

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 50
FRANKLIN COUNTY
Commissioners' Proceeding for January 12, 2009

The Honorable Board of Franklin County Commissioners met on the above date. Present for the meeting were Rick Miller, Chairman; Bob Koch, Chair Pro Tem; and Brad Peck, 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. Koch: I would move that we approve the consent agenda for January 12, 2009, as presented:

1. Approval of ***Out-of-State Travel Request*** for Lynne DeSantis to attend an Intergraph 2009 Conference June 14-19, 2009, in Washington, DC, for an estimated cost of \$2,420, and authorizing the Chairman to sign said request on behalf of the Board. (Exhibit 1)
2. Approval of **Resolution 2009-019** reappointing Mark Kuffel to serve on the Housing Authority of the City of Pasco and Franklin County Board as a Franklin County representative, for a five-year term expiring January 28, 2014.
3. Approval of **joint Resolution 2009-020** in the matter of execution of amendment #01 between Children's Developmental Center and Benton and Franklin Counties' Department of Human Services, Agreement #07/09-DD-CDC, effective November 1, 2008, and authorizing the Chairman to sign said amendment on behalf of the Board. (Exhibit 2: Information sheet.)
4. Approval of **Resolution 2009-021** establishing a one percent increase in the Current Expense regular property tax levy authorized for the year 2009 in the amount of \$61,052, for submittal to the Department of Revenue and the Franklin County Assessor.
5. Approval of **Resolution 2009-022** establishing a one percent increase in the County Road Department regular property tax levy authorized for the year 2009 in the amount of \$25,769, for submittal to the Department of Revenue and the Franklin County Assessor.
6. Authorizing Franklin County Current Expense regular tax levy for 2009 in the amount of \$6,625,473 and authorizing the Chairman to sign the Levy Certification form on behalf of the Board. (Exhibit 5)

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7. Authorizing Franklin County Road Department regular tax levy for 2009 in the amount of \$2,748,683 and authorizing the Chairman to sign the Levy Certification form on behalf of the Board. (Exhibit 6)
8. Approval of **joint Resolution 2009-023** in the matter of the request for signature from the Chairman of the Boards of Benton and Franklin County Commissioners on the Personal Services Contract Amendment between the Juvenile Justice Center and Tri-Cities Chaplaincy, thus amending Benton County Resolution 06-101 and Franklin County Resolution 2006-110, effective January 1, 2009, through December 31, 2009.

Second by Mr. Peck.

In the future before reappointing members to a board, Mr. Peck would like to consider asking the requesting department to provide a paragraph or two recommending and endorsing that the person has been in good standing and is of benefit to the organization instead of only a communication asking that the person be reappointed.

Vote: 3:0 vote in favor.

Vouchers/Warrants

Motion – Mr. Koch: I would move that we accept the fund expenditures for Current Expense warrants 10946 through 11023 for \$104,787.85; Jail Commissary warrants 11130 through 11134 for \$7606.50; Current Expense warrants 11135 through 11170 for \$53,066.84; Sheriff's Narcotic Trust warrant 11171 for \$45.00; Boating Safety warrants 11172 through 11174 for \$12,174.86; FC Enhanced 911 warrant 11175 for \$8649.85; and Trial Court Improvement warrant 11176 for \$1625.00; for a total amount of \$187,955.90, and pull the warrant for \$43.00 to the City of Kennewick for a retirement plaque. Second by Mr. Peck.

Mr. Peck asked to be able to review the vouchers and warrants prior to meetings.
3:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 4)

Minutes

Motion – Mr. Peck: I move that we approve minutes for Commissioners Proceedings for January 5, 2009, and January 7, 2009. Second by Mr. Koch. 3:0 vote in favor.

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TRAC

TRAC Manager Troy Woody met with the Board.

TRAC Advisory Board

Mr. Woody asked for permission to move forward to have some in-depth discussions with County Administrator Fred Bowen and Pasco City Manager Gary Crutchfield regarding the purpose, intent and necessity for the TRAC Advisory Board and to consider a modification to the board structure and duties. He would still use the people on the TRAC Advisory Board as a resource. At the time the agreement with the City of Pasco expires, Mr. Woody thinks no advisory board would be needed. He does not typically use the board as a sounding board now. The monthly meetings usually involve Mr. Woody telling them about what has been decided during the month and reviewing budgets. At the beginning, he believes the TRAC Advisory Board was more involved in day-to-day operations.

Mr. Bowen agrees with Mr. Woody. He said Gary Crutchfield, Troy Woody and he discuss changes. The TRAC Advisory Board does not have a lot of input as far as the direction of TRAC. Mr. Koch said on the other hand, it doesn't sound like they're asked. Mr. Woody said to some degree that's true but I'm not sure how far I want to get into it. I already have four bosses plus the city manager. Mr. Koch said they're an advisory board, not a governing board.

Mr. Woody said when capital items are discussed, the TRAC Advisory Board is told about them but it is done more as a formality because the matters have usually already been through the county and city processes. He said he would still use them as a board, calling two or three of them on the phone. However, to have a formal board and have a meeting once a month has no value to him whatsoever.

He was asked how do the board members feel? Mr. Woody said we've had some discussions. For them it's more like it's a good insight to know what's going on but they're not saying here's where we need to go or we need to go this way.

The Board had **consensus agreement** to allow Mr. Woody to pursue discussions with the City of Pasco.

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Capital Needs/Sources Workshop

Mr. Woody said we need some direction at some point in time regarding a 10-year plan and more importantly a 2009 plan. Historically there has never been a dedicated capital funding plan for TRAC. We want to determine where we need to go and some possible sources of funds.

Mr. Bowen said there has never been a renewal and replacement fund established for TRAC. In the past we have used Distressed and Rural County Funds to pay for some capital costs. A plan was prepared that we thought would cover TRAC's capital costs for three years. We've already used the funds except for the \$3 million for a rodeo arena upgrade. Now in order to use the .09 money we would have to open the plan up again. We can do that but it also would open up the possibilities for all the other entities to turn in other projects as well.

Mr. Peck asked if it is your impression under the current format that there is reason to be hopeful that TRAC in its current format could be a break-even, self-sustaining operation any time in the next several years. Mr. Bowen said he would say no. One reason is that the rodeo arena brings in very little revenue, about 15% of the total revenue. If we could actually do something with that area such as concrete floors, new seating, and lockers, we could improve the revenue side of the rodeo arena but there would be a capital cost. Another issue is that facilities like TRAC that are government-owned very seldom break even. They are there to bring tourism and economic development to the community. He hopes someday TRAC does break even. If we ever make money, he would be even that much more excited.

Mr. Peck said the notion of being able to break even would be pretty optimistic. Mr. Woody said with its current structure, it would be very optimistic. It might be possible with substantive changes like ice rinks and changing the arena, but those changes would require capital input.

Mr. Peck asked if Mr. Woody knows how much the arena portion is losing. Mr. Woody said no. His staff can prepare a modified profit and loss statement for the arena.

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Mr. Peck asked if the arena is a financial challenge more than other portions of the facility. Mr. Woody said yes and gave an example of the MotoCross that was held this weekend. The events we're doing for the most part make a profit but we can't do enough of them, particularly because of the turnaround time that is involved.

Mr. Miller said because of the title of TRAC, Trade, Recreation and Agricultural Center, it would be hard for him to want to remove the agricultural arena. Mr. Woody said if the arena were eliminated, you would not gain a lot but will limit a lot of events that use both the arena and the Expo Hall. I think it's not as much that it's losing money as that it's not making as much money as it could or should. With dirt floor, bleachers and no locker rooms, only so many events can and will go in that environment.

Mr. Bowen said major renovations could be done to turn it into a facility that will bring in other events. The estimate for a concrete floor is \$250,000 and changing the HVAC system is \$1 million. Seating changes were estimated to cost \$2 million to \$2.25 million. Additional costs for adding locker rooms, concession stands, and everything else would bring the total estimated cost to about \$5 million.

Mr. Peck said the TRAC Advisory Board could deal with those type of strategic issues and capital needs, staying out of the day-to-day operations.

Mr. Bowen said if the county uses the .09 money, he would prefer to use it for something you will see 10 or 20 years down the road, not chairs and tables. We could bond the money. Then we could install concrete floors and make larger capital improvements.

Mr. Miller said there are other possibilities, such as making an outdoors arena.

Mr. Woody recommended holding the workshop before we do anything else so everyone has a clear view of what we would use the money for and what is required. Then we could get into what do we want TRAC to be in the future and determine funding sources.

The Board decided to meet in a workshop session at TRAC.

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TRAC Center credit card

TRAC does not currently have a company credit card. Mr. Woody explained the need for a credit card. It could be issued either to Mr. Woody or to the finance manager. When a credit card is needed, we have been doing it by using personal credit cards and then having a petty cash check written. He has read the credit card policy. A credit card would not be used frequently. He can pre-approve the items for which it is used if necessary.

Mr. Koch said I have no problem at all with credit cards. The only concern I have is staying up with the invoicing so we're not getting late payments. Sometimes the process of getting a check out is delayed. Mr. Woody said we could pay the credit card with petty cash. He will find out if that is an acceptable county practice. Mr. Koch said it could be as simple as paying the bill before the invoice comes.

Mr. Miller asked Mr. Woody to find out more information. Mr. Bowen said the Board is required to approve credit cards for county departments. He agrees that TRAC needs a credit card.

Mr. Koch asked Mr. Woody to prepare the paperwork to obtain a credit card and bring it back for Board approval.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

County Administrator Fred Bowen met with the Board.

Snow Blower Purchase

Motion – Mr. Peck: I would move that we authorize Facilities to purchase a snow blower from RDO Equipment at a cost of \$1164.71 and creation of an Equipment line item in the 2008 Current Expense Capital Outlay Budget #001-000-710 and authorize inter budget transfers totaling \$1165 from the Current Expense Budget #001-000-200 as identified to the Capital Outlay Budget #001-000-710, line item 594.18.64.2002. That would be \$582.50 from line item 48.0001 and \$582.50 from line item 48.0003. Second by Mr. Koch. 3:0 vote in favor. This is Resolution 2009-024.

Contingency Reserve

Current Contingency Reserve budget figures were reviewed.

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Inter Budget Transfer for Jury Fees

Lyons Ferry Park Budget Request

TRIDEC Plaque

The Clerk's Office has requested a budget transfer to cover additional jury fees of \$8345.

Mr. Koch said the county was requested to pay \$10,000 for the Lyons Ferry park and also pay for a plaque at TRIDEC.

Mr. Bowen asked the Board to wait to make a decision about the additional expenditures until the 2008 budget cash carryover figure is known in February.

Motion – Mr. Peck: I move we approve inter budget transfer in the amount of \$8345 from the Current Expense Non-Departmental Budget #700 from line item 519.90.00.0001 which is Contingency Reserve to the County Clerk Budget #160, Jury Fees line item. Second by Mr. Koch. 3:0 vote in favor. This is Resolution 2009-025.

Mr. Miller said we're thinking of doing the park which I think is a great idea but if we don't have money, we shouldn't do it. Mr. Bowen said we have a Rainy Day fund. It's been kind of the practice in the past to absolutely not touch that Rainy Day fund because it's a one-time source of funds.

Indigent Defense Contract Agreement

Mr. Bowen asked for approval of a one-year contract with Shawn Sant for indigent defense services. In the past, the contracts with attorneys have typically been for three-year terms. We are now staggering the terms for one, two and three years.

Motion – Mr. Peck: I move that we approve Independent Contractor Agreement between Franklin County and Shawn P. Sant to provide legal representation to indigent persons charged with crimes in the courts of Franklin County, Washington (Superior Court), effective January 1, 2009, through December 31, 2009. Second by Mr. Koch. 3:0 vote in favor. This is Resolution 2009-026.

OTHER BUSINESS

County Vehicles

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Mr. Miller would like to find out if the Security Director should have a county-owned vehicle. Mr. Peck asked if the security director is required to use his own vehicle for work-related activities. Mr. Koch said he thinks the Security Director drives back and forth to work but Mr. Koch is not aware of any meetings during the day away from the county. He feels the Sheriff's Department would take care of any breaches of security at night and only inform the Security Director.

Mr. Bowen will meet with the Security Director and/or the Sheriff. He said when the Security Department was formed, the sheriff requested a vehicle but the Board denied it because the main function was here at the Courthouse and the director wasn't going to be away from the Courthouse.

Mr. Miller stated he just does not want to have inequity.

Adjourned at 10:45 am.

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There being no further business, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned until January 14, 2009.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Chairman

Chairman Pro Tem

Member

Attest:

Clerk to the Board

Approved and signed January 28, 2009.