

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49
FRANKLIN COUNTY
Commissioners' Proceeding for June 16, 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. Mr. Bowen was absent at the beginning of the meeting to take care of other county business.

OFFICE BUSINESS

Secretary Patricia Shults met with the Board. Present in audience: Chief Accountant Tom Westerman and Administrative Accountant Robin Stanco.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Koch asked Mr. Westerman to explain item #2. Mr. Westerman said we want to create a Claims Clearing Fund as a means to process all of our accounts payable out of one stream of warrants. It is mostly a simplification of our bookkeeping procedures. He gave an example. He said the Treasurer's Office has a mechanism available to make transfers as needed. He said the Treasurer is in favor of the new fund. The fund will not require a yearly budgeted amount but just involves an in-and-out procedure during every Accounts Payable period.

Mrs. Corkrum said she has talked to Rose Elway from Grays Harbor. Grays Harbor County is switching to a cash basis accounting system rather than accrual. She said Grays Harbor County would have had to hire an extra CPA if they did not make the change. Mrs. Corkrum asked Mr. Westerman what his thoughts are about making that change in Franklin County. She knows the Treasurer has a cutoff of December 31 so any bills that come in after the new calendar year would be paid out of that individual budget.

Mr. Westerman said there are two reasons why we didn't want to do it. One, the state auditor made us go to a different format in 2003 after they found a requirement that we had to produce cash statements. We don't want to run the risk of, one, producing cash basis statements, and then, two, having them come back and say, no, you can't do that because it says here under a bond or under an ordinance or somewhere that we have to do GASB format. Then we would have to reproduce two sets of statements.

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Mrs. Corkrum asked can you get a ruling on that? She thinks it would simplify the county budgeting process for the Commissioners. Mr. Westerman said it probably would. He said the second reason is we also thought it was going backwards. For a county our size and that is growing, as far as the accounting world and how we treat things, it would kind of being going backwards. Mrs. Corkrum asked why they allowed it then. Mr. Westerman said it's probably a lot harder to audit. There's a lot more to it. Mrs. Corkrum asked to cash basis? Mr. Westerman said there's a lot less with cash basis. It's simplified. Mrs. Corkrum asked wouldn't we save money on our audits? Mr. Westerman said it's possible. He is not sure. Mrs. Corkrum said it's three months down the road before we actually know where we stand after we're into our new budget. She thinks the cash basis system would eliminate a lot of questions. She realizes when we'd implement it, during the first year it may be a little difficult for some budgets and we might have to supplement midyear.

Mr. Westerman said some of our grant agreements may dictate requirements. Mrs. Corkrum said Grays Harbor has the same situation and she knows they have bonds. Mr. Koch asked that a workshop be held to give everyone a chance to think it out more. Mr. Westerman said we can look into it and bring it up at a Finance Committee meeting.

Mrs. Corkrum asked Mr. Westerman to call Rose Elway of Grays Harbor. Mr. Koch asked Mr. Westerman to think it out a little more and then have a workshop session.

Mrs. Corkrum said she would be in favor of the claims clearing fund. Mr. Westerman said the only down side we could think of is that some small districts such as fire districts and other agencies have unique warrant strings. He said the claims clearing fund will be more of a file by date. There will be big gaps between when they get warrants back but they will be receiving a warrant register showing warrants and numbers as well as a reimbursement report that shows their fund and the amount that came out. Mrs. Corkrum said if it's working for the salary clearing she doesn't know why it wouldn't work for the other warrants. Mr. Westerman said the computer

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programmers have made it so the warrant will show which fund it came out of.

Mrs. Corkrum said she has no problem with it if it simplifies the accounting.

Motion - Mrs. Corkrum: I move for approval of the June 16, 2008, consent agenda as follows:

1. Approval of **Resolution 2008-241** salvaging two aluminum roll-up garage doors as identified on the *Franklin County Storage – Salvage* form, in conjunction with RCW 36.32.210 (inventory).
2. Approval of **Resolution 2008-242** creating a Claims Clearing Fund, Number 632-000-080, authorized by RCW 36.33.065. (Exhibit 1: Information sheet.)

Second by Mr. Miller. 3:0 vote in favor.

Regular Agenda

The Board reviewed a letter from the Mesa City Council asking that the Board appoint a council member. The RCW that applies has been reviewed.

Mrs. Corkrum asked if anyone else applied. Ms. Shults said we only received one application from the City of Mesa. Mr. Koch said he believes the city only received one application.

Motion – Mr. Miller: I make a motion that we appoint Francisco Cuello to the Mesa City Council representing Position 2. Second by Mrs. Corkrum. 3:0 vote in favor. This is Resolution 2008-242.

Vouchers

Motion - Mr. Miller: I move for approval of vouchers as listed: Election Equipment Revolving warrants 1 through 5 for \$8,893.59; Current Expense warrants 6 through 15 for \$10,304.56; and Current Expense warrants 16 through 96 for \$66,551.44; for a total of \$85,749.59. Second by Mrs. Corkrum. 3:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 2)

TRAC

TRAC Manager Troy Woody met with the Board.

RV Profit and Loss Statement

The current RV Profit and Loss Statement was reviewed.

Occupancy Statistics year to date versus 2007

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A chart showing occupancy statistics year to date versus 2007 was reviewed. It is prepared based on industry standards.

Sales Chart Update

An updated Sales Chart was reviewed.

Events

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

MINUTES

Motion – Mrs. Corkrum: I move for approval of Commissioners Proceedings for June 4, 2008, May 28, 2008, June 9, 2008, and June 11, 2008. Second by Mr. Miller. 3:0 vote in favor.

DISPATCH

Dispatch Director Ed Bush and Dispatch Senior Supervisor Barb Hart met with the Board.

Request for Security Expenses

Mr. Bush explained his request for approval of Dispatch expenditures. It is a four-piece project:

1. help with backup at Emergency Management;
2. security issues to be addressed for accreditation;
3. security for Courthouse campus, and
4. upgrade for Communications division.

The Board reviewed a drawing of the Dispatch work area and an estimate for workstations for communications officers (Exhibit 3). The estimate includes the cost for lift stations that move up and down. At one time the state bought these for us but it will be at least 18 to 24 months before they consider doing it again with no guarantee the state will fund them again in the future. Mr. Bush thinks the stations need to be replaced sooner.

Mr. Bush explained where funds are available in Budget 139. Dispatch worked on two major projects last year. Portions of the budget are on a fiscal month basis and

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portions on the county's calendar year basis which sometimes conflict but it has worked out to our benefit this time. The generator work cost less than expected. The CAD upgrade from Intergraph was a \$120,000 project. Portions have been paid in previous fiscal year budgets so only about \$400 needs to be paid from the 2007 fiscal budget. There will be about \$69,000 available for the requested project in these funds. Mr. Bush explained some aspects of the state budgeting requirements.

Mr. Bush said he has discussed this with County Administrator Fred Bowen and Mr. Bowen had approved the project for us. He said it will cost about \$43,000 for Dispatch tables and consoles. He showed the Board on the drawing the extension with a lazy susan that would be the control location for screens and security for the Courthouse campus. Two large monitor screens will be placed on the back wall. We are obtaining bids for those. We're hopeful that cost will be around \$12,000 to \$13,000. Then internally we would have to put in some new circuits for each individual console. Mr. Bush expects the cost for cleaning and painting the area will be about \$1200. Another portion is to get a few more cameras and meet some other requirements to meet the accreditation standards.

Mr. Bush requested approval of the Communications and campus security upgrade using funds totaling \$89,647 from the 2008 Miscellaneous Enhanced 911 Budget #139-000-001.

Mrs. Corkrum asked does your space have to be reconfigured? Mr. Bush said yes. We will lose some space so we will have reconfigure. Cabinets will have to be moved. They are used for storage of warrants.

Mr. Bush asked Ms. Hart to tell the Board about the need for the upgrades.

Ms. Hart is the senior supervisor. She said we went to the Pullman Communications Center and saw how they use the stand-up and sit-down stations and how monitors were displayed. She explained how the specialized equipment is helpful for people working long, continuous hours of dispatching. All of the dispatchers had positive things to say about it. Ms. Hart said in the future, the Dispatch area hopes to add

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heating and cooling for separate stations. If Dispatch moves to a new center at any point, the equipment can go with us.

Security

Mr. Bush said he wants to caution people that 911 is Dispatch's priority rather than Courthouse security. Dispatchers may not see an event happen on Courthouse security cameras but will get the alarm for any events that happen.

Each Board member said they can support the request. The Board had **consensus approval** and asked Mr. Bush to work with staff to have a resolution prepared for the consent agenda on June 23.

Contract with City of Pasco

Mr. Bush told the Board about contract negotiations with the City of Pasco.

Security Director Rich Rochleau joined the audience briefly.

PUBLIC WORKS

Engineer Tim Fife met with the Board.

Vouchers

Motion – Mr. Miller: I move that we approve the vouchers as listed: County Road Fund for \$596,848.00; MV & PW Equipment Fund for \$32,560.04; Solid Waste for \$38,705.32; and Solid Waste for \$5538.76. Second by Mrs. Corkrum. 3:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 4)

Resolution: Local Agency Agreement LA 6251, Supplement #2

Mr. Fife asked for approval of a supplemental agreement to cover the latest phase of the R-170 landslide project with HDR Engineering. We'll have about \$183,500 left over for right-of-way purposes based upon the numbers in the agreement.

Motion – Mr. Miller: I move that we accept Local Agency Agreement LA 6251, Supplement #2, between Franklin County and Washington State Department of Transportation for CRP 596/R-170 Landslide Area. Second by Mrs. Corkrum. 3:0 vote in favor. This is Resolution 2008-244.

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Resolution: Notice of Hearing 2009-2014 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Fife asked for approval of a Notice of Hearing for the 2009-2014 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program on July 7, 2008, at 10:30 am. It will follow a hearing amending the current TIP.

Motion – Mrs. Corkrum: I move for approval. Second by Mr. Miller. 3:0 vote in favor. This is Resolution 2008-245.

Commissioner Vehicle Purchase

Mr. Fife asked for approval to purchase the Colorado Crew Cab pickup for use as a Commissioner vehicle. This vehicle is on the state contract and satisfied the criteria as far as what was needed for the vehicle and was relatively inexpensive. Mr. Koch said the Colorado is a five-cylinder vehicle and Public Works has been using this type of vehicle. He was told by Shop Superintendent Darrel Farnsworth that it could be put into the Public Works fleet in the future if it is no longer used by the Commissioners. For instance, when Toyota Prius vehicles become available again, this pickup could go in the county fleet. Mr. Fife said Public Works staff members have been using a Colorado pickup already and it seems to be a pretty nice vehicle.

Mr. Miller said my concern is the fuel mileage. It's going to continue to eat out of our budget with the high price of gasoline. That's why I thought we should purchase a vehicle that has feasible gas mileage. Mr. Koch said the pickup gets 22 plus miles per gallon. Mrs. Corkrum said this won't cost any more than our car allowance. She said the car allowance will be adjusted to match what it costs to operate our own cars. Mr. Fife agreed and said this will be the same rate that we're charging all the rest of the vehicles that are similar to this, which is what the Commissioners' mileage rate is based on. Mr. Miller asked countywise, though, it's going to cost more? Mr. Fife said the initial purchase price is what you're looking at. Everything is going to go up because of fuel price increases.

Mr. Miller said Mr. Koch puts on so many miles because of the distance he lives from the courthouse and that's what's going to cost the county a lot more. Mr. Koch said

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he showed Mr. Miller how many miles he puts on already. He said I don't charge the county for that. He asked do you want me to start charging the county for that?

Mr. Miller said you can't if it's in the county. Mr. Koch said if I go to a meeting, I can charge the county. You do. Mr. Miller said out of the county. Mr. Koch said yes, out of the county. Mr. Koch said there are hardly any meetings in the county. Most are bi-county meetings or in Richland or in Moses Lake or at Hanford. Mrs. Corkrum said Mr. Koch can charge for mileage because they're not his regular workday. Mr. Miller said right. He said anything out of the county, you can charge the extra miles. Most of those are Olympia or something like that or Walla Walla. The ones across the county, none of us charge for those. Mr. Koch said we can't and I don't.

Mr. Fife said the bottom line is we're being told you want a vehicle as quickly as possible but no Prius vehicles are available now. The pickup is available and we can get it fairly quickly. If you want to work toward getting a Prius, we can do that and move this vehicle over into the Public Works county fleet at that time.

Mr. Miller said I'm just against buying a vehicle because when you go with the initial price and the extra fuel, I'm just against that.

Motion – Mrs. Corkrum: I move for approval of purchasing a vehicle from the state contract for 2008 Chevrolet Colorado crew cab for \$18,227.34. Second by Mr. Koch. 2:1 vote in favor. Yeas: Mrs. Corkrum and Mr. Koch. Nay: Mr. Miller. (Exhibit 5)

Mrs. Corkrum said what she is trying to say is this is not going to cost any more than our car allowance costs the county. Mr. Fife said on an annual basis once purchased, that is correct, because your car allowance is based on what we pay per year per vehicle. Mrs. Corkrum said so if the gas price goes up, our allowance is going to go up.

Mr. Koch said it is kind of strange, Rick, because you've okayed it twice already, once on a consent agenda and once on a resolution.

Mr. Miller said not exactly that way. We talked about a "possible" the first one. The consent agenda, it wasn't that at all. The second one was a "possible."

Mr. Koch said it wasn't a possible. It was a resolution okaying a purchase.

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Mr. Miller said yes, but the motion read "possible." It's in the minutes. Mr. Koch said the resolution didn't say that. Mr. Miller said the resolution was to buy a vehicle but it didn't say which one or anything like that.

Mr. Koch said the price of this compared to a Prius at this point is about \$5000 cheaper than a Prius.

Mr. Miller said I'm just looking at the best way to save the county money. I really am. It's not anything else.

Mrs. Corkrum said you can save the county money by not taking your car allowance.

Mr. Miller said we can do that.

Mrs. Corkrum said I did that for 2-1/2 years.

Mr. Miller said I'm sure it's going to happen one of these days that we will probably have to cut back.

Recessed at 9:56 am.

Reconvened at 9:59 am.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

County Administrator Fred Bowen met with the Board.

Property

Mr. Bowen gave an update on discussions regarding purchase or rental of various properties for county use and the possibility of various offices moving to different places. The Board asked Mr. Bowen to continue working on the projects.

Franklin County Fire Protection District #5

Franklin County Fire Protection District #5 has requested a \$10,000 loan. Mr. Bowen has sent the information to Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor Ryan Verhulp for review.

Sale of Commercial Property located near TRAC: Lot 2, BSP 2006-02, Parcel #117-490-108

The owners of Lot 2 have requested a two-year extension on the requirement to develop the property. Mr. Bowen has asked Mr. Verhulp to review the request.

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PROSECUTOR

Chief Civil Attorney Ryan Verhulp met with the Board.

Executive Session at 10:19 am expected to last 10 minutes regarding current litigation based on RCW 42.30.110(1)(i).

Open Session at 10:30 am.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR (continuing)

Real Estate Agreement

Mr. Bowen has received a draft agreement from Real Estate Agent Bob Tippett. He asked the Board to review the agreement in the next several weeks.

Adjourned at 10:32 am.

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There being no further business, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned until June 23, 2008.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Chairman

Chairman Pro Tem

Member

Attest:

Clerk to the Board

Approved and signed June 30, 2008.