

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49
FRANKLIN COUNTY
Commissioners' Proceeding for May 5, 2008

The Honorable Board of Franklin County Commissioners met on the above date. Present for the meeting were Rick Miller, Chair Pro Tem; and Neva J. Corkrum, Member; Fred Bowen, County Administrator; and Mary Withers, Clerk to the Board. Bob Koch, Chairman, was absent on county business for Ben Franklin Transit to attend the Bus and Paratransit Conference in Austin, Texas.

PROSECUTOR

Prosecutor Steve Lowe, Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor Ryan Verhulp and Public Works Director Tim Fife met with the Board. Present in audience: Tri-City Herald Reporter Joe Chapman and Sam Turner.

R-170 Landslide

Executive Session at 9:05 am for potential litigation based on RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) expected to last 30 minutes. Mr. Chapman and Mr. Turner left the room.

Open Session at 9:16 am.

Mr. Lowe left the meeting. Mr. Chapman and Mr. Turner returned to the audience. Troy Woody joined the audience.

Mr. Verhulp said he has presented the Board with some information regarding a potential lawsuit regarding the R170 landslide. He has provided the Board a legal analysis.

Motion - Mrs. Corkrum: I move that we work through our Federal senators and representatives and work for getting funding that way rather than sue the Federal government and landowners and the irrigation district, because the analysis was you couldn't just pick off of one party and quite frankly irrigation is very important to our farmers and I think it would be bad policy to go after the irrigation district and I think we should work politically with our Federal contingency. Second by Mr. Miller.

Mr. Miller said I also agree that we would be better off working with our senators and Federal government to help solve this problem rather than having a lawsuit pending on something like this.

Mrs. Corkrum said included in that motion would be to release the legal analysis that was presented to us. Second by Mr. Miller. 2:0 vote in favor.

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Mr. Miller announced that there will be a press release this afternoon.

2006 Ford Escape Claim

Executive Session at 9:19 am for potential litigation based on RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) expected to last up to 10 minutes related to damage to a 2006 Ford Escape vehicle.

Mr. Chapman and Mr. Turner left the meeting.

Open Session at 9:26 am.

Mr. Turner and Mr. Chapman rejoined the meeting.

Mr. Verhulp asked for approval of offer of settlement for \$15,094.62 with Unigard Insurance Company regarding damage to the county's 2006 Ford Escape vehicle that occurred on July 23, 2007.

Motion – Mrs. Corkrum: I move for approval of Resolution 2008-184, approval of the offer of settlement for \$15,094.62. This is regarding a Ford Escape vehicle owned by Franklin County. Second by Mr. Miller. 2:0 vote in favor.

PUBLIC WORKS

Engineer Tim Fife met with the Board. Present in audience: Joe Chapman and Sam Turner.

Vouchers

Motion – Mrs. Corkrum: I move for approval of payment of the following vouchers: County Road Fund for \$160,676.87; MV & PW Equipment Fund for \$35,250.92; Solid Waste for \$16,908.82; and CR Unemployment Trust for \$361.28.

Resolution to accept roads as county roads: Quail Bluff, Quail Bluff Lane, Pheasant Run Road and Pheasant Lane

Motion – Mrs. Corkrum: I move for acceptance of Quail Bluff as shown in the Final Plat of Quail Bluff and Quail Bluff Lane, Pheasant Run Road and Pheasant Lane as shown in the Final Plat of Pheasant Run and declaring them county roads. Second by Mr. Miller. 2:0 vote in favor. This is Resolution 2008-185.

Resolution: Acceptance of a portion of Pearl Street and Road 57 Place as shown in the Final Plat of Jensen Estates and declaring them county roads

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Motion – Mrs. Corkrum: I move for approval of Resolution 2008-186 regarding acceptance of a portion of Pearl Street and Road 57 Place as shown in the final plat of Jensen Estates and declaring them county roads. Second by Mr. Miller. 2:0 vote in favor.

TRAC

TRAC Manager Troy Woody met with the Board. Present in audience: Joe Chapman, Sam Turner, Joyce Olson and another woman.

Arena Floor

Mr. Woody told the Board about the progress on the arena floor entrance upgrade work.

Uniforms

Mr. Woody told the Board about the uniform shirts that are worn by TRAC employees. The Board members can wear them also if they desire.

Catering Party at Courthouse

A reception was held at the Courthouse last week, catered by TRAC. Mr. Woody said if we do those type of events again, he would like to avoid the security protocol after hours. By the time of the 5 o'clock reception, the courthouse is closed to the public. Mr. Bowen said the reason is we don't want to have someone leave something on the premises. Mr. Woody said the argument for security was for the safety of the judges and courtrooms. None of those apply to an after-hours event. Mrs. Corkrum said the Safety Committee and the Prosecutor would have to be consulted. She said she was told it went very smoothly as far as guests coming in to the event. Mr. Woody described some of the problems that occurred for the catering work because of the security. Mrs. Corkrum said the details can be worked out for future events.

Recent and Upcoming events

Mr. Woody told the Board about recent events held at TRAC and upcoming events.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Woody showed the Board one of the Independence Day Car Show T-shirts. The event will be held at TRAC during the July 4 holiday.

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Concession Stand

Mr. Woody showed the Board a preliminary draft drawing of a proposed concession stand that would be installed permanently in the atrium. Funding is not yet determined. It would include three rolling carts that would be movable.

OTHER BUSINESS

Joyce Olson met with the Board. Present in audience: Joe Chapman, Sam Turner, a woman and Troy Woody.

Redistricting

Ms. Olson stated she is a 30-year resident of Franklin County. She commended Commissioner Miller for his efforts to address the redistricting issue. She urged the Commissioners to move forward. She believes if the Board waits to set a public hearing to consider redistricting until during their meeting on May 12, it will be too late. She said last week Commissioner Corkrum was gone and today Commissioner Koch is gone. Ms. Olson said in order to adjust the boundaries you've got to set a date for public hearing, get it advertised and have a public hearing, and then still get it back on your agenda which probably will require additional notice. She said looking at your calendar and attendance at commissioner meetings by all three commissioners, she believes it is very unlikely it will get done before the filing period opens. She said she has heard there may be a lawsuit involved. She said as a resident of the county she doesn't want her tax dollars wasted on a lawsuit that could be avoided by taking action at the appropriate time. Ms. Olson said there's no doubt that boundaries are out of sync.

Ms. Olson referred to the Democratic and Republican parties' positions and fundamental principles of representative government.

She urged the Commissioners to move forward and set the boundaries between now and when the filing period opens so the population is evenly divided between the three districts. She asked that a public hearing notice for the Commissioner's redistricting be placed in the Tri-City Herald newspaper as well as the Franklin County Graphic.

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Mrs. Corkrum asked to speak to Ms. Olson after the meeting. Ms. Olson asked her to speak on the record. Mrs. Corkrum declined, saying what she has to say is personal.

Mr. Miller said we've been working on redistricting for quite awhile.

Ms. Olson said until this issue is addressed, you ought to suspend your meetings and time off and vacations so you can all be present to make a decision.

Mr. Miller said there's nothing we can do unless Mrs. Corkrum has any suggestions or motions. Mrs. Corkrum said, "I have nothing."

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

County Administrator Fred Bowen met with the Board.

Resolution approving Professional Services Contract

Mr. Bowen asked for approval of a resolution between Franklin County and CKJT Architects. A team of architects will go into the jail and make recommendations for what can be done. This work was included on a list of needed tasks when the jail assessment was done last year. It could be a very important part of finding out what we need to do for future projects.

Mrs. Corkrum asked what is the \$19,000 cost based on? Mr. Bowen referred to a breakdown on page 13 of the contract. Six different architect firms will address the condition of the jail (mechanical, AC, structural, etc.). CKJT's portion is \$3600. Mrs. Corkrum asked are these fees plus expenses? Mr. Bowen said this is the total amount.

Mr. Bowen said this work has nothing to do with expansion of the jail but is looking at the condition of our existing jail. It was not done earlier. The earlier work that was done was to assess potential growth and future accommodation in the jail.

Mr. Miller said he thinks this is one of the biggest issues we have now. Mr. Bowen said we are going to expand our jail; it's just a matter of when. The jail is designed to be extended so the systems inside the existing 20-year-old jail will need to be upgraded also.

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Motion – Mrs. Corkrum: I move for approval of Resolution 2008-187 regarding authorization for Professional Services Contract with CKJT Architects to conduct a survey to assess the condition of the existing Franklin County Correctional Center. Second by Mr. Miller. 2:0 vote in favor.

Vehicle – Commissioner Koch

Mr. Bowen said Commissioner Koch asked him to bring up Commissioner Koch's request to no longer receive a car allowance and drive a county vehicle back and forth. Mr. Bowen asked for consensus approval at this point to move forward or not. It would be the same type of vehicle that Sheriff Lathim would drive and can also be used when Commissioners and staff travel out of town.

Mr. Miller said he thought there was a resolution that you had the choice of taking the mileage or using a county vehicle. Mrs. Corkrum said she thinks there may have been a resolution prior to 1988. She explained some history of how car allowances and mileage have been used in the past. Mrs. Corkrum said she has no problem with the request. We'll be paying for the vehicle up front and the difference between what he would have received in a car allowance will be used. Mr. Miller said I have no problem either. He understood we had a choice as commissioners. Mrs. Corkrum asked Mr. Bowen to work with Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor Ryan Verhulp.

OTHER BUSINESS

Present in audience: Joe Chapman, Sam Turner, Joyce Olson and another woman.

Vouchers/Warrants

Motion – Mrs. Corkrum: I move for approval of vouchers as listed: Current Expense warrants 63149 through 63173 for \$7,906.69; Current Expense warrants 63174 through 63241 for \$79,125.62; Current Expense warrants 63242 for \$128.97; Jail Commissary warrants 2465 through 2468 for \$5,587.21; DOC Building Inspection warrants 71 through 72 for \$45.17; Auditor O&M warrant 494 for \$1,417.25; Auditor O&M warrant 495 \$141.08; Franklin County RV Facility warrants 453 through 455 for \$1,450.74; Clerk LFO warrant 35 for \$50.00; Current Expense Cumulative Reserve warrant 135 for \$13,725.41; Franklin County Public Facilities warrant 848 through 856 for \$59,057.46;

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Franklin County Capital Projects warrants 399 through 404 for \$16,653.43; and Ending Homeless warrant 14 for \$12,582.96; for a total of \$197,871.99. Second by Mr. Miller. (Exhibit 2)

Classification Review Committee

Human Resources Director Rosie H. Rumsey met with the Board. Present in audience: Joe Chapman.

Ms. Rumsey explained the history of a request for a change in grade and step placement for an employee. The original request was made two years ago. At this time, the Classification Review Committee has recommended approval of the request. Ms. Rumsey said this is one of the grades where the new salary matrix ends up being less than the old matrix. She explained further. Ms. Rumsey prepared a budget impact worksheet for the Board. The employee's anniversary date is June 1. Mrs. Corkrum said she thinks we need to keep the anniversary dates constant.

Motion – Mrs. Corkrum: I would move to allow Grade 11 Step 7 effective June 1, 2008, for this employee. Second by Mr. Miller. 2:0 vote in favor. Mr. Miller signed the Change of Status for Enrique (Henry) Curiel.

Request to use outside of courthouse for a wedding

Secretary Patricia Shults met with the Board. Present in audience: Joe Chapman.

Ms. Shults told the Board that a lady called asking if it was allowable to have a wedding on the front steps of the courthouse on a Saturday. The wedding would not be performed by a judge.

Mrs. Corkrum said she knows the judges perform weddings in their chambers but she doesn't think the county can allow this wedding. We would have to arrange security which is an added expense. She recognizes the courthouse is a public facility.

Ms. Shults said the woman also asked if she got married Friday at 4 o'clock, would it be allowed? Mrs. Corkrum said no, especially if it's a private officiant.

Mr. Miller said he would definitely consult legal authority. Mr. Miller agrees with Mrs. Corkrum that we probably don't want to start allowing this type of event.

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Motion – Mrs. Corkrum: I move for adjournment. Second by Mr. Miller. 2:0 vote in favor.

Adjourned at 10:12 am.

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

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Chairman

Chairman Pro Tem

Member

Attest:

Clerk to the Board

Approved and signed May 14, 2008.