and Joe Chapman were present in the audience.

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Mr. Goulet asked does the county have a code enforcement policy like the city does? Mrs. Corkrum said we have a code enforcement officer, not a committee. We wanted to set that up but the county is not allowed to do that so it goes through a hearing officer. We try to work with people and if there's a problem get it fixed. We only have one person doing that so it's pretty much on a call-in basis.

Mr. Goulet said there are some properties in the county that need to be cleaned up because of junk cars and garbage.

RV Park

Mr. Goulet said he is concerned about one spot at the RV Park with a commercial truck and about three other trucks. Mr. Bowen will check into it.

Recessed at 9:44 am.

Reconvened at 9:46 am.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Richard Lathim met with the Board. Present in audience: Joe Chapman.

Homeland Security Grant

Sheriff Lathim explained how work is done using a Homeland Security Grant. It involved developing criminal intelligence for Region 8 which includes several counties. The information is then funneled to a state center in Seattle. The idea is that if there are any types of connections between information, they would be spotted before something happens. We have a crime analyst under contract for Region 8 which we think should be housed in the Tri-Cities because it is the central part of the region. The grant pays for everything but we need a place to put him. The analyst was originally placed in Metro. He was then moved to space with the Federal Violent Crime Task Force but they are moving to a smaller room in the new Kennewick Police Department. We need a place in an office for him to do some of his work.

There was discussion about a few spaces that may be possible locations for the work.

Mr. Bowen asked if we can find a spot, is the Board willing to allow him to use it? The Board said yes. Mr. Koch asked is there a time frame? Sheriff Lathim said we

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need to find something during the month of May. The funding is up in the air. The whole thing is supposed to end by September 30. Congress allocated the money but it was given over to the Department of Homeland Security. About \$2 million comes into the State of Washington. Homeland Security said we'll give you the \$2 million if you spend an additional \$2 million. Letters have been written to the congressional delegation. It affects 33 states. If approved, it would go another year. A lot of this is a state responsibility. If the state will step up and fund their share, it will probably be ongoing for several years. If not, it will be over a year or year and a half from now.

Mr. Koch asked will the analyst bring his own equipment? Sheriff Lathim said the City of Richland gave him equipment. Various offices have given what they could. There is no extra money in the grant as far as renting space.

The Board gave **consensus approval** to house the analyst if space can be located.
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR (continuing)

Present in audience: Joe Chapman and George Goulet.

Drop Boxes

Mr. Koch asked have we heard any more about doing something with drop boxes? Mr. Bowen told the Board that the treasurer talked with the security director. They decided they can put a drop box inside the Security Building and the Treasurer will pick it up at 5 pm on tax deadline days. Mr. Bowen will find out more.

Mrs. Corkrum said Benton County has a drop box that can be reached from the driver's side of a car.

Jail

Mr. Bowen gave a brief update on discussions regarding a possible jail expansion and some of the situations that would be involved such as moving of prisoners to other places.

Mrs. Corkrum said another source of funding is the sales tax streamlining increase. Mr. Bowen said we budgeted \$40,000 in the 2008 budget based on the state's projection of \$38,000. Mrs. Corkrum said the revenues have gone up from when the \$40,000 figure was prepared. Mr. Koch said the state doesn't know yet what counties

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will be affected and to what extent. Mr. Koch thought we had talked about using that for the Auditor/Treasurer software.

Mrs. Corkrum said it might be helpful to have the treasurer attend some meetings with the retailers about how to change their software for the new tax. Mr. Koch thinks a commissioner should also attend. Mrs. Corkrum wants Mr. Bowen to attend also.

Mrs. Corkrum said the four digits beyond the zip code are what determine where the sales tax goes.

Recessed at 10:01 am.

Reconvened at 10:19 am.

PUBLIC WORKS

Engineer Tim Fife met with the Board.

Certificate of Good Practice

Mr. Koch presented a Certificate of Good Practice from the CRAB Board to Mr. Fife and offered congratulations.

Paths and Trails Voucher

Motion – Mr. Miller: I move that we approve the vouchers for Paths and Trails Fund for \$500. Second by Mrs. Corkrum. 3:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 3)

R170 Design Recommendation

Phil Merrell from HDR Engineering met with the Board. Present in audience: Tri-City Herald Reporter Joe Chapman, Richard Schalich, Scott English, Kim English, Bruce Wyatt, Tim Taylor and Gale A. Easterday.

Mr. Fife said Phil Merrell is here to update you on the Basin City meeting and the comments that have been received.

Using the screen, Mr. Merrell gave a brief summary of the process, a summary of comments from the Basin City Meeting, and development of the Klamath Hill/R170 intersection designs since the Basin City meeting, and development of the Sagehill/R170 intersection design.

Mr. Merrell commented that there were two reasons for preparing alternatives for the project in the beginning: One, to start the funding process, and two, to give the public

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something to comment on. The Summary of Workshop Comments that was shown includes the numbers of written comments only, not verbal discussion, at the April 9, 2008, meeting at Basin City.

He showed a drawing of Alternative 13 which was developed since the April 9, 2008, meeting at Basin City, and explained the various portions of the drawing. He said it is a compromise that was developed after the meetings. It has been discussed with some of the people in the area. He said the English family has given me the indication it is something they can live with. They may have their own comments today.

Mr. Merrell said one positive aspect of this design is that it keeps the roadway entirely within the existing right-of-way in this area (indicated Mr. Schalich's property). There may be a necessity for a slope easement. It also moves the road away from an existing house (indicated English property). Mr. Merrell said it's not an ideal solution. It's a solution that is a compromise. He said we've looked at it from a safety aspect. It's something that will be safe. One thing traffic engineers try to avoid doing wherever they can is avoid surprises. He explained further how safety issues are involved. We feel this will meet the safety issues. It is less than desirable from a pure traffic engineering standpoint but will definitely be livable. It is probably the best compromise we can come up with at this time.

Mr. Koch said this is not a public hearing but he asked if people had any input or thoughts.

Kim English said she has just one concern or question. I think all the information and all the studies are great, but have we done a traffic count on the roads yet, on how much goes up Klamath and how much goes down? That seems like a very, very simple thing to do. Nobody has come up with a current traffic count. Is that correct? Have we done one? Mr. Fife said we had a bunch of traffic counts up the hill before the slide which is what we're anticipating it going back to. Mrs. English asked is there more traffic that goes up Klamath Road? Were they done during harvest? Were they used in regards to determining a good plan? Mr. Fife said they were presented at the meeting at

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Basin City. Mrs. English said she wasn't there because she was ill. She didn't hear from anyone that there were legitimate traffic counts.

Mrs. English asked what percentage of the traffic goes up and down the hill?

Mr. Merrell said the assumption that we have had all the way through this process is at the end, that traffic will go back to pretty much the same pattern as before.

Regarding the traffic patterns before, traffic on Road 170 coming up into the intersection was 1066 vehicles a day. Traffic up and down the hill is 660 currently. A little bit more than 50% goes up the hill.

Mrs. English asked through all of this we have been told we're going to get money to fund this project. Have we gotten the money? Mr. Koch said no, not at this time.

Mrs. English asked are we waiting for them to say? Mr. Koch said the grant has been applied for and it's Federal money so we just wait. Mrs. English asked could it go on ten years? Mr. Fife said the chance of getting funding is much greater once we have a design and right-of-way acquired.

Mrs. English asked out of the funding, what percentage do we have to match? Mr. Fife said 86% is Federal and 14% is county. Mrs. English said so the more expensive the project is, the more money the county has to put on it. Mr. Fife said yes.

Gale Easterday spoke as a concerned farmer. My concern on your numbers is the traffic count numbers need dates from when they were taken to when they were taken compared to other dates. To just say these numbers are there is sloppy. I don't think that can be used to spend \$15 million on a road. I think we have to get a little more positive about what we have going up and down the road. There are no truck versus cars counts. There are no dates tied to it. It has to be done at the same time because there is no comparison.

Mr. Merrell said the traffic counts that we were provided for this all have dates and locations. Some of them were with older technology that didn't separate out trucks or direction of traffic but they still gave the overall numbers of vehicles that were traveling. The practices that we use to look at this are standard. You take a snapshot of the road and do it at different times during the year and then you see a trend for the road.

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You can't look at any one day or week or year and say that's what's happening on the road. We look at the trends on the road as best we can. I'm comfortable that we have enough data and the data is good enough to determine trends and make reasonable conclusions with them. We've summarized the data and averaged numbers. I think we've done our homework on this.

Mr. Koch asked if anyone else would like to make comments or ask questions.

Mr. Merrell said it's up to the Board to consider the alternatives. What we're down to are the three alternatives we have: The original alternative would cut across the corner. The second one would have the Klamath-through intersection. The third alternative is the proposal that's before us today. It's a balance of needs that are out there. We've heard a lot from the landowners and from local people. Generally in issues like this you hear more from local people than from those who travel through the area. We do have tabulation of the results that indicated support for Road 170 as the through road. Looking at the long-term as R170 being an arterial road from a traffic engineering standpoint, that also makes the most sense, considering a system that's going to grow over time and areas that are likely to develop further. It tends to make more sense. Either of the alternatives is possible and can be done. Mr. Merrell said I guess the conclusion that I've come to is we've worked it as far as we can and made every effort to meet as many people's needs as possible. This Alternative 13 to me appears to be, if I were to make a recommendation, a compromise solution.

Mr. Merrell said as another note also, the issue was brought up about using this same concept further up on the other end where Klamath Road converges onto another road, up by Greenar Road. We looked also at that alternative. I don't have a slide to show you but it's also a workable alternative in that area. That would allow one-way truck traffic heading eastbound on Klamath which would be Road 170 then to take the same one-way turnoff and keep their momentum up going up the Klamath Hill towards Fairway. It's a concept we can use in that area also.

Mr. Merrell said I also have some other information to show you on the Sagehill intersection.

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Mr. Koch asked Scott English, as one of the largest truckers and users in the area, what do you think of this proposal?

Mr. English said from the standpoint of the impact to land that belongs to my wife and me, it's something we can live with. To me, does it make sense for the traffic that has to go up and down the hill? Not near as much as having the traffic on 170 stop. I talked to Phil a little bit briefly and I know this is something that's way off here but I know that your jobs are to look at the development for the county long-term. I don't know what's planned down on the Edison deal – I've heard some bridge talk and how that has to tie in with traffic going to Othello. Those are things you have to consider that don't affect me very much at all with what goes on down there but as it starts to come this way, I'm sure it is something that has to be looked at. But what makes the most sense in my mind from someone who lives out there every day is if Glade Road went through that wilderness area owned by the Bailie Youth Ranch where the impact would be on an entity that manages that property that was given in a donation, if Glade continues and ties into Sagehill, it goes across range land that doesn't impact people to nearly the extent that this project does and then that allows a main arterial to run all the way from Othello clear to Pasco with no turning. It would be a straight shot all the way. Then a deal like this could be improved where Klamath Road feeds into Glade Road and all these farm products and all that traffic that wants to get to Glade to get their products to town, that ends up making a lot of sense in my mind. Now like I say, that might not work with what's being planned or looked at long term when you talk about infrastructure coming off the Road 100 area. To me that makes a lot of sense when we talk about the traffic that has to come from Othello to Pasco which seems to be the people that have voted 17 to 8 that want Road 170 to be through traffic. The people that live out there, we want Klamath to be the through road. That's democracy. We don't have the strength of the vote at this time. I think that's something the Commission can be looking at long-term, looking 20 or 30 years down the road: how does that work with what you're going to do down here at Road 68, Road 100 projects, as there is more traffic and maybe more bridges are built? I really think that that bears consideration, to make Glade the main arterial.

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Kim English asked what are the financial implications of this proposal versus Klamath Road being the through road? Mr. Merrell said this will take more right-of-way that will be one of the bigger costs. The roadway will be more expensive but in the scope of the project it will not be much more. Kim English asked is this something you consider when you look at this, the costs? The Board members nodded their heads. Mr. Merrell said we don't generally consider complete costs in the design phase, just general costs.

Gale Easterday asked does the long-term traffic pattern include what Mr. English said, going into an industrial area near Pasco like Glade Road rather than a residential area like Road 100?

Mr. Fife said we have a six-year transportation improvement plan (TIP). At this time it doesn't include anything like that. It is a good concept that we should consider. Our six-year TIP is fiscally constrained at least in the first three years. Anything beyond that is kind of on a wish list. It will be something to look at.

Mr. English expressed thanks to the Commission for putting up him for the last year. He said I have a lot at stake.

Mrs. Corkrum asked if the free lane going up the hill will be beneficial. Mr. English said it's definitely beneficial. Being able to go up the hill unobstructed is beneficial.

Mr. Koch asked Mr. Merrell to show other areas of the design.

Mr. Merrell showed a drawing labeled Sagehill Intersection Design C and told how the designs were developed and about meeting with the property owners who would be affected. He said it is a solution that the property owners (Cooper and Schroeder) are both satisfied with and is a cheaper alternative to construct. Neither property owner is here today to comment.

Mr. Merrell said that concludes his presentation. The next step is to make a decision as to how to proceed. Then we can finalize the right-of-way map and apply for right-of-way funding authorization, which is the next step. Mr. Fife said we have funding for acquisition of right-of-way property. Mr. Merrell said we just can't use the funding

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until we get authorization and have an approved right-of-way plan. Mr. Fife said we need a decision to do the right-of-way plan so we can get the funding.

Mr. Koch asked are there any further questions? Mrs. Corkrum said she would like to read over the comments. Mr. Koch said he doesn't know that he is ready to make a decision today but also wants to look at the information. Mrs. Corkrum said we could let the people that were in the audience today know when that decision will be made.

Mr. Merrell extended his appreciation to the people that have been part of this process. You've been very direct and upfront which makes things easier in the long run. You've been very honest with your opinions.

All the people in the audience left.

Mr. Merrell showed several photographs of the pipeline construction portion of the R170 project.

Mr. Miller asked what's the next thing we need to do? Mr. Fife does not think we need a public hearing. Mr. Koch said it's a matter of the Board making a decision. He thinks the Board could set up a workshop session. Because of Board schedules, it might have to be two or three weeks from now. Mr. Fife and Mr. Merrell said that will not be a problem.

MINUTES

Motion – Mrs. Corkrum: I move for approval of the Commissioners Proceedings for April 14, and April 16, 2008. Second by Mr. Miller. 3:0 vote in favor.

Adjourned at 11:13 am.

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There being no further business, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned until April 30, 2008.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Chairman

Chairman Pro Tem

Member

Attest:

Clerk to the Board

Approved and signed May 12, 2008.