

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 49
FRANKLIN COUNTY
Commissioners' Proceeding for November 19, 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.

Consent Agenda

Motion - Mr. Miller: I move that we accept the Consent Agenda as listed for November 19, 2008:

1. Approval of **Resolution 2008-488** authorizing, in conjunction with RCW 36.32.210 (inventory), disposal of the property as identified on the Information Services Disposal List.
2. Approval of **Resolution 2008-489** authorizing Mid-Columbia Libraries to contract with Adams County Rural Library District #1 as stipulated.
3. Approval of **Resolution 2008-490** amending Franklin County Resolutions 2008-077 and 2008-353, revising expenditures as identified on the letter dated November 6, 2008, from the Trial Court Improvement Fund Authorization Committee, increasing the expenditure for the Superior Court headphone sets for language interpreters by \$1,500, from \$1,000 to \$2,500, utilizing funds from the Miscellaneous Trial Court Improvement Fund, Number 128-000-001, line item 594.12.60.0000 (Capital Expenditures).

Second by Mrs. Corkrum. 3:0 vote in favor.

Greater Columbia Behavioral Health (GCBH)

Mr. Koch said Dr. Wilson has resigned from GCBH effective November 21, 2008.

Vouchers/Warrants

Motion – Mr. Miller: I move that we accept the 2008 vouchers as listed in the amount of \$607,105.20: Current Expense warrants 8632 through 8672 for \$355,232.21; Capital Outlay 1/4% Tax warrants 8673 and 8674 for \$170,556.50; Sheriff's Narcotic Trust warrant 8675A for \$422.64; Treasurer O&M warrants 8688 through 8690 for \$2852.60;

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and TRAC Operations Fund warrant 8691 for \$78,041.25. Second by Mrs. Corkrum. 3:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 1)

Information Services – Dispatch training

The Board directed that a resolution be prepared for the consent agenda on November 10, 2008, regarding the cost of training. However, the Board has been informed that the cost will be paid for by the State 911 department through a reimbursement process so no resolution is necessary.

TRAC Computer Replacement

The Board directed that a resolution be prepared regarding a computer replacement at TRAC on November 17, 2008. However, Information Services Department installed a new hard drive in the computer that is expected to last at least a year so a resolution is not necessary. The 2009 TRAC budget will include a computer line item.

WSU EXTENSION

WSU Extension Director Kay Hendrickson met with the Board.

Roundtable at Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) meeting

Ms. Hendrickson thanked the Board for their participation at the roundtable at WSAC.

Area Extension Agronomist Position

Ms. Hendrickson said WSU has withdrawn the forage position in her office due to a state budget cut of \$6 million to WSU. Her concern is that the position remains on the books. She has asked Randy Baldry at WSU to contact the Board before any decision is made to remove the position from the books. The position was filled most recently by Phil Peterson who now works in Grant County. However, Mr. Peterson has continued to handle several pieces of research work in Benton and Franklin Counties. Mr. Miller said there is also a pickup assigned. Ms. Hendrickson said we can use the pickup. She hopes the position might be filled in several months but is not optimistic.

Mrs. Corkrum said she thinks we should send a letter to Dr. Linda Fox protesting the decision and reminding her that the county has supported Extension and that Franklin

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County is an agricultural county that needs the position to remain in place, although we understand the current budget situation. She mentioned there is a professor in our community that is earning about \$200,000 more per year than other WSU professors. Mr. Koch and Mr. Miller agreed to prepare a letter from the Board.

Mrs. Corkrum asked what happens to our contribution to the state? She asked will it go down based on salaries we pay? Ms. Hendrickson said WSU holds the positions open to accrual for operating funds. They may hold funds to pay the buyout when she retires soon. She said she can check on that and let the Board know.

Migrant Council Agreement

Ms. Hendrickson has been working with Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor Ryan Verhulp to prepare the Facilities Use Agreement with the Migrant Council. The Migrant Council will probably start using the Extension Office room on Friday.

Health District

Ms. Hendrickson was asked by a public health nurse to tell the commissioners how much we appreciate them and Franklin County's offer for the Health District to use the building rent-free.

MINUTES

Motion - Mrs. Corkrum: I move for approval of Commissioners Proceedings for November 17, 2008, and the Special Board Meeting for November 17, 2008, at Basin City. Second by Mr. Miller. 3:0 vote in favor.

Recessed at 9:33 am.

Reconvened at 9:35 am.

PUBLIC WORKS

Engineer Tim Fife met with the Board.

Hendricks Pit Site

Mr. Fife gave the Board an update on the negotiations taking place regarding the Hendricks Pit site including purchase of about 14 acres of property adjacent to the existing pit and work on a boundary line adjustment.

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Mr. Miller asked how long will the use of that pit last? What will we do with it afterwards? Mr. Fife said we won't have to do anything because it will belong to the Bureau of Reclamation. There will be a hole in the ground. We're giving it to the Bureau and then will ask for licenses to mine it. The irrigation district will also be using rock. The county will not have to get a state or DNR permit. Mr. Koch said the ground has never been farmed except for perhaps pasture. Mr. Fife agreed.

City of Pasco

Mr. Fife said the City of Pasco has approved the transfer of Wade Park. The information has been sent to the Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Fife would recommend the Board discuss transferring of seven acres at the extreme end of Wade Park to the City of Pasco to manage as part of Wade Park. It is the boat launch and parking area.

In response to Mr. Miller's question, Mr. Fife said the IAC is now called the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). The property has deed restrictions on it for park use only. One parcel was purchased with boating funding so it is a parking lot for the boat launch. The rest has to be used for park.

Lyons Ferry Park

Mr. Koch told Mr. Fife that people involved with Lyons Ferry Park are scheduling a meeting with the Board.

Federal Funds Symposium

Assistant Engineer Guy Walters attended the Federal Funds Symposium. Mr. Fife showed the Board parts of the packet from the symposium. He said it would be appropriate for the Board to make contact to find out the status of the county's current requests for funding and to see what we need to do next year to make sure we're on the list and also to find out if the project is part of the economic stimulus funding that might be coming down. He said in addition the county needs to get the paperwork that will need to be filled out for near year's funding.

Mr. Koch talked to Senator Maria Cantwell's local Washington state aide Chris Endresen in Yakima. Ms. Endresen will look at the R170 area when she is in the area.

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Bi-Monthly Progress Reports

Bi-Monthly Progress Reports were reviewed. The parking lot at TRAC has been paved. Group 4 of the Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF) projects (paving of gravel roads) is being started this week including Garfield Road. The safety project is ongoing.

There are not any current county paving projects occurring. Mr. Bowen is concerned that if the local paving plant is shut down for the winter, it won't open again until March so the county's new parking lot at the Courthouse will not be completed at this time.

PROSECUTOR

Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor Ryan Verhulp met with the Board.

Aspect Consulting Service invoice

Mr. Verhulp asked for approval of payment of Franklin County's share of an invoice from consultant Aspect Consulting Service. They have been analyzing some data from soil vapor extraction systems and groundwater data and submitted an invoice for \$3653.99. Our one-sixth share is \$609 payable from the Landfill Trust Fund.

Motion – Mr. Miller: I move that we make a payment of Franklin County's portion of an invoice by the Landfill Group to Aspect Consulting Service and our share is \$609.

Second by Mrs. Corkrum. This is Resolution 2008-491.

Executive Session at 9:52 am based on RCW 42.30.110.(1)(i) to discuss with legal counsel: Matters relating to agency enforcement actions and/or litigation or potential litigation expected to last up to 10 minutes.

Open Session at 9:57 am.

Recessed at 9:57 am.

Reconvened at 10:16 am.

TREASURER

Treasurer Tiffany Coffland met with the Board. Present in audience: Mike Braun, Vic Reeve and Steve Marks.

Tax Collections

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As of October 31, 91% of the 2008 tax collections had been collected which included all mail received through that day. On November 7, approximately 3700 delinquent notices were mailed for 2008 taxes that were delinquent for 2008 only. As of November 17, our 2008 collections now at 96%. Mr. Koch asked about comparison with years past. Ms. Coffland said it is pretty close to last year. In prior years, it was not tracked as much but delinquent notices were not sent out either.

Foreclosure Sale and Distrain Sale

Friday we're having a foreclosure sale and the first distrain sale.

The foreclosures started with 31 parcels. There are now only four properties left, three houses and one lot. We hope one house is going to be redeemed today. A piece of property in Connell has been redeemed. One property was taken off the list this week due to the gentleman coming in and he possibly has a disability and he is still occupying the property. We gave him another year to try to get the appropriate paperwork together to hopefully get reduced taxes.

For the distrain sale, the original recording included 79 mobile homes. We only have 17 left. We are hoping two of the 17 will be paid by tomorrow. There are still three owner-occupied mobile homes. The other one is rental-occupied and the mobile home park will most likely purchase it. Everything else is abandoned.

Tax Disbursements to Cities

Yesterday afternoon we found out when we distributed October tax distributions to cities, we disbursed a bit too much money, about \$1.2 million in total. In October and April we disburse on a weekly basis. At the beginning of November we need to reconcile what we already sent them versus what they are owed. The calculation was inaccurate because it did not include one figure. We have contacted all of the cities and will be sending letters today so they know they need to send it back to us. We have talked to all the cities and expect cooperation from them. Mr. Koch asked will it create a cash flow problem? Ms. Coffland said not for us now. We won't distribute any of December's distributions until we receive it.

Computer Tax Collection Systems

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Ms. Coffland said we're still using two computer tax collection systems. We're trying to work through all the bugs on the brand new software system. It has taken longer than expected but Ms. Coffland is still hopeful it will work well eventually.

NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL BOARD

Weed Board staff Mike Braun and Vic Reeve met with the Board.

2008 and 2009 Noxious Weed Control Board Budgets

Mr. Braun gave the Board the 2009 budget which also includes a comparison between the 2008 budget and 2009 budget and the Noxious Weed Control Board resolution adopting the 2009 budget. He said there was no opposition to the budget. No one came to the Public Hearing. The main differences in the budget are an increase in salaries and wages and in the professional services line item for enforcement and applicator costs. There is also an increase in repairs and maintenance because the pickups are getting older. The Weed Board has three full-time permanent employees and two temporary employees. Mr. Braun said he is not anticipating spending this much money but it was put in budget in case we have to. He thinks the final actual amount that will be spent in 2008 will be just over \$300,000 although the budget was \$336,000. There are no changes in the assessment from last year.

Southeast Washington Cooperative Weed Management Area Meeting

Vic Reeve told the Board about the first annual meeting. The organization came together in September 2007 as a group of eight counties trying to establish a better way or at least a more efficient way to control weeds. Six counties are pretty much one-operator counties with no or very little weed assessment. By banding together and bringing in some other agencies (county, federal or state) we're hoping to expand our workload a little bit and do better communication. The improved communication is the best thing that has happened this year. We have talked about weeds, invasive noxious weeds in particular.

We've done a few projects together. Grants are something we'd like to have but no one has the time and energy to put into them. We're hoping to expand that capability and get some grant money to help us with projects where we can all benefit.

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There are 28 CWMA's in the state. Some are very specific to an area, sometimes even covering only a town. Ours is the largest in the state and one of the newest.

It was a good meeting yesterday. Presentations included: grant writing and possibilities; WSU Plant Materials Professor Mark Stanard gave a presentation on yellowstar thistle, and a lot of good ideas and plans for next year.

The group ties in in some manner with the state's Washington Invasive Species Council (WISC) so we're keeping communication open and seeing where we can fit in.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

County Administrator Fred Bowen met with the Board.

City of Pasco letter requesting meeting

The City of Pasco has requested that the Board meet with the Pasco City Council to review some common issues including the jail. Their lease will be up in 2012.

Mr. Miller asked if this would be like a workshop. Mr. Bowen imagines it would be.

Mr. Bowen asked if the Board wants to set up a date or not. Mrs. Corkrum said she thinks if the Board meets with the City Council, the Board should put some parameters and rules for the meeting of what you will discuss and agree to. I caution you to be very, very careful. Mr. Bowen said he thinks Mrs. Corkrum made good points. He said having a specific agenda so we have time to prepare for it makes good sense to him.

Superior Court Clerk

The Superior Court Clerk has given the Board notice that the cost of a partition panel was paid for from the LFO collection fund in a miscellaneous budget.

Inter Budget Transfer of \$159,819.75 from Non-Departmental Budget #001-000-700 to Miscellaneous Cumulative Reserve Fund Budget #100-000-001

Mr. Bowen asked for approval of an inter budget transfer through the voucher process. In July we agreed we would take some of the surplus that came from the cash carryover above what we had anticipated and transfer it into the Cumulative Reserve account for construction projects. That has not been completed. We're planning to take that amount out and transfer it into the Cumulative Reserve Fund before the end of the year. There is somewhat of an urgency because the county has to pay for the Clark Town

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Water System project and then is reimbursed by CTED. There is no increase to the bottom line. A public hearing was held earlier. Mr. Bowen answered the Board's questions about the line item titles and the various funds.

Mr. Bowen said we left \$500,000 in the Nondepartmental Budget as the Rainy Day money. There is a surplus of \$159,000. Mr. Bowen reminded the Board that we split it down the middle. We moved one part over into Cumulative Reserve for construction projects and loans. That's where we took out the Public Works loan for the shop in Connell. That's where we bought the Sheriff's vehicles. That's where we were going to use the money to buy the Treasurer's new software. But we still had \$500,000 sitting in Current Expense that we have not touched. What we did was that the Rainy Day money coming in was put down into that Nondepartmental Cumulative Reserve fund and we were going to transfer that over to finish our construction projects. We haven't done that transfer yet. So we're going to transfer the remaining portion over into the construction fund that we have and then work with that to pay the grants.

If we end up with the Basin City Water and Sewer District grant, it will be the same situation as the Clark Town Water Association. The county will basically pay upfront. We're allowed to receive funds for administrative fees. By doing the transfer, it will allow us to make the payments and then have CTED reimburse the county. CTED wants the contractor to have the money within three days. That's almost impossible for us to do. So we hope to set it up to have this account for use. We're accomplishing a lot in the county by doing that but it is kind of cumbersome.

Motion – Mr. Miller: I move that we approve inter budget transfer through the budget process of \$159,819.75 from the Non-Departmental Budget #001-000-700 to the Miscellaneous Cumulative Reserve Fund #100-000-001. Second by Mrs. Corkrum. 3:0 vote in favor. This is Resolution 2008-492.

Executive Session at 10:59 am based on RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) expected to last 10 minutes.

Open Session at 11:09 am.

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Resolution authorizing Franklin County Administrator to sign vouchers for Office of Public Defense

Motion – Mr. Miller: I move that we authorize Franklin County Administrator to sign vouchers up to \$5000 for Office of Public Defense expenditures, per provider, per case.

Second by Mrs. Corkrum. 3:0 vote in favor. This is Resolution 2008-493.

Executive Session at 11:11 am based on RCW 42.30.140(4) contract negotiations expected to last 10 minutes.

Open Session at 11:24 am. No decisions were made.

Adjourned at 11:29 am.

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There being no further business, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned until November 5, 2008.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Chairman

Chairman Pro Tem

Member

Attest:

Clerk to the Board

Approved and signed November 24, 2008.