

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49
FRANKLIN COUNTY
Commissioners' Proceeding for September 3, 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 attending a Legislative Steering Committee meeting at SeaTac Airport in Seattle.

OFFICE BUSINESS

Secretary Patricia Shults met with the Board. Present in audience: Tri-City Herald Reporter Joe Chapman.

Consent Agenda

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

1. Approval of **Resolution 2008-353** amending Franklin County Resolution 2008-077, revising expenditures as identified on the letter dated August 25, 2008, from the Trial Court Improvement Fund Authorization Committee, utilizing funds from the Miscellaneous Trial Court Improvement Fund, Number 128-000-001, line item 594.12.60.0000 (Capital Expenditures).
2. Approval of **joint Resolution 2008-354** in the matter of appointing Andrea Ray to the Benton-Franklin Counties Substance Abuse Administrative Board, with said term expiring December 31, 2010. (Exhibit 1: Information sheet)
3. Approval of **Resolution 2008-355** for the Agreement regarding jury panels for Municipal Court, effective through December 31, 2012.
4. Approval of **Out-of-State Travel Request** for Erica Davis to attend the Western Interstate Child Support Enforcement Conference in San Antonio, Texas, September 7-11, 2008, for an estimated cost of \$150 for meals. (Exhibit 2)

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

Vouchers/Warrants

Motion – Mrs. Corkrum: I move for approval of CE Cumulative Reserve voucher #4021 in the amount of \$10,000. Second by Mr. Miller. 2:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 3)

HUMAN SERVICES (HS)

HS Director Carrie Huie Pascua met with the Board. Present in audience: Joe Chapman.

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49
FRANKLIN COUNTY
Commissioners' Proceeding for September 3, 2008

Developmental Disabilities (DD)

The two main funding streams are the state-only fund and the Medicaid fund. Mrs. Corkrum asked if state-only funds limit who can be served. Ms. Huie Pascua said it is designed for low income. The people still have to meet the criteria. She said both funding streams are similar in terms of the criteria. There is usually more flexibility with state-only funds but the amount of state-only funds available compared to Medicaid funds is much, much smaller. It's about 70% Medicaid, 30% state-only funds.

Mrs. Corkrum asked if someone has health insurance and a service is covered, do you service them? She gave an example of a child with developmental disabilities but with insurance coverage for any services. Would they go through Human Services? Ms. Huie Pascua said no, they could go directly to the agency. Mrs. Corkrum asked how do people know where to go, through referral through a doctor? Ms. Huie Pascua said yes, or they can contact a state agency and ask what services are being provided.

Mrs. Corkrum said we seem to focus on the low income and Medicaid portion but there are people who can afford services. She didn't know how we got the message out. Ms. Huie Pascua said it usually is through the family physician who will make the appropriate referral. Yakima County has a program called Children's Village for special needs children. They have co-located a variety of special services for special needs children in one place including a medical component.

In response to Mr. Miller's question, Ms. Huie Pascua said each division has their own formula for determining how much each of the counties get based on population of state-only funds. She said work has been done to make sure it is fairly applied across the counties. Seventy percent of funds for developmental disabilities come from Medicaid (Federal) funds. The income level is a factor but meeting the criteria is more important. 70% of funds for DD is from Medicaid (Federal) funds.

Housing Services

Mr. Miller serves on the Ringold Workgroup regarding farmworker housing. Mr. Miller said the farmworkers camped at Ringold moved after three days this year.

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49
FRANKLIN COUNTY
Commissioners' Proceeding for September 3, 2008

Ms. Huie Pascua described the efforts to keep the focus of the work on a local level instead of a state level, even though it is a state issue.

Advisory Boards

Ms. Huie Pascua said we've been working with all of our boards to ensure they were aware of the budget process and that we had their input. HS has submitted the 2009 budget package to Benton County as part of the usual procedure.

We are trying to improve our efficiencies in the department through the budget. Technology is a big piece of the future budget that would include replacement of equipment and computer work stations, especially for providers on the mental health side. It is known as the Infrastructure Fund in the budget. That portion of the work was turned over from the RSN to local HS departments a number of years ago.

There was discussion about the history, evolution and improvement of the Regional Support Network (RSN). Ms. Huie Pascua told the Board about the current RSN meetings taking place this week.

Mental Health Services

Ms. Huie Pascua gave the Board statistics for the Crisis Response Unit (CRU) from April through July. She wants to provide useful data that can help everyone understand better the work that a CRU actually does. Face-to-face evaluations are done by designated mental health professionals. These evaluations do not represent all of the contacts or phone calls. The evaluations listed deal with possibly having to detain someone involuntarily who may have to be hospitalized due to mental illness. In July there were 171 evaluations with 20 being detained (hospitalized). The percentages are: 8.55% were detained and 91.45%, we were able to find other options for them. She named some of the options that can be used. We want to continue to go in this direction. We are trying to utilize the community resources well. We are holding our outpatient and residential providers accountable so very few people have to go to the highest level of care where they are actually detained. We are also doing a comparison with some other counties. The numbers listed are bi-county numbers.

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49
FRANKLIN COUNTY
Commissioners' Proceeding for September 3, 2008

Ms. Huie Pascua said we are all set to move on the feasibility report regarding a Consolidated Crisis Response Center (CCRC). Benton County approved a contract to cover the scope of work with the Community Action Committee (CAC) yesterday by a unanimous vote.

Motion – Mrs. Corkrum: I move that we approve Resolution 2008-356 in the matter of entering into a Personal Service Contract with Benton Franklin Community Action Committee, a Washington nonprofit organization, and the Boards of Benton and Franklin County Commissioners. Second by Mr. Miller. 2:0 vote in favor.

Consultant Anne Strode will have 90 days to complete her report.

Substance Abuse and Prevention Services

Ms. Huie Pascua told the Board about the substance abuse and prevention services work that is being done by HS and Educational Service District 123 (ESD 123). Because of our Community Forum, we had the largest attendance in the state of all the community forums in the state regarding underage drinking. We have the distinction in terms of participation, that the families and community care. Last year we expanded our contracts to include ESD 123 for both youth treatment services and prevention services. We are pleased to have them as a partner. They have expanded their substance abuse treatment services to now include Prosser and Connell. The substance abuse treatment services involve counseling for alcohol or drugs.

ESD 123 has expanded their prevention services to include Pasco and East Kennewick.

Mental Health

We are considering doing a Rapid Enrollment clinic for mental health concerns.

PUBLIC WORKS

Assistant Engineer Guy Walters met with the Board. Present in audience: Joe Chapman.

Taylor Flats Road – Selph Landing Road

A fatality accident occurred at the intersection of Taylor Flats Road and Selph Landing Road. Mr. Walters answered Mr. Miller's questions about a flashing light that

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49
FRANKLIN COUNTY
Commissioners' Proceeding for September 3, 2008

will be installed at the intersection. He said there are rumble strips in place that are painted white. Mr. Walters expects the contractor will begin the work about a month from when the contract is awarded. A mound of dirt has been shaved down at the intersection in the past so there is good sight distance once the stop sign is reached. There is a Stop Ahead sign in place.

Vouchers

Motion – Mrs. Corkrum: I move for approval of the vouchers for County Road Fund for \$195,368.21; and MV & PW Equipment Fund for \$107,779.62. Second by Mr. Miller. 2:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 4)

Mrs. Corkrum asked if we ever go out to bid on fuel. Mr. Walters said he's sure we do but he doesn't know how often.

Bid Award: TRAC Overflow Parking and Ben Franklin Transit Transfer Facility Point

Troy Woody and Kris Watkins joined the audience.

Mr. Walters said we decided after meeting with Fred Bowen, TRAC Manager Troy Woody and others that we would award just the base bid now. Mrs. Corkrum asked would this bid hold fast if we at a later date wanted to do Phase 2? Mr. Bowen said if we waited a year, no. Mr. Bowen said the county and Ben Franklin Transit have put \$380,000 aside, \$130,000 from the county and \$250,000 from Transit. To do Alternative A, we would need to add another \$289,000, but we don't have that funding available. The bids came in pretty good. Mr. Bowen would like to extend the irrigation and landscaping in the islands into the next portion of the contract so we can get all of the landscaping and irrigation done at this stage.

Mrs. Corkrum said she understood the base bid included all landscaping. Mr. Bowen said it included the irrigation portion but not the trees and the sod and additional work. The county will pay about \$101,000 to do the base bid, landscaping, lighting and irrigation that was included in the base bid. Mr. Bowen is hopeful arrangements can be made to spend an additional \$20,000 from the set-aside funds to complete the additional trees, sod and related work.

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49
FRANKLIN COUNTY
Commissioners' Proceeding for September 3, 2008

Another bid opening is scheduled on September 17 for the parking lot near the Courthouse (where the old Health District building is now located). There is \$400,000 set aside for that project. If the September 17 bids come in lower than expected, maybe the rest of the work on the TRAC parking lot can be done at the same time.

County finances were reviewed yesterday. An additional expenditure will be needed to move the Sheriff's Office.

Mrs. Corkrum asked if Granite Northwest was the lowest bidder. Mr. Walters said yes. Granite Northwest used to be Transtate. Mr. Walters said the top two bids were very close.

Mrs. Corkrum said she thought we had budgeted about \$650,000 to do the whole thing ourselves. Mr. Bowen said initially we did but that was transferred to be set aside for the accounting software that the county is considering purchasing. The Board could choose to move it back. Mr. Bowen said another challenge regarding the software is the consultant cost \$62,000 so there is only \$400,000-plus available currently for software. The \$400,000 is now expected to cover only about a third to half of what we need for the accounting software. We will have to determine how we're going to finance the rest of the software also.

Mr. Bowen thinks when the next bids are opened on September 17, we will know better if there are additional funds to do the rest of the TRAC parking lot.

Motion – Mrs. Corkrum: I move approval of the award of bid for the TRAC overflow parking facility and Transit transfer point to Granite Northwest, Inc., d/b/a as Transtate Asphalt Company of Pasco, with a bid price of \$277,185.10. The base bid was 23.5% lower than the engineer's estimate. Second by Mr. Miller. 2:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 5)
Weed Spray Program Maps

Mr. Walters gave the Board members a map sent by Road Superintendent Ron Horn showing where spraying has occurred this year.

TRAC

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

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49
FRANKLIN COUNTY
Commissioners' Proceeding for September 3, 2008

Tri-City Visitor and Convention Bureau (TCVCB) Dues

Mr. Woody said a newspaper article was not accurate about the benefits of TRAC paying TCVCB dues. The TRAC Advisory Board recommended that we pay no more than 100% of our current dues of about \$1500 a year, which includes an ad. Their recommendation is we go to \$3000 a year for dues, which is not unreasonable in Mr. Woody's opinion. He said \$1500 is a bargain for the value that organization gives us. That is his recommendation to the Board today.

Mrs. Corkrum and Mr. Miller each said they did not think \$5000 was unreasonable. Mrs. Corkrum said for the different things that we belong to, I think we probably get more benefit from the TCVCB than any other. She would like to pay the other \$2000 from the dues line item of the Current Expense budget. Mrs. Corkrum said that way the City of Pasco won't be sharing the extra cost.

Motion – Mrs. Corkrum: I move for approval that we pay \$5000 in dues for the next year to Tri-City Visitor and Convention Bureau, \$3000 out of TRAC as recommended by the TRAC Advisory Board and \$2000 from Current Expense. Second by Mr. Miller. 2:0 vote in favor.

Kris Watkins expressed thanks. She said TRAC is an important part of our portfolio. She thanked the county for the additional \$2000. She said aside from leads for TRAC, we work with the Rivershore Enhancement meetings. There are other benefits from our organization other than bringing benefits to TRAC. She would welcome an opportunity to meet with the Board and share what the TCVCB programs are.

Office Renovation

The TRAC office renovation is complete with new paint and new floor.

Budget

Mr. Woody gave a brief update on the operational subsidy portion of the budget. He said it is hard to offset wages, electricity and fuel.

The owner of Holiday Inn Express hopes to be breaking ground on a new hotel or addition by mid 2009.

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49
FRANKLIN COUNTY
Commissioners' Proceeding for September 3, 2008

Drapes have not been replaced yet. Mr. Woody and others are preparing a 20-year capital plan that will include renewal and replacement costs every year.

Mr. Bowen said we always look at the lower subsidy amount when we prepare the budget. This year we budgeted \$190,000 as a subsidy. He would recommend since we have a capital problem, if we set \$200,000 aside a year for subsidy and TRAC only uses \$150,000 of it, then there would be some money left over for capital improvements. We tried to do it before. He said we might want to consider doing that so we have the funds in the account to do what we need.

Mrs. Corkrum said she hears criticism about the county and city subsidizing TRAC. Most facilities of this type are owned by public entities and they don't pay for themselves. There is always a subsidy issue. But the spinoff that Franklin County has received since TRAC was built in 1995 has been astronomical. You can't measure houses, businesses, pumping of gas for people in and out of that facility, and restaurants. It has really boosted our economy. It's more valuable than our subsidy. I just think TRAC has been a real boon to us. We've had some criticism even within our building about the salaries taking away from our budget, but the spinoff is so much greater. It is tunnel vision to criticize what we're spending. I would like to see it pay for itself; that's our goal. We're getting closer each year.

Yearly Planning Session: A yearly TRAC retreat was held last week that was very productive. Mr. Woody will prepare a prioritized list of the notes.

Atrium Floor

A test section of a new product was done on the atrium floor. Instead of proceeding to do the whole floor now, Mr. Woody and Mr. Bowen would like to wait through this winter to see how it holds up. Mrs. Corkrum said it looks very nice.

An elevator has been put on the west side of the arena. A stairwell area has been opened up to the arena where the elevator used to be.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

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

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49
FRANKLIN COUNTY
Commissioners' Proceeding for September 3, 2008

Out-of-County Travel Advance for Human Resources Director and County Administrator

Mr. Bowen asked for approval to attend the labor relations WAPELRA Conference September 17-19, 2008, in Chelan for him and Human Resources Director Rosie H. Rumsey.

Motion – Mrs. Corkrum: I move for approval of out-of-county travel for Rosie Rumsey and Fred Bowen. Second by Mr. Miller. 2:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 6)

TRAC Retreat

Mr. Bowen attended the TRAC Staff Retreat and was impressed. He felt a lot of really good ideas came up. He sent a letter to TRAC Manager Troy Woody to express appreciation. The staff has enthusiasm and a positive attitude. We have an excellent staff. They have some really difficult challenges but they work to overcome them. Mrs. Corkrum said we have been receiving very nice feedback from people who have used TRAC.

OTHER BUSINESS

Clerk's Office

Mr. Bowen said the Clerk's Office is scheduled to move into their new office on September 16, 17 and 18. Mrs. Corkrum said she thinks the project is taking too long. Mr. Bowen said it is pretty much done except for some cabinetry work. Mrs. Corkrum is disappointed at the length of time involved because of the need for all the courtrooms to be available for court.

Budget: Mr. Bowen recommended that the Board not make changes to the budget during the middle of the year in the future.

VOUCHERS/WARRANTS

Motion – Mrs. Corkrum: I move for approval of payment of County Road Fund payroll for \$74,920.15; and Motor Vehicle Fund payroll for \$11,084.32. Second by Mr. Miller. 2:0 vote in favor.

Adjourned at 10:48 am.

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49
FRANKLIN COUNTY
Commissioners' Proceeding for September 3, 2008

There being no further business, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned until September 8, 2008.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Chairman

Chairman Pro Tem

Member

Attest:

Clerk to the Board

Approved and signed September 15, 2008.