

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49
FRANKLIN COUNTY
Commissioners' Proceeding for May 12, 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: Jim Rabideau, Shawn Sant, Joyce Olson, and three other women and three other men.

Consent Agenda

Motion – Mr. Miller: I move that we remove the one item from the consent agenda and have discussion on that.

(Clerk's Note: Item 1 was removed from the consent agenda)

1. Approval of **Resolution 2008-188** authorizing the County to pay \$30 per month towards cellular phone charges for the Fire Marshall effective May 1, 2008; authorizing creation of line item 522.30.42.0000 (Communication) in the Coroner Budget, Number 001-000-220; and authorizing an intra budget transfer in the amount of \$240 within the 2008 Current Expense Coroner Budget, Number 001-000-220, from line item 522.30.49.0001 (Fire Marshall Training) to line item 522.30.42.0000 (Communication).

Ms. Shults said the amount is being changed from \$30 to \$10 per month reimbursement for the fire marshal. The total amount of the transfer is also changed to \$100 instead of \$240. Mr. Bowen said he talked to Coroner Dan Blasdel who told him the fire marshal uses his cell phone on fire marshal business on an occasional basis, not all the time. Mr. Bowen felt the whole amount that was originally allocated was not appropriate. The fire marshal is paid under the Coroner's budget.

Motion – Mrs. Corkrum: I move for approval of authorization for the county to pay \$10 per month towards cellular phone charges for the fire marshal and creation of line item 42 (Communications) in the Coroner Budget #220 and inter budget transfer in the amount of \$100 within the 2008 Current Expense Coroner's Budget. Second by Mr. Miller. 3:0 vote in favor. This is Resolution 2008-188.

Vouchers/Warrants

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Motion – Mr. Miller: I move for approval of payment of the following Veteran's Assistance vouchers: warrant 1396 for \$1,980.00; warrant 1397 for \$1,805.00; warrant 1398 for \$125.00; warrant 1399 for \$50.00; warrants 1400 through 1404 for \$900.00; warrant 1405 for \$532.42; warrant 1406 for \$120.00; warrants 1407 through 1408 for \$350.00; warrants 1409 through 1410 for \$2,695.00; and warrants 1411 through 1413 for \$500.00; for a total of \$9,057.42. Second by Mrs. Corkrum. 3:0 vote in favor.

(Exhibit 1)

Motion – Mrs. Corkrum: I move for approval of payment of the following vouchers: Current Expense warrants 63243 through 63277 for \$30,366.36; TRAC Operations Fund warrants 1299 through 1356 for \$73,658.82; Franklin County RV Facility warrant 456 for \$157.95; Auditor O&M warrant 496 for \$165.11; CE Cumulative Reserve warrant 136 for \$400.00; CE Cumulative Reserve warrant 137 for \$13,965.59; and Franklin County Enhanced 911 warrant 1288 for \$2,418.67; for a total of \$121,132.50. Second by Mr. Miller. 3:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 2)

Legal Opinion: Weddings held at Courthouse

The Board reviewed the a legal opinion from Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor Ryan Verhulp regarding the holding of weddings at the courthouse. Mrs. Corkrum thinks the Security Department needs to be consulted. Mr. Koch does not think the courthouse should be opened on Saturdays. The other Board members agreed. Mrs. Corkrum does not think allowing the weddings is good use of our facilities. Mr. Miller said he thinks because of the security, it makes it much more difficult, but as a taxpayer it would be nice to do that if they wanted to, but he thinks Mrs. Corkrum is right. Mr. Koch said one of the concerns that was brought up was that we do not have a security policy signed yet. He said the only other side of that is if the people wanted to pay for security. However, he doesn't know if he wants to open the doors of the courthouse. Mr. Miller agreed. Mr. Koch said if we were to even consider Saturdays it would be a matter of them paying overtime for security. He doesn't know that he would want to see the courthouse doors open.

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Ms. Shults said the woman who requested using the courthouse steps also asked if it could be done on Friday at 4:00 pm. Mr. Miller said maybe we should try the Friday at 4:00 and see how it goes. Mr. Koch said, "I could agree with that." Mr. Bowen said the security is shut down at 5:00 pm. Mr. Koch thinks people would have to be able to exit by 5:15. Mr. Koch asked the other Board members: Is that a consensus then? Mr. Miller said yes. Mrs. Corkrum said, "I guess but I think it's going to open up a lot of trouble."

Mr. Koch said they sell property on the front steps of the courthouse. Mrs. Corkrum said she thought it was always a county function. Mr. Koch indicated he is aware of a Bureau of Land Management property sale.

Mrs. Corkrum said she thinks we should run it by Security Director Rick Rochleau first. Mr. Miller and Mr. Koch agreed. **Mrs. Corkrum said we have a consensus if it's all right with Security, the wedding can go ahead. The Board decided Mr. Koch can meet with the security director.**

PLANNING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Planning Director Jerrod MacPherson and Assistant Director Greg Wendt met with the Board.

Public Hearing: Short Plat SP 2008-06 for applicant Rick Koelzer to short plat approximately 95.36 acres into two lots. As proposed, Lot #1 is approximately 5.86 acres in size and Lot #2 is approximately 89.50 acres in size. The property is located in the Agriculture Production 20 (AP-20) Zoning District.

Public Hearing convened at 9:16 am. Present: Commissioners Koch, Corkrum and Miller; County Administrator Fred Bowen; and Clerk to the Board Mary Withers. Present in audience: Eleven people including Jim Rabideau, Shawn Sant and Joyce Olson.

Mr. Miller said Mr. Koelzer called and asked him if he should attend. Mr. Miller referred Mr. Koelzer to the Planning Department. Mr. MacPherson and Mr. Wendt said they did not receive a phone call from Mr. Koelzer.

Mr. Wendt reviewed the information on the Action Summary (Exhibit 3).

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Mr. MacPherson showed a copy of the 2007 aerial photograph with parcel overlay. He said currently the dashed line (indicated) separates the two parcels. They currently stand as two separate tax parcels but during this process were set to be lumped together as one. However, the Assessor identified two different owners under an estate or percentage. The two parcels couldn't be combined together unless they were put under the applicant's own ownership. The dashed line has been included to give the applicant some options. If the applicant cannot accomplish putting the properties into one parcel, only the east side would be Lot 2 which would then be 65 acres. If the two parcels can be consolidated, Lot 2 would be 89 acres. Either way, it still complies with the zoning ordinance. Mr. MacPherson reviewed the conditions of approval.

Josie Koelzer joined the audience.

Mr. Koch asked three times if anyone in the audience would like to speak against the short plat. There was no response.

Mr. Koch asked three times if anyone would like to speak for this short plat. There was no response.

Mrs. Corkrum asked if the ownership south of the application area is owned by the same parties. Mr. MacPherson said he believes the parcel here (indicated the property that is next to the southeast side of the application area) is owned by the same parties. He does not know who owns the southwest portion that adjoins the application area.

Mrs. Corkrum asked what happens to the circles. Mr. MacPherson said the parcels that are the subject of the short plat are not part of a farm unit and are not eligible to receive irrigation water at this point. They are applying irrigation to lands that they are not allowed to do it at this point. They will have to work that issue out with the South Columbia Basin Irrigation District (SCBID). Mrs. Corkrum said so it will have to be resolved before the final approval. Mr. MacPherson said SCBID said they will not sign the short plat until it is resolved. They can work out some arrangement. He is not sure what the options are but it will have to be resolved.

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Motion – Mr. Miller: I move that we grant preliminary approval of Short Plat 2008-06 subject to the seven findings of fact and six conditions of approval. Second by Mrs. Corkrum. 3:0 vote in favor. This is Resolution 2008-189.

COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY CHAIRMAN

County Republican Party Chairman Shawn Sant met with the Board. Present in audience: Jim Rabideau, Patrick Guettner, Brenda High, Barbara Poulson, Tri-City Herald Reporter Mary Hopkin, John Talbott, Rado Harrington, Jeremy Meredith, Joyce Olson, Susan Taylor, Lee Barrow, and Kati Sant. The sign-in sheet is included as Exhibit 4. During the meeting, others joined the audience including: Sheriff Richard Lathim, Auditor Zona Lenhart, Elections Supervisor Diana Killian, Human Resources Director Rosie H. Rumsey, and Assessor Steve Marks.

Commissioner Redistricting

Mr. Sant said he is a resident in Commissioner District #3 and chairman of the Franklin County Republican Central Committee. Many members have made their desires known to try to get this matter addressed before the commission. We haven't had a full commission. He proposed on April 28 to set it for a public hearing but that did not go through because it was requested that there be a full board, even though that would not be required. I am here to reiterate some of the arguments that I have previously made regarding why this may be required. I believe the Board has probably had an opportunity to review with counsel.

Mr. Sant referred to a court case in Island County, Story v. Anderson. He said the case was significantly similar. He referred to the one person, one vote idea. He explained further. He said if one commissioner in one district represents a significantly larger proportion of the people, the votes are significantly diluted as far as the primary process. He referred to some letters to the editor that he said they are missing the point. It is the same reason why we don't have congressional districts for the state of Washington representing our district in Washington, D.C. He gave an example of congressional district elections.

Sheriff Richard Lathim joined the audience.

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Mr. Sant talked about the constitutional scheme and the primary issue being one person, one vote. He said the statute does grant issues for deviation but only minor deviations. He gave an example, referring to the court case he cited earlier in Island County which was in 1980.

Mr. Sant wants to save the county from a potential lawsuit. He described how he feels the disproportionate number of voters in Districts 1 and 2 may limit the opportunities of people to participate in the representative government process. Mr. Sant talked about the primary election process. You have to be elected first in your district. Now that we have the top two primary, you have to be one of the top two to advance to the general election. Mr. Sant read from the Island County lawsuit regarding inequality of more strongly weighted votes for residents of the smaller districts.

Mr. Sant is asking for the public hearing. He is not asking the Board to adopt the redistricting plan.

Rosie H. Rumsey, Zona Lenhart, Diana Killian and Steve Marks joined the audience.

Mr. Sant pointed to maps on the wall of Drafts 1, 2 and 4. He asked Ms. Lenhart, there weren't many deviations between Drafts 3 and 4? Ms. Lenhart said right. Mr. Sant requested copies of the maps from Ms. Lenhart so they could be placed on the Republican website and the Democratic website in an electronic form. Ms. Lenhart said it is possible.

Mr. Sant would like to have the Board hold a public hearing prior to the filing period. He is concerned about taxpayer dollars. He doesn't want to have to litigate.

Mr. Sant said the frustration has been that the auditor's office worked hard to realign the precincts so the big question is why didn't we do this when we did all the precincts? He gave an example from his own precinct. He said we saw this situation coming. He said we've known about this problem but we haven't put anything towards a public hearing. I know there has been discussion. He said maybe one drawing didn't seem to be compact. He said you can't make some waving scheme to outline some areas. He thinks you could make a good argument for each one of the map proposals, that it seems to fit in with that compactness. In other words, are these alignments similarly

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aligned with geographic features, streets, roads, the river, and that sort of thing. The statute wants you to focus in on making sure that it's not gerrymandering, especially to make sure that you're not cutting out a parcel to favor any particular racial or ethnic group or political party.

Mr. Sant said before the filing period he thinks people that have addressed their concerns to him have said all we want to do is have a public discussion. My concern too as being a resident of Commissioner District 3 which I pointed out on April 28 is that I see a potential problem because if there's City of Pasco business that conflicts with county business, that puts an undue burden on my commissioner. He explained further, giving an example. He doesn't think all of the burden should be placed on any one commissioner.

He thinks the constitutional principles laid out in the Story case are what should drive it. He referred to the history of the redistricting work.

He said Ms. Lenhart doesn't make the decisions but gives you information to make an informed decision. Mr. Sant said he thinks many others may want to speak as well. He thinks it should go to a public hearing. He thinks it should have been done last year. Frankly, there are always going to be implications. Politics comes into everything. By inaction, that is a political implication as well. By not adopting it, you are making a political implication.

Mr. Sant said the precincts have been realigned. He thinks we're opening it up for some litigation and he is just trying to avoid that. He doesn't think this is a political issue. He thinks it's more an issue of doing what's right if possible. He would like to have a public hearing so people can have their voice.

Mr. Sant would propose and ask that today we set a public hearing before the filing period and set a date, too, you would vote. He proposed prior to the filing to go ahead with notice and set a vote a week following that. I'm asking because I think this is such an important issue. I want to make sure all three commissioners will be present. I think the schedule needs to be changed if necessary. I think it needs to be resolved sooner than later. I think we will have citizens feel more competent in our system.

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C. J. "Jim" Rabideau, 732 West Henry, asked to speak. Mr. Koch gave permission.

Mr. Rabideau said six years ago when we went through this exercise the state Supreme Court ruled against the lawsuit that I was involved with. The state Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Board of County Commissioners which at that time consisted of Mr. Brock and Mr. Miller's mother. That particular pattern has been in existence since before 2002. It hasn't changed. There has been plenty of time to change it. I'm not a bit worried about a lawsuit. I was involved in that last one. My reaction is why get stampeded into doing something prior to an election.

Mr. Rabideau said he just learned this morning that Mayor Olson went to the Chamber of Commerce and issued an email to the Chamber members to be here.

Joyce Olson said, "That's not true."

Mr. Rabideau said anything that's done in a stampede mess right before a partisan election is ridiculous. He referred to a Letter to the Editor that was published yesterday by Diane Collins of Pasco, which he said indicated the matter should be resolved after the 2010 census. Mr. Rabideau said I'm not so sure it should wait that long but it should wait until after the partisan election and give people time to study this thing. What do the people at 4th and Lewis have in common with people at Basin City? It's ridiculous the way the thing has been divided. He said the City of Pasco should have two votes just because of the one man, one vote rule that this man is talking about.

Mr. Rabideau said I'm not a candidate. I gave up politics. I'm not a candidate for a nonpartisan job. It looks like the Mayor of Pasco is looking for a new job. This one man, one vote rule was thrown out by the State Supreme Court in the case of Kilbury v Franklin County. It should not be done in the heat of partisan politics before a primary but afterwards when there is time for a group of sensible people from both parties and other interested people to sit down and try to figure out how this ought to be done and make a recommendation before this commission.

Brenda High spoke. She said she is a citizen and voter. She thinks that what you're doing is totally unfair to the voters in our area which is Rick Miller's area. We

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ought to have the amount of people all even. I really don't know what I can do to convince you otherwise so I decided I would just take a talent of mine that I have and take what I know and learn and put it on the internet. I have a web site that I specifically made for this issue. The web site is www.slacker.com or slackercommissioners.com. I'll be posting my information that I learned in this meeting.

Ms. High left the meeting.

Patrick Guettner spoke. He is a citizen of Pasco. Rather than kind of reiterate some of the legal arguments and emotional arguments, I would like to say I would like to appeal that you consider doing this at this time because time is of the essence. In this time period of 10 years between our national censuses, things change rapidly: technology, population, demographics. I feel this issue has been tossed around enough already. I understand it's been considered before and been legally challenged before. It's time I think to do the right thing. This is the right thing. This is the very issue, equal and fair representation. He referred to our forefathers and the Revolutionary War.

Tim Fife joined the audience.

Mr. Guettner explained why the Revolutionary process started. We are enjoying all the benefits and sacrifices, freely debating an issue that touches and concerns people. I would like to ask those in opposition to this to put aside their personal partisan interests and go ahead and do the right thing. Whatever you've done in the past, people will not remember it. They will remember this issue though because it's become very heated. This is politics. That's what politics is all about. It's time to put a stop to personal partisan differences and do the right thing. It's time to act. The maps have been drawn. I think they've been drawn fairly. I think it's time to do something else. It doesn't take long for things to change for the worse. That's what we're doing every day by waiting. I would like to appeal to you to do the right thing at this time.

Mr. Koch said our scheduled time is passed. He would entertain a motion.

Motion – Mr. Miller: Mr. Chairman, I make a motion for a public hearing for the redistricting of Franklin County. Mrs. Corkrum said there's not a second from me. Mr. Koch said I will second for a public hearing with the caveat that I'm going to have to

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hear from a lot more of my constituents rather than a few people that have come in because of an email or two. As it stands right now with the people I'm seeing here, I don't think we've got a good cross section of the county and we work for the county. We will open it up for a public hearing and like I say, I'm going to have to have a lot more people involved than what I see here to go any further.

Mr. Miller asked, "Mr. Chairman, with the time we have, what would be a good time for a public hearing?"

Mr. Sant asked for the soonest date we could do with this county's use of the Franklin County Graphic. He said that's another issue I think we need to address. He thinks the Tri-City Herald should be the other form of media in which we should publish a hearing notice. Mr. Koch said I realize you would like to do that but we put out bids every year.

Mr. Sant asked that the hearing notice be pushed on Thursday, May 15, setting the public hearing for Thursday, May 22, in order to follow the seven days' notice requirement for the public hearing. He would ask that the Board publish that a vote would be taken at that time. He said he is not suggesting that the Board vote in any particular way. He thinks the Board has taken the right steps. He is just asking that it all be put in one notice that if the vote is going to take place, it will do so on May 29. He said there is a requirement if the Board wants to adopt Draft 1, 2 or 4 that there has to be a minimum of one week after the public hearing.

Motion - Mr. Miller suggested because of the laws and problems we've had with getting redistricting, because of the public interest with the Tri-City Herald articles and it is the largest circulation newspaper, I move that we set this for Friday and have it in the paper and put it on Connell's newspaper. Put it in the Tri-City Herald today and give it a couple days and have that special board meeting on Friday. Mr. Koch said that's not legal. Mr. Miller said because of all the problems we've had maybe we can do that.

Mr. Sant said we have to have the seven days' requirement. He would rather not risk the issue of someone challenging the notice requirement. He said perhaps it could be

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published in both the Franklin County Graphic and the Tri-City Herald, keeping with the Thursday schedule of the Franklin County Graphic for public notice.

Mr. Miller said his next question is that Mr. Sant asked for the public hearing on May 22. He said Mr. Koch and he are both going to be attending a National Association of Counties (NACo) meeting that has been set for awhile. Mr. Sant asked, "Are you going to be gone that entire week?" Mr. Miller said yes.

Mr. Rabideau said before you set a public hearing, he would suggest you consult the Prosecutor's Office who gives legal advice to the county. Mr. Miller said he thinks we would ask the Prosecutor's Office, as well as having the motion.

Ms. Rumsey left the audience.

Mr. Koch said so the public hearing would be on the 29th.

Mr. Sant asked for a public hearing to be set for May 22 to discuss the issue and then at least a week after that for a vote. He is asking the Board to publish in both newspapers. Mr. Sant asked the Board to reconsider and recognize this is an important matter and reconsider their schedule. He feels it is of enough importance to maybe change some travel time. He suggested maybe cutting the convention attendance short so they can be back for the hearing.

Mr. Koch said May 28 would be the soonest meeting. Mr. Sant reiterated what he would like the public hearing notice to include: setting public hearing and setting the date of a possible vote. Mr. Koch said at this point we would set a hearing on May 29.

Auditor Zona Lenhart said at this point it is pushing us to be able to accomplish what we need to do in order to notify voters. She explained further, saying about 50% of the voters are in Mr. Miller's district. To prepare to send the voters notice takes some time and proofing. It's pushing us to a point where it's almost not possible to get it done. It would be very difficult with June 2 being the filing date.

Mr. Sant said you have to have the public hearing and then no sooner than seven days, then the first time it could be approved would be June 5 which is during the filing period. Ms. Lenhart said the filing period has to occur prior to filing week. Otherwise, the candidates don't know what district they're filing in.

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Mike Killian joined the audience.

Mr. Sant said his proposal would still be for May 22 and May 29. We would have had time to do this had we had an agreement to set for public hearing but this Board chose not to. I'm simply asking to have a public hearing.

Mr. Miller said the only other way I can do this and make the motion and amend the motion -- It costs us I think \$100 to come back early. We could have that public hearing meeting on Thursday, May 22, at 4:00 or something like that and miss the Thursday and Friday portion of that convention.

Motion – Mr. Miller: I'll withdraw my first motion which was not called on for a vote and make the motion that we have the public hearing on May 22 at 4:00 pm and put it in the paper right away.

Mr. Koch asked Ms. Lenhart, would that give you enough time? Ms. Lenhart asked for clarification of the date. Mr. Miller said May 29.

Ms. Lenhart said that would be Memorial Day week, a week prior to the filing period. We are not even going to have a full week at that point to come to you. It could be more confusing to voters making changes at that point in time.

Mr. Koch said that's what I'm afraid of. This should have been done last July to start with. This has been nonsense here. This has just been foolishness.

Mr. Miller said it's a process and we should have just finished it last July.

Mr. Koch said exactly, last July, not now.

Mr. Koch said I think that's going to make it worse.

Mr. Koch said I don't feel with the commitment we have on the conference --

Mr. Miller said unfortunately for protection of the county I think this has gone on way too long. It should have been done last July. That's when we started. We could have completed that fairly simply with just a few maps and passed and gone on.

Mr. Miller said my motion still stands.

Mr. Koch said we'll see if we can get things changed and talk to the prosecutor. As I said the first time, for me to change my mind it's going to have to be a lot more constituents than just a few that some emails have brought out.

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Mr. Sant asked is there a motion for the 22nd and 29th? Mr. Koch said if we can get our -- I'm leaving a caveat on it. I don't know that we can get it changed. We have our rooms and planes. I'm not going to put the county out that much more if we can't get things done.

Mr. Sant said it's going to be understandable that if the PA says this isn't adequate notice, then somehow that's the county's legal opinion and you have to go with that. I just think we need to set it now with that understanding that if it's approved or authorized by Mr. Verhulp that yes, this fits in with the notice requirement, then we're already set. Mr. Sant explained further.

Mr. Koch said with that as part of the motion, part of the motion would have to be that we can make changes for that trip and that our –

Mr. Sant said this is significant county business and that should trump anything else outside of our county. He said I know this is a cost issue. I don't want to incur costs for cancellation.

Mr. Koch asked Mr. Miller if he would adjust the motion. Mr. Miller: I will amend that we approve consideration of being able to cancel our arrangements at the NACo conference and our civil attorney's approval.

Michelle Murphy spoke. She said I think the only other option is to take a vote without the public and say it wasn't handled appropriately and done in a timely manner. I think that is the biggest issue, that it's gone on too long. The public should at least be aware that there are business items that are not being resolved in a timely manner and the public is not being brought in at the right times. We all make mistakes but at least you need to let the public know that they need to get in here earlier on and apply the pressure.

Mr. Bowen asked Ms. Lenhart is there enough time if this is done on May 22nd? Ms. Lenhart said, no, not at this point. In a week we could not be thorough. We could do the majority of the people. All it takes is one vote in races for it to be a problem. We don't like to do something that quickly. A week isn't enough time. The week of May 29 is a short week. Filing period is the following Monday. Mr. Bowen asked the filing period is only five days? Ms. Lenhart said yes. People can usually file two weeks in

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advance with some exceptions. She said the real filing date is May 14 because it is two weeks in advance of the filing period. She said it is one of the filing dates, when people can file by mail. We can only accept it by mail, not in person, on May 14. So for us to even wait at this point in time is really delaying it.

Mr. Koch said so at this point in time we're too late anyway for a true filing period. Ms. Lenhart said yes. She would encourage the Board to talk to Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor Ryan Verhulp.

Mr. Sant said all we're asking for is proposed dates because we need to set the dates now. If Mr. Verhulp says the county's interests are going to be compromised by going forward, then you'll have to decide the consequences of that. He is asking the Board to set dates but follow the prosecutor's advice. At least we've done the proper steps in giving notice. He explained further. He said you might make an opinion contrary to those dates. I think people understand that. Nobody wants the county to be looking at a lawsuit.

All I've wanted all along is for the public hearing to be set up. These are the dates remaining that allow for a vote to happen before the filing period. If you want to set the public hearing on May 22 like for 4 o'clock, that would accommodate that. Maybe that might be better, to set it for 4 o'clock on that date and then vote the following week.

Mr. Miller said that's what my motion has. Mr. Koch said it would all stem on our attorney. Vote: 2:1 vote in favor. Yeas: Mr. Koch and Mr. Miller. Nay: Mrs. Corkrum.

TREASURER

Treasurer Tiffany Coffland met with the Board. Present in audience: Tri-City Herald Reporter Mary Hopkin.

Investment Earnings

The interest rate today at the state pool is 2.38%. Last year at this time the interest rate was 5.22%. Even though our residual cash investments are up about \$3 million more than last year at this same time, she still thinks we might be a little short at the end of the year if rates don't bounce back up. We will need to watch the line item closely. She

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expects we may be \$200,000 to \$250,000 short in that line item by the end of the year.

We have no control over the interest rates.

April Tax Collections

We're at 42% of the total tax collections, including mail that was processed on May 1, 2008, which includes the past due amounts as well. For the current year, we're at 48% of collections. About 36% of it was processed electronically which has really helped in getting things done. Our foot traffic wasn't as strong as it was in past years but was steady. We had a drop box in the Security Building.

Tax Distribution Pie Chart

The Board reviewed a pie chart showing the 2008 tax distribution for Franklin County and some other information about the tax distributions.

Employees

Ms. Coffland will be trying to allow employees to leave at 3:00 pm on Friday if it can be worked out with schedules. They will make up their hours earlier in the week. There will still be at least four people in the office until closing time on Friday.

Recessed at 10:26 am.

Reconvened at 10:31 am.

HUMAN RESOURCES (HR)

HR Director Rosie H. Rumsey met with the Board.

Washington Counties Insurance Fund (WCIF)

WCIF has approved offering a long-term care product. The insurance company is Unum but the administrator would be AGIS Network. The plan would be long-term care not necessarily for the elderly but being able to pay you money if you need any type of long-term care. For instance, if you or a family member, parent or child, is involved in an accident or is sick and needs some type of skilled health care either in a skilled nursing facility or at home, this is an insurance for that situation. Ms. Rumsey received a lot of information about the program and data regarding costs to employers for employees who are handling these types of situations, whether they are at work or not.

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Two different plans are offered. One is a base plan. It would require 100% participation and be paid 100% by employer. She has not received the actual quote from WCIF yet. The census she provided to a local Unum agency in March was about a year old. The local insurance company provided a quote of about \$15 per person per month for their base plan which would cost the county about \$50,000 a year. If the base plan is purchased, the rates are reduced to about 50% if an employee wants to buy more insurance. She gave an example.

She asked the Board if they want her to pursue getting a quote from WCIF. It would involve gathering a significant amount of information from each employee just to get a quote. She also asked if the Board wants to request a quote for individual plans. Then a census would not need to be provided.

Mrs. Corkrum said it's a lot of money. Mr. Koch agreed. Mrs. Corkrum said she thinks disability plans are good but she doesn't think we can afford it. Mr. Koch said he thinks it would be up to the employee. Mr. Miller agreed. Mrs. Corkrum said if we can offer it to them as a benefit, that's the route she would go.

Ms. Rumsey said we can offer it to them. We don't have to make the decision now.

Ms. Rumsey asked if the coverage is offered on an individual basis, would the Board prefer to use WCIF or an independent agent? The only difference is WCIF would handle it all in one statement sent to one place. Then if there are any problems at all, the additional AGIS Network will do the work for us. The independent network does not have that available. Mrs. Corkrum said from her perspective, she would prefer to stick with WCIF so it would be easier on the auditor for payroll deduction purposes. Mr. Koch nodded his head in agreement.

Mrs. Corkrum said we don't have to do anything about this until budget time and when we're negotiating for COLAs and increases in medical. Ms. Rumsey said you can do this at any time except during open enrollment. If you're doing the individual plan, WCIF doesn't mind, but the group plan is only available in March, June or September. Mrs. Corkrum said then she thinks we should do it next March after we know the budget.

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Mr. Koch said during budget time if it looks like we're able to come up with \$50,000, we might consider it, but he thinks it would require quite a bit of labor to handle it.

PROSECUTOR

Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor Ryan Verhulp met with the Board. Present in audience: Tri-City Herald Reporter Mary Hopkin.

Pasco Sanitary Landfill

Executive Session at 10:48 am based on RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) expected to last up to 15 minutes.

Open Session at 11:00 am.

Redistricting

Mr. Verhulp said he knows the redistricting is an issue. He said if the Board has a legal question it can be discussed under legal risks of the proposed action based on RCW 42.30.110(1)(i).

Pam Larsen joined the audience.

Mr. Koch said we need to discuss it for ten minutes maybe.

Executive Session at 11:01 am based on RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) expected to last about ten minutes. Pam Larsen left the audience.

Open Session at 11:11 am.

HANFORD COMMUNITIES

Pam Larsen met with the Board.

Rattlesnake Mountain

Mrs. Corkrum expressed appreciation to Ms. Larsen for her leadership in a recent meeting. Ms. Larsen gave the Board an update on recent efforts to allow access to Rattlesnake Mountain to continue.

Hanford Communities

Ms. Larsen gave the Board a brief overview of the Hanford Communities organization. She talked about its history and the projects it is involved in recently. She said currently the Hanford Communities group works on both policy analysis and advocacy. There is an administrative board that meets monthly and a governing board

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that meets quarterly. The primary focus is on cleanup and funding for cleanup at Hanford. Hanford Communities' role over the years has been to make sure people have a sense of what's going on at Hanford and know what their opportunities are to get involved, which is done through a contract with the Washington State Department of Ecology.

Ryan Verhulp joined the audience.

Ms. Larsen said Mrs. Corkrum had asked her what the fee would be if Franklin County were to become involved in the Hanford Communities. She said the fee is a little difficult to prepare. There is one employee. Administrative support is provided by the City of Richland. The budget is highly driven by personnel costs. Benton County's and the Port of Benton's contributions for 2008 are each \$4500. West Richland and Pasco contribute \$6000 and Kennewick contributes \$8000. It has to do with population and the number of employees that work at the Hanford site. Ms. Larsen would propose the same contribution as Benton County which would be \$4500.

Mrs. Corkrum asked if we joined, say, the first of July, would we pay half?
Ms. Larsen said that would be fine. It is a calendar year budget.

All meetings begin at 7:30 am on Friday mornings at Richland City Hall. The Administrative Board meetings last one to 1-1/2 hours. The Governing Board meetings last 1-1/2 to 2 hours.

Recessed at 11:31 am.

Reconvened at 11:34 am.

PROSECUTOR

Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor Ryan Verhulp met with the Board.

Redistricting

Mr. Verhulp requested an executive session on the topic of redistricting. He said earlier you proposed a couple of legal questions regarding redistricting. He has since obtained the answers and would ask for up to ten minutes of executive session for legal risks of a proposed action per RCW 42.31.110(1)(i).

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Executive Session at 11:34 am based on RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) expected to last 10 minutes.

Open Session at 11:41 am.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

County Administrator Fred Bowen met with the Board
Resolution to approve transfer of \$108,586 from TRAC Operations Fund #404-000-001 to Capital Projects Fund #300-000-001

The money was transferred into the TRAC Operations Fund earlier to handle a problem when there was much discrepancy between different offices regarding the TRAC fund. Since that time the problems have been resolved. Mr. Bowen asked for approval to transfer the funds back. He said there will be an additional \$1700 transfer after a warrant is taken off the books later in the year.

Motion – Mr. Miller: I move that we authorize the Treasurer to transfer \$108,586.32 utilizing a warrant process from the 2008 Miscellaneous TRAC Operations Fund #404 to the 2008 Miscellaneous Capital Projects Fund #300. Second by Mrs. Corkrum. 3:0 vote in favor. This is Resolution 2008-190.

Transfer

Mr. Bowen asked for approval of a transfer of \$8300 to cover replacement of the carpet in the Prosecuting Attorney's Child Support Office.

Motion – Mrs. Corkrum: I move for an intra budget transfer of \$8300 within the Non-Departmental Budget #700 from line item 519.90.10.0001 (Contingency Reserve) to line item 41.0002 (Professional Services). Second by Mr. Miller. 3:0 vote in favor. This is Resolution 2008-191.

Facilities Department

Human Resources Director Rosie H. Rumsey joined the meeting. Mr. Bowen said an employee has been rehired in the Facilities Department who had previously worked for the county for about eight months and then left to take another job. He asked if the Board would be interested in bringing him back to the same level of pay as when he left. He explained the review of the request by the Salary Review Committee. He asked if the

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Board wanted to approve the salary at close to the same rate of pay as when he left or have the employee start at the bottom range of pay.

Mr. Koch said he was a good employee at the time and left with good feelings with proper notification. I would accept him to come back in.

Mrs. Corkrum said her concern in approving the request is the simple reason that I'm really concerned about our hiring practices for family. This will be a third member of the family. They work in different departments. I do not have anything against the young man; I don't know him.

Mr. Koch said we have some other families with more than one member working for the county. Mrs. Corkrum said absolutely.

Mr. Miller said he understands the policy is that it is allowed as long as it's not under the same department.

Mrs. Corkrum said I think we need to be careful and make sure that the interview process is fair and equitable. Mr. Bowen said there were five applicants who interviewed. Ms. Rumsey was in on the interview. The top two were re-interviewed with the people that they would end up working with. Those people said this applicant was the top choice. Mr. Bowen thinks the process was fair.

The Board had **consensus approval** to place the employee as close as possible as to where he was when he left previously.

Ms. Rumsey left the meeting.

Out-of-County Travel: Annual Labor Relations Institute, Yakima

Motion – Mrs. Corkrum: I move for approval of out-of-county travel for Fred Bowen. Second by Mr. Miller. 3:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 5)

Out-of-State Travel: NACo Western Interstate Region Conference

Motion – Mr. Miller: I move for approval of out-of-state travel for Fred Bowen. Second by Mrs. Corkrum. 3:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 6)

Executive Session regarding a union contract issue expected to last 10 minutes based on RCW 42.30.140(4).

Open Session at 11:56 am.

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Benton Franklin Health District: Request for Additional Funds

The Health District budget request was reviewed. The Health District is requesting additional funds from both Benton and Franklin Counties. It is requesting an additional \$50,789 from Franklin County.

Mrs. Corkrum said she thinks Franklin County's contribution has stayed the same for perhaps 15 years. Now the Health District is at a point where they are short by an actual \$267,000. She had asked the Health District if the increase could be phased in. The Health District said yes.

The Board discussed the budget. Mr. Koch questions the \$700,000 amount that was included in the Health District budget as a figure for selling a building that subsequently was not sold.

Mrs. Corkrum thinks we need to approve the request but it's kind of hard in the middle of the year. However, she said she did talk about it at budget time. The others present agreed it had been mentioned during budget workshops. Mr. Bowen's memory is that the Board told the Health District people at budget time that they understood their concerns but asked the Health District to make it as far as they could into the new year and then come back when there were problems.

Mrs. Corkrum said she thinks it may be necessary to add another \$50,000 for the 2009 budget for a total of \$100,000 additional funding.

The Board would like to know more about how the new Health District building in Kennewick was financed and how the payments occur.

Supplemental Preservation Fund #103-000-001

The Franklin County Historical Museum requested funds from the Supplemental Preservation Fund #103-000-001. Mr. Bowen said the fund brings in about \$6000 a year. The current fund balance is about \$52,000. A draft budget was reviewed. There is about \$18,000 available.

Mrs. Corkrum suggested giving the museum maybe \$4000 or \$5000.

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Mr. Bowen said there are two museums, one in Pasco and one in Connell. He recommends granting each museum \$5000 for a total of \$10,000, leaving \$8000 in reserve, as a one-time grant. If the fund builds up, then maybe another grant can be made.

The Board asked for some more time to think about it before making a final decision.

MINUTES

Motion – Mrs. Corkrum: I move for approval of Commissioner Proceedings for April 21, April 28 and April 30, 2008. Second by Mr. Miller. 3:0 vote in favor.

REDISTRICTING

Mr. Bowen said if the auditor can't get the information out in time, I don't see how it can possibly work. Mr. Koch and Mr. Miller agreed. Mr. Miller said it's obvious she can't do it overnight. Mr. Koch said but everybody's concerned about having a hearing. Mrs. Corkrum said I don't see any sense of having a hearing if we're not going to do something. Mrs. Corkrum left the meeting. Mr. Koch asked Mr. Miller to work with office staff regarding the public hearing notice.

Adjourned at 12:13 pm.

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There being no further business, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned until May 14, 2008.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Chairman

Chairman Pro Tem

Member

Attest:

Clerk to the Board

Approved and signed May 28, 2008.