

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 50
FRANKLIN COUNTY
Commissioners' Proceeding for March 9, 2009

The Honorable Board of Franklin County Commissioners met on the above date. Present for the meeting were Bob Koch, Chair Pro Tem; and Brad Peck, Member; Fred Bowen, County Administrator; and Mary Withers, Clerk to the Board. Rick Miller, Chairman, was absent attending the National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Conference in Washington, DC.

LOBBYIST

Lobbyist Jim Potts talked to the Board by telephone about current legislative issues. Present in audience: Sharon Paradis and Patricia Shults.

JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER (JJC)

JJC Director Sharon Paradis met with the Board.

Personal Services Contract Amendment: Amy Campbell

Ms. Paradis asked the Board to approve a contract amendment terminating the contract with Amy Campbell approved by Resolution 2007-311 because Ms. Campbell is being hired as the guardian ad litem coordinator, counselor III position, at Juvenile Court, replacing an employee who retired. Ms. Paradis did not realize the county was in a hiring freeze status until last Wednesday so the position had already been offered.

Ms. Campbell cannot have a position and a contract as well. The termination provisions of the contract are either 10 days for cause or 60 days for notice.

Ms. Paradis said the volunteer guardian ad litem program does a lot for the JJC in terms of reducing attorney costs in dependency cases because representation is mandated by statute. If we didn't have volunteers, we would be paying attorneys to handle the cases as guardians ad litem. It has been a fairly substantial cost savings.

We received about \$90,000 in expansion funding from the state last year. We expect to receive those dollars again for the next biennium. She explained briefly how the funding works. If we didn't replace the position, we would jeopardize the funding.

There is no other contractor with functional family therapy experience but we think the work can be covered by another contractor without loss of state dollars at this time until more is known about future state budget funds.

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Mr. Peck asked if a contractor can do the work instead of an employee. Ms. Paradis said no. There are two different grants involved. The duties of the two grant positions are exceptionally different.

Mr. Peck asked about the impact of leaving the position vacant through the end of the fiscal year. Ms. Paradis said that action would jeopardize the \$90,000 that we had available to expand the guardian ad litem program. The amount affected would be about \$50,000 because of the fiscal year. It would cost a couple months' worth of grant dollars if it was not filled until the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. Koch asked about the legal impacts. Ms. Paradis said she has not talked with the Prosecutor's Office. If we didn't fill that position, we would have to give some kind of notice to the state agency that we were reducing county dollars. If they then reduced state dollars, it would be state dollars for March, April, May and June. She explained how funding works for the four program coordinators in the guardian ad litem program: 1-1/2 positions are funded by state grant dollars that have no supplanting language. The other 2-1/2 positions are paid for from Current Expense funds. The position Ms. Campbell would fill has been paid for from Current Expense funds. The dollars we receive for the other 1-1/2 positions are tied to Current Expense because the state said you can have these funds if you don't reduce your county Current Expense money to fund the program. We want the program to increase capacity for county volunteers as opposed to taking state dollars that would supplant county dollars. So if we did not replace the position at this point in time, it is paid for from Current Expense dollars but it could potentially impact the funding that we're receiving for the other 1-1/2 positions because of non-supplanting language.

In response to Mr. Peck's question, Ms. Paradis said she thinks the monthly Current Expense amount is about \$4500. Mr. Peck said there is a risk of losing about \$40,000 to potentially save about \$15,000 of Current Expense.

Filling of Legal Secretary IV position

Ms. Paradis said a Legal Secretary IV position is now vacant. We intend to fill the position internally with a current employee in a Legal Process III position, a lower

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grade position, which would be a promotion. The Legal Process III position will then be filled internally by promotion of a person currently in a Legal Process II position. These changes will leave us with an open Legal Process position which we would like to fill.

If we did not fill the position for the remainder of the year, it would save Franklin County about \$8200 and Benton County about \$24,000 based on Franklin County's 29% share. It is a Current Expense position. It essentially would cost the JJC a full position to save Franklin County a third of a position.

Mr. Bowen asked about the cost savings between Legal Process I and II positions. Ms. Paradis said it would be about \$398 for the remainder of the year. A Legal Process II staff member cannot go into court so we need to fill the Legal Process III position.

Mr. Peck said realizing those positions are all already in the Current Expense budget and it's not a significant savings in holding one of them vacant and there is it sounds like a significant impact and a collateral impact on Benton County, if any of this were outside the current approved budget I would not support, but I don't see a problem. Mr. Koch said I don't either.

The Board gave **consensus approval** to proceed with filling the two positions.

TRAC

TRAC Manager Troy Woody met with the Board.

Facilities Scheduling Policy

Mr. Woody has provided a rough draft of a facilities scheduling policy to the Board members previously for their review and ideas. He explained what a personal guarantee would involve. He is not asking for a Board decision today.

Mr. Peck asked with respect to the criteria listed under management discretion, are you comfortable with the six listed here? Are there any that you think unduly restrict your discretion? Do you feel this is an adequate list or that perhaps there are others?

Mr. Woody said no; that is why we are still in the draft and review stage. His staff is also reviewing it. He feels we are on the right track in general format. He is asking for input.

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In response to Mr. Koch's question, Mr. Woody said the TRAC Advisory Board will review the proposed policy next month. It will also be reviewed by Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor Ryan Verhulp.

City of Pasco Ordinance

Mr. Woody gave the Board a copy of City of Pasco Ordinance 3909 which means TRAC can put a sign in the public right-of-way on Road 68 (Exhibit 1). It has been a three-year project to obtain this approval. The sign will be funded out of .09 funding.

Mr. Peck asked what type of sign have you envisioned? Mr. Woody said we have some drafts done. It will be a monument style, a single pole frame with digital reader board on both sides. Sign companies are working on drafts and final cost estimates. It will not be in conjunction with Cousins Restaurant. Mr. Woody said he thinks the sign will be located in front of either Cousins or Columbia River Bank.

Weekend Recap

The Bull Bash was sold out. At the dance, attendance approached 5000 people. The police are investigating a fight that occurred in the beer garden at the dance. It was the first fight in several years with about 10 people involved.

There was a good turnout at the Real Heroes Breakfast on Thursday morning.

Upcoming events this week: Antique Show and Monster Trucks.

Ticket Sales

Mr. Koch asked how are on-line ticket sales going? Has that been a benefit? Mr. Woody said yes. It's slow but steady and starting to pick up. We've changed the fee structure. It costs more to buy on-line than otherwise. We're at 15% to 20% of ticket sales on-line. The higher cost is due to fees we have to pay. TRAC pays the ticket company 35 cents a hard ticket and \$1.75 for an on-line ticket, regardless of the face value. Generally only tickets costing \$15 or more are sold on-line.

OFFICE BUSINESS

Secretary Patricia Shults met with the Board.

Consent Agenda

Motion - Mr. Peck: I move for approval of the consent agenda as follows:

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1. Approval of **Resolution 2009-093** authorizing payment of \$2,280.60 for Franklin County's portion (1/5 share) of an invoice accrued by the Landfill Group to Aspect Consulting LLC for professional consulting services.
2. Approval of **Resolution 2009-094** declaring two rectangular wood tables as surplus, as identified on the *Franklin County Storage – Salvage* form received from Facilities, in conjunction with RCW 36.32.210 (inventory), and authorizing said tables to be surplus to Garfield County with no revenue exchange.
3. Approval of **Resolution 2009-095** 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 Amy Campbell, providing Functional Family Therapy, thus, amending Franklin County Resolution 2007-311 and terminating said contract effective March 16, 2009. (Exhibit 2: Information sheet.)
4. Approval of **Resolution 2009-096** authorizing closure of the Coroner Petty Cash Fund and authorizing the Franklin County Treasurer to deposit cash in the amount of \$150.00 into the 2009 Current Expense Coroner Budget, Number 001-000-220, line item 563.20.41.0000 (Professional Services). (Exhibit 3: Information sheet.)
5. Approval of **Resolution 2009-097** authorizing payment of \$1,564.32 for Franklin County's portion (1/6 share) of an invoice accrued by the Landfill Group to Aspect Consulting LLC for professional consulting services.
6. Approval of County Road Fund payroll in the amount of \$75,157.48 and Motor Vehicle Fund payroll in the amount of \$10,884.12 for pay period ending March 5, 2009.

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

Vouchers/Warrants

Motion – Mr. Peck: I move approval of Current Expense voucher warrant #14020 in the amount of \$3724.79. Second by Mr. Koch. 2:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 4)

HUMAN SERVICES (HS)

HS Director Carrie Huie Pascua met with the Board for a department update covering Developmental Disabilities Services, Housing Services, Mental Health Services and Substance Abuse and Prevention Services.

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Five staff members in Chemical Dependency were laid off as a result of state budget reductions. The Assessment Center is now down to essentially one person. Substance abuse providers under contract are doing the assessment work.

We are trying to actively preserve our community resources. The sub-acute detoxification center capacity will be reducing from 12 to four beds but we'll still have a resource here. The eight beds will be shifted to Crisis Stabilization and Diversion and Mental Health and we will be using mental health funds to keep the facility open.

Ms. Huie Pascua said the department's goal has been to keep things in this community as stable as possible, preserving what we have and preserving core services where we can, being innovative, and also to maintain our future and to grow our future as far as services and to better utilize the dollars that we do have.

PUBLIC WORKS

Engineer Tim Fife met with the Board.

Resolution: Local Agency Agreement LA 2154, Supplement #10, between Franklin County and Washington State Department of Transportation for CRP 500 – East Foster Wells Road

Mr. Fife asked for approval of a supplemental agreement. We need additional funding for right-of-way acquisition and relocation of a PUD power line. The total reimbursement increase is \$45,000.

Motion – Mr. Peck: I move we approve Local Agency Agreement LA 2154, Supplement #10, between Franklin County and Washington State Department of Transportation for CRP 500 – East Foster Wells Road. Second by Mr. Koch. 2:0 vote in favor. This is 2008-098.

Lind Road Closure

Mr. Fife asked for approval to close Lind Road in order to re-compact the area around a culvert. Crews anticipate it will take several days to complete the work.

The Board **gave approval** to close the road.

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Declaration for FEMA funds

Mr. Fife has received notice about FEMA funds. FEMA will pay for a 48-hour time period, covering overtime and equipment used during overtime. We are checking our records to see what time period would be the best for us.

R170

Mr. Fife has received approval for funding for the first phase of R170.

Public safety issue about water on roads

Mr. Peck talked about a public safety issue regarding water on roads. He asked if Mr. Fife has any historical data that shows that sprinklers on the roads have a significant impact on the roads. He said while water is not good for the roadway, it's an inconsequential issue compared to safety such as lack of visibility contributing to an accident. Mr. Fife said a study was done about 15 years ago that showed roads were the weakest where end guns pounded day in and day out. The amount of water was the problem.

Mr. Peck said he sees water on the roads as a public safety issue as much or more than the impact to roads.

Mr. Fife said there is additional maintenance but it's hard to quantify that cost.

PROSECUTOR

Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor Ryan Verhulp met with the Board.

Irrigation Water of Roadway Ordinance

Mr. Verhulp can provide a county ordinance to Mr. Peck about water on roadways. A coordination meeting was held last fall to coordinate enforcement of the ordinance.

Executive Session at 10:52 am regarding a claim based on RCW 42.30.110.1(i) expected to last up to five minutes.

Open Session at 10:55 am.

Mr. Verhulp asked for approval of a resolution denying a claim for damages based on the investigation and facts set forth in the resolution.

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Motion – Mr. Peck: I would move that we approve the recommendation of counsel with respect to the claim of Mr. Court Ruppenthal denying said claim. Second by Mr. Koch. 2:0 vote in favor. This is Resolution 2009-099.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

County Administrator Fred Bowen met with the Board.

Public Works Contracts Training: Out-of-County Travel

Mr. Bowen requested approval for himself and Confidential Secretary Bridgette Scott to attend Public Works Contracts Training. It's the first training that he is aware of that has ever been offered. Ms. Scott manages the contracts as part of her additional duties, particularly through CTBG grants and Small Works rosters. We did receive letters from the State Auditors last year because we had not followed some rules that we were not aware of.

Mr. Koch said he can support it out of the Travel allowance budget.

Mr. Peck said the notion of going makes perfect sense. The value to the county makes sense. The only question is have we weighed this against what we're saying to other county people about restricting and limiting their travel? If you think it merits going, I would have no problems supporting it, making the observation that we are asking everybody else to limit their training to what they feel is absolutely essential. I heard you say we need this to be able to comply with state law.

Mr. Bowen feels it is essential.

Mr. Peck feels it is appropriate to go.

Mr. Peck asked if someone from Public Works needs to attend also. Mr. Bowen said no, they have training through the County Road Administration Board (CRAB).

Mr. Koch said on the financial side, cutting back on the NACo trip already has more than covered the reduction in travel.

The Board gave **consensus approval** of the out-of-county travel.

Board of Health

Mr. Bowen said Benton County Commissioner Max Benitz notified him that the Board of Health By-Laws require that a county commission be appointed to the Finance

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Committee. Mr. Bowen could be appointed as an alternate. Mr. Koch and Mr. Peck will wait to make an appointment until Mr. Miller returns.

Jail Expansion: CKJT Architects

CKJT Architects proposal to prepare Option 2 is \$14,368. The Board had previously approved \$11,350. Mr. Peck does not have any problem going to \$14,368. Mr. Koch said he doesn't either. It's something we've got to do before we proceed any further. The Board **gave approval**.

Corrections: Wiring of Master Control

The Board had previously approved \$25,000 for the Master Control wiring project. Three bidders looked at the project. Two gave bids. The high bid was over \$40,000 and the low bid was just under \$32,000. Mr. Bowen will proceed with the project using the low bidder.

VOUCHERS/WARRANTS

Motion – Mr. Peck: I would move that given the absence of the Board of Commissioners meeting of Wednesday of this week that we give approval for release of payroll on Friday of this week which would be March 13 pending formal board action approval on Monday, March 16. Second by Mr. Koch. 2:0 vote in favor.

Adjourned at 11:17 am.

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There being no further business, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned until March 16, 2009.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Chairman

Chairman Pro Tem

Member

Attest:

Clerk to the Board

Approved and signed March 18, 2009.