

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
Commissioners' Proceeding for July 28, 2008

The Honorable Board of Franklin County Commissioners met on the above date. Present for the meeting were Bob Koch, Chairman; and Rick Miller, Chair Pro Tem; Fred Bowen, County Administrator; and Mary Withers, Clerk to the Board. Neva J. Corkrum, Member, was absent due to illness.

**OFFICE BUSINESS**

Secretary Bridgette Scott met with the Board. Present in audience: Nancy Danz, Steve Danz and Ted Potter.

Consent Agenda

**Motion** - Mr. Miller: I move for approval of the consent agenda for July 28, 2008, as listed:

1. Approval of **Resolution 2008-302** for a Service Provider Contract (CFDA #17.258) Modification Number 2, between the Benton-Franklin Workforce Development Council and Columbia Industries for PY2007-2008 WIA Title I-B Adult Program for the new contract amount of \$469,839, effective June 1, 2008, and authorizing the Chairman to sign said amendment on behalf of the Board.
2. Approval of **Resolution 2008-303** for a Service Provider Contract (CFDA #17.259) Modification Number 2, between the Benton-Franklin Workforce Development Council and Career Path Services for WIA Title I-B PY2007-2008 In-School Youth Program services for the new contract amount of \$320,419 and the Out-of-School Youth Program services for the new total amount of \$320,419, effective June 1, 2008, and authorizing the Chairman to sign said amendment on behalf of the Board.
3. Approval of **Resolution 2008-304** for a Service Provider Contract (CFDA #17.260) Modification Number 2, between the Benton-Franklin Workforce Development Council and Employment Security Department for PY2007-2008 WIA Title I-B Dislocated Worker Program for the new contract amount of \$765,321, effective June 1, 2008, and authorizing the Chairman to sign said amendment on behalf of the Board.
4. Approval of **joint Resolution 2008-305** in the matter of appointing Karin Cagle as a County-Designated Mental Health Professional and terminating James C. Martin, Debra A. Kietzman and Joyce R. Ninnemann who no longer work for the Crisis Response Unit. (Exhibit 1: Information sheet.)
5. Approval of **Resolution 2008-306** for an amendment to the Public Works Contract with Phase 2 Electric, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$3,411.45, with

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said fees to be paid from the Miscellaneous Franklin County Enhanced 911 Fund, Number 139-000-001, line item 594.28.64.0005 (Communications & Campus Security Upgrade), thus, amending Franklin County Resolution 2008-280.

6. Approval of **joint Resolution 2008-307** in the matter of the request for signature from the Boards of Benton and Franklin County Commissioners on the federal grant Contract, number I-100-00408, between the Office of Juvenile Justice (OJJ) and the Benton-Franklin Counties Juvenile Justice Center, for a term commencing July 1, 2008 and terminating on June 30, 2009. (Exhibit 2: Information sheet.)

Second by Mr. Koch. 2:0 vote in favor.

Vouchers/Warrants

**Motion** – Mr. Miller: I move for approval of payment of the following vouchers/warrants: Current Expense warrants 2103 through 2105 for \$2278.06; Boating Safety warrant 2106 for \$2.47; Jail Commissary warrant 2107 for \$152.08; Growth Management warrant 2108 for \$27.44; FC Public Facilities Construction Fund warrant 2109 for \$564.56; FC Capital Projects Fund warrant 2110 for \$4251.46; Auditor O&M warrants 2111 and 2112 for \$456.67; Election Equipment Revolving warrant 2113 for \$200.00; FC Capital Projects Fund warrant 2142 for \$19,600.00; Law Library warrants 2143 and 2144 for \$5962.85; and Current Expense warrants 2145 through 2156 for \$22,779.37; for a total amount of \$56,274.96. Second by Mr. Koch. 2:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 3)

**PLANNING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

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

Public Hearing: Short Plat SP 2008-09, for applicant Ted Potter to short plat approximately 121.01 acres (gross) into two lots. As proposed, Lot #1 is approximately 117.98 acres in size and Lot #2 is approximately 3.03 acres in size. The property is located in the Agricultural Production 20 (AP-20) Zoning District.

Public Hearing convened at 9:15 am. Present: Commissioners Koch and Miller; County Administrator Fred Bowen; Planning Director Jerrod MacPherson; Assistant Director Greg Wendt; and Clerk to the Board Mary Withers. Present in audience: Ted Potter, Nancy Danz and Steve Danz.

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Mr. Wendt reviewed the information on the Action Summary (Exhibit 4).

Mr. MacPherson showed on the screen a copy of the short plat submitted by the applicant. A third lot that is enclosed by the short plat area is not part of the short plat because it was taken out by segregation 20 to 30 years ago. The applicant is proposing to take the home site to have 3.03 acres. It will be connected via a lane to Russell Road. There are some improvements that go with the home site that are located there and it is also the access site. The remaining acreage is 115 to 117 acres, depending on whether it's gross or net.

Mr. MacPherson said the Health Department had some changes that they requested and they realigned proposed Lot #2. The Board reviewed a short plat drawing showing the requested change (Exhibit 5). It has the same total acreage but has just been reconfigured a little bit.

Mr. MacPherson reviewed the Conditions of Approval.

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 if anyone would like to speak for the short plat.

Ted Potter, broker of Western Real Estate Auctions, spoke in favor. I've been hired by the bankruptcy court to market this property. The court order has been signed. It's all subject to the short plat. It's all ready to go and I don't anticipate there will be any problem.

Mr. Koch asked twice if anyone else would like to speak in favor. There was no response.

**Motion** – Mr. Miller: I move that we grant preliminary approval to Short Plat 2008-09 subject to the seven findings of fact and six conditions of approval. Second by Mr. Koch. 2:0 vote in favor. This is Resolution 2008-308.

**Recessed** at 9:23 am.

**Reconvened** at 9:32 am.

**PUBLIC WORKS**

Engineer Tim Fife met with the Board.

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Invitation to Bid: CRP 592/2006 Gravel Road Paving Upgrades Group 4

Mr. Fife said an invitation to bid and cost estimate is prepared for paving gravel roads in Group 4 but the Board needs to talk about it before it is approved. Mr. Fife said when we envisioned paving 30 miles of gravel roads, we thought it would cost about \$175,000 to \$180,000 a mile to pave the roads so the estimates were prepared using a figure of \$176,000. After the completion of the Group 3 project, it's coming in at about \$221,000 per mile. We've completed 22.3 miles. We've used \$5 million of the \$5,295,000 that we had set up to do this. We have about \$295,000 remaining. The next group is 5.7 miles. If we completed it, we'll get 28 miles. The Public Works budget doesn't have the money to do the whole project but Mr. Fife is suggesting we go ahead and bid it and see where it comes in at and work on the financing in the meantime.

Mr. Fife has checked the real estate excise tax and did a cash flow projection to see what we would need. There is a little over \$400,000 in the fund right now. He gave the Board some cash flow information on the loan.

We collected \$270,000 last year and about \$150,000 this year for half a year so that's more than enough to cover the loan payment per year for the first four years. After the first four years, the county will have additional funds available to pay the loans that are currently being used to finish paying another loan. There is \$400,000 in the account now. He hopes the Board will allow him to spend it on getting some of the roads paved.

Mr. Fife said an alternative would be for the County Current Expense to pay for the additional amount. Mr. Bowen indicated the county does not have \$500,000 to use on the project at this time.

Mr. Fife said based on current construction estimates, the East Foster Wells and Road 100 projects will be short of funds so he does not expect there will be funds available from those projects that could be used on the paving projects.

Mr. Fife said if the Group 4 paving project bid is approved, we'll try to get it done this year. If we have to modify it, we probably won't be able to get it done this year.

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**Motion** – Mr. Miller: Mr. Chairman, I move that we have an invitation for bid for CRP 592/2006 Gravel Road Paving Upgrades Group 4. Second by Mr. Koch. 2:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 6)

Mr. Fife said he has received a letter from the company that has supplied asphalt to the county this year, stating they have filed for Reorganization under Chapter 11. Another asphalt company has sent notice they cannot finish their commitments for asphalt for the year because asphalt is not available.

Tri-City Herald Reporter Joe Chapman joined the audience.

Bi-Monthly Progress Report – May/June

The Bi-Monthly Progress Report was reviewed.

R170

The R170 road project rated high as a Rural Arterial Project (RAP) for the next biennium. The project could be submitted for state gas tax money if the Board wants to versus another project. Mr. Fife thinks the R170 project should be the county's highest priority. If Federal funding becomes available, it can be backed off and used as a match only. Mr. Fife described the process that is followed. If funds are allowed, they would become available on July 1, 2009. Mr. Fife said even if R170 is selected, he does not know if the funds will be enough for the project.

TRAC Parking Lot

The TRAC parking lot design has been approved. Mr. Fife noted one issue is a hookup fee for a 2" water meter based on front footage and area of \$21,500, which is rather high for what you'll be using it for. The county may want to appeal to the City of Pasco to get it reduced. The water would be used to water horses using potable water in four locations. The city has suggested that water be under lock and key for conservation purposes. It would also eliminate the problem of people hooking up trailers to irrigation water.

**PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**

Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor Ryan Verhulp met with the Board. Present in audience: Joe Chapman and Dan Blasdel.

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**Executive Session** at 9:51 am regarding current pending civil litigation under RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) expected to last 15 minutes.

Mr. Chapman and Mr. Blasdel left the meeting.

**Open Session** at 10:02 am.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

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

Agreement to purchase and sell real estate (Road 48 soccer field)

Mr. Bowen has given the real estate agreement to Mr. Verhulp for further review.

TRIDEC – Donor Wall

TRIDEC asked if we would be willing to pay for a plaque on a donor wall. Mr. Bowen thinks it is a good idea. TRIDEC is requesting that the county purchase a 16 x 16 plaque for \$10,000. There are different sized plaques. Mr. Miller asked where the money would come from. Mr. Bowen said it could come out of Contingency or Capital Projects Fund. We have a fund that we use to loan when needed. There is about \$30,000 in the fund. However, we will probably loan some of that to Fire District #5. The cost of the plaque would not be a loan but a purchase. The funds are available if the Board decides to use them.

Mr. Koch asked Mr. Miller if a 12 x 12 plaque would be sufficient since Mr. Miller works with TRIDEC. Mr. Miller thinks the 12 x 12 plaque would be sufficient. He would like to know the layout. Mr. Miller said he is happy with whichever size. Mr. Miller and Mr. Koch both think it is important to support it.

Mr. Bowen suggested that Board members meet with the person doing the layout. Mr. Miller and Mr. Koch will do so.

**CORONER**

Coroner Dan Blasdel met with the Board. Present in audience: Joe Chapman.

Drinking and Driving CD Rom presentation

Mr. Blasdel has been working on the presentation for eight years. It is finally finished. Brett Bowen did all of the graphics on it. The presentation includes four true

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stories, two about drinking and driving, one on suicide, and one on an overdose. It includes games that involve different consequences from choices the players make. The topics covered include domestic violence, drinking and driving, drinking in excess, STDs, teenage pregnancies, and drug use. It includes a list of resources for more help.

The game scores for players can be captured so it can be determined what impact is occurring in choices that are made.

The first run of 10,000 copies will be made and then given away to schools, church groups, and service clubs in the Tri-Cities and hopefully nationwide. The project has cost about \$300,000 but the money was all raised upfront.

Mr. Blasdel will meet with State Farm on August 15. State Farm is very interested in using it on a national level for policyholders who have kids coming into driving age. State Farm may give a discount on insurance for kids who use the program. The Department of Licensing is interested in incorporating some portions in testing for kids who are getting permits. Lucent International is also interested.

Mr. Blasdel asked the Board to let him know if they become aware of any national awards that might be available for this program.

Mr. Blasdel said all the work on the presentation was done with people from the Tri-Cities. Imageworks company did all the filming. The actors were all volunteers. Money was raised from service clubs and from grants.

Mr. Miller asked are you going to put it on the web? Mr. Blasdel said yes, that's a goal, so it can be accessed from anywhere.

Mr. Blasdel plans to have a press conference locally and also put the presentation out nationwide at the Health Department's preventive conference in October in Yakima.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR (continuing)**

Dog Control

August 12 is the deadline for putting anything on the ballot. Mr. Miller said to be included in the city's dog control would cost about \$60,000. This would supply a person and a vehicle. Mr. Bowen thinks it would exceed \$60,000.

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Mr. Bowen said we currently have an agreement with a person who takes care of our dangerous dogs. The work costs about \$3000 and sometimes even less a year. It is only a response to dangerous dogs. To put a \$60,000 tax increase on the ballot does not make a lot of sense to him. However, the Board may have a different opinion. He is looking for direction: Do we maintain status quo or contract with the city and come up with the \$60,000 to have animal control or do we put it on the ballot and go full blown to do it ourselves?

Mr. Miller said his understanding from the first meeting he had with City of Pasco representatives is dog control would only be in the county area of Pasco, not outside the urban area such as in the City of Connell. He expected to receive more information or more reports but has not received anything else. The information from the first meeting was somewhat vague.

Mr. Bowen had told City of Pasco staff members that the county needed the same animal control inside and outside the city area. However, the City of Pasco will not provide a pay-for-call type of service. Pasco would require the county to be a partner or not be involved at all. The city wants to take care of the section of the county that is inside the city, about a 4-1/2 to 5 square mile area.

Mr. Bowen said it doesn't make sense for us to get involved for \$60,000 or possibly more when we only make less than 10 calls a year and respond only to dangerous dogs. Based on the economics, it is definitely \$50,000 cheaper to maintain the way we do now. We do respond to dangerous dogs. If the Board wants to do animal control county-wide and partner with the city, it will cost a minimum of \$60,000.

Mr. Miller said his meeting was a brief discussion. He said he believes we need to do something about this issue. Sitting on it is not getting us anywhere.

Mr. Bowen said we have an August 12 deadline and the election rules have been changed this year so it is sooner than ever before. Right now there is not enough information.

Mr. Koch said he is having a hard time sorting out what is covered for the money and what isn't and what part of the county is covered and what isn't.

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Mr. Miller said we have had brief discussions about what is possible. There are four cities in another animal control agency that Franklin County could join at a cost of about \$125,000. Mr. Koch asked if that would be a full animal control. Mr. Miller said it would cost one-fifth of the total.

Mr. Miller said he watched a Pasco City Council meeting on Monday, July 14, when they were collecting cost information.

Mr. Miller said it may be too late to do it this year. Mr. Koch said even if we put it on the ballot, we wouldn't have any revenue until next year.

Mr. Koch asked if there is another meeting scheduled. Mr. Bowen said the meetings are held once a month. Mr. Miller said Mr. Bowen could continue to meet with Stan Strebel and Gary Crutchfield of the City of Pasco. Mr. Bowen said he has been meeting with city officials for years.

Mr. Miller said the animal control person said Franklin County had 23 calls. Mr. Bowen asked was it 23 dangerous dog calls or 23 calls? Mr. Miller said it was calls.

Mr. Miller said he thinks a meeting needs to be set up with city staff.

Mr. Bowen said the city wants the county's full participation or none. Mr. Miller said he was told the same thing.

Mr. Koch said if that's the case, and we've had numerous discussions with county residents, it would have to go to the voters to see if they want animal control. Current Expense funds cannot do it on their own. It will have to come from the public.

Mr. Bowen said the city receives money for dog licenses and receives fees from animal owners. The county residents who own property would be paying a property tax whether or not they have animals.

Mr. Miller asked what it costs to put it on the ballot. Mr. Bowen does not know. When the Courthouse remodeling issue was put on the ballot, he was told it would cost \$35,000 to \$40,000.

Mr. Koch said his gut feeling is there are not enough people that will vote for it. If it's a \$40,000 bill to put it on the ballot, I think we need to have more answers.

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Mr. Bowen will come back on Wednesday with any other information he is able to obtain.

Jail Report

Jail Captain Rick Long joined the meeting.

Captain Long and Mr. Bowen visited the jail at Cowlitz County which had a very good design. Mr. Long emphasized that the jail expansion is a need, not just a want. The National Institute of Corrections came to give us another needs assessment to go along with the one we got last year. This needs assessment will give us data from a totally unbiased organization.

Captain Long said we need to have information before we go to the voters. We need to determine what we are going to build and what we are going to have when we're finished. We need to be going to the voters with exactly everything in place with the building we say is going to be built and what it will cost. I fear we're going to have a problem because we already went to them once and threw a big figure at them and it was indigestible. As a voter, I would question whether this is really the bottom figure.

Whatever we do, we need to go for a 20-year program and it's got to be cost-effective. I don't think voters are going to want us to put together something that will take care of it for a short time only.

Mr. Bowen said a jail was not taken to the voters before. We had an advisory committee. Mr. Koch said what we did take to the voters was a proposal for a .02% tax for criminal justice funding.

Mr. Bowen said the estimated figures for a jail have changed from \$39 million to \$8 million to \$15 million depending on the facility that we look at. The Cowlitz County jail in Kelso made the most sense of anything he has seen. That building cost just under \$9 million. We have too many variables bouncing around in our head. The August 12 deadline is too close. We know what we need. We just don't know how we can get it or how much the cost is going to be. I've been working hard to get it resolved for the August 12 deadline but we can't get it done.

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Mr. Bowen has talked with the Prosecutor's Office. The sheriff and the cities need to be involved. It's a community problem, not just a county problem. We have not talked to the Pasco City Council. We have talked to the Pasco city manager who recognizes the need and would support a 2/10ths of a percent tax. We could maybe build a jail for that amount but that doesn't give funds for operating costs or for additional staff for the prosecutor's office. We have an overcrowded jail but we don't have the troops rallied behind us. It's premature to try to rush this through this year, even though we do have overcrowding. If it comes right down to it, we may have to farm some of our prisoners out until we can take care of it. We will have to work on it for another year. Unfortunately we can only come to the voters once a year for this. It cannot be done on a special election.

Mr. Koch asked what do we do in the meantime? Get the Law and Justice Committee back together?

Mr. Long said when we get where we're comfortable with it with a usable tool or a couple plans, then we can present it to that committee. Short-term, for the Corrections facility to be able to do the best that we can to maintain safety and security with what we have, it will require more staff to be able to oversee the prisoners we have. We're so stretched right now we can't do what I know needs to be done.

Mr. Koch said I can foresee getting a game plan together and working on this so we're not just waiting until next year.

Mr. Miller talked about a jail he visited in Kentucky that made a profit. He asked is there any way to make this profitable?

Mr. Long said yes, there is. If you had the beds for Department of Corrections prisoners, you could have 100 beds a day. Mr. Bowen said when we first started last year, we were looking to build for 20 years, a total of 250 beds. It's more than we need. 225 beds would last us for 20 years. The spare beds can lead to additional revenue. Mr. Long said you can make that as your game plan but remember you never want to set your budget on a corrections facility believing that you're going to get Federal money

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consistently. We stepped up our program with the federal programs and got the staffing they wanted and today we're running 21 people in Work Release and one other program.

Mr. Koch said I think you need to come up with some numbers and work with the community. We need a total buy-in. Mr. Bowen and Mr. Long will continue to work on it and get some numbers.

Mr. Long said we need to determine what building would be best and what the needs are, then find out where we're going to get the money to cover it. It's not about want; it's about need.

\$10,000 Traffic Study

The City of Pasco is doing a traffic study between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> and Court and Clark Streets. They asked what the county's intent is for any construction or other activity. They've also asked the hospital the same thing. The city is considering adding new administrative offices. The study costs \$52,000. The city is asking if the county will participate for \$10,000. The hospital has agreed to pay \$10,000.

Mr. Bowen asked if the Board wants to participate financially. Whether you participate financially or not, the county will still be a big part of the study. The city has talked about doing something with the park across the street from the Courthouse.

Mr. Koch asked what's their potential outcome of the traffic study? What are they looking for? Mr. Bowen said they may reconfigure all the roads in the area. They're not sure what they might end up doing. Mr. Bowen was told the city might even end up with a roundabout. They aren't anticipating these roads becoming a major thoroughfare, but with the growth of the city, county and hospital, and employee growth, they are looking at how to take care of it. They have talked about a possible food court, turning 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue into a two-lane rather than a four-lane road and opening it up. They're wiping the slate clean. They are trying to determine what would be the best configuration.

Mr. Koch said with the traffic we have coming around here, I think I could support it.

Mr. Miller said we're in the middle of what they're talking about. I think it would probably be an advantage to us.

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Mr. Bowen asked if the Board wants to wait until Mrs. Corkrum is back.

Mr. Koch said she won't be here until next week. Mr. Bowen said we have plenty of time. He would suggest it be put in next year's budget. The city is going to do the study anyway. He has already met with the consultant hired by the city.

Mr. Koch asked when is the report supposed to be completed? Mr. Bowen said the consultant wants our information within the next 30 days.

Mr. Miller asked what the study will include. Mr. Bowen said they asked about parking stall numbers, future plans (building of a jail, moving sheriff's department and WSU), and how many people go through the courthouse every day.

Mr. Koch and Mr. Miller both decided to support the \$10,000.

**Adjourned** at 11:07 am.

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

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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Chairman

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Chairman Pro Tem

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Member

Attest:

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Clerk to the Board

Approved and signed August 6, 2008.