

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 50  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
Commissioners' Proceeding for April 13, 2009

The Honorable Board of Franklin County Commissioners met on the above date. Present for the meeting were Rick Miller, Chairman; and Brad Peck, Member; Fred Bowen, County Administrator; and Mary Withers, Clerk to the Board. Bob Koch, Chair Pro Tem, was absent due to a serious medical condition in the family.

### **LOBBYIST**

Lobbyist Jim Potts spoke with the Board by telephone regarding current legislative issues. Present in audience: Tri-City Herald Reporter Joe Chapman.

### **OFFICE BUSINESS**

Secretary Patricia Shults met with the Board.

#### Consent Agenda

**Motion** - Mr. Peck: I move for approval of today's consent agenda, April 13, 2009:

1. Approval of **Resolution 2009-142** authorizing the Chairman to sign, on behalf of the Board, the Introductory Letter and Agreement for County Governments Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Nutrition Education, effective October 1, 2009, to September 30, 2010.
2. Approval of **joint Resolution 2009-143** in the matter of the request for signature from the Chairman of the Boards of Benton and Franklin County Commissioners on the Federal Grant Application for the Benton-Franklin Counties Truancy Contempt Project, for a term commencing July 1, 2009, and terminating on June 30, 2010. (Exhibit 1: Information sheet.)

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

#### Energy Communities Alliance (ECA)

Mr. Miller said he does not feel the county needs to join the ECA this year because TRIDEC covers it enough for the county. Mr. Peck said he would like more time to review the material before discussing it further.

#### Vouchers/Warrants

**Motion** – Mr. Peck: I move for approval of 2009 vouchers for April 13, 2009, in the total amount of \$55,410.14: Current Expense warrants 15362 through 15507 for \$17,522.03; TRAC Operations warrants 15508 through 15542 for \$34,850.38; Veteran's Assistance

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warrants 15543 through 15547 for \$2,173.81; and Law Library warrants 15548 through 15549 for \$863.92. Second by Mr. Miller. 2:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 2)

**Motion** – Mr. Peck: I move approval of April 13, 2009, payrolls for Salary Clearing, Emergency Management and Irrigation. Second by Mr. Miller. 2:0 vote in favor. The cover sheet includes:

Salary Clearing payroll warrants 48191 through 48275 for \$176,374.90; warrants 48276 through 48281 for \$84,713.04; and Direct Deposit for \$327,384.27; for a total amount of \$588,472.21;

Emergency Management payroll warrants 15571 through 15577 for \$3559.37; warrants 15578 through 15581 for \$1901.27; and Direct Deposit for \$8320.63; for a total amount of \$13,781.27; and

Irrigation payroll warrants 15550 through 15566 for \$9143.97; and warrants 15567 through 15570 for \$1715.90; for a total amount of \$10,859.87. (Exhibit 3)

**PUBLIC WORKS**

Engineer Tim Fife met with the Board. Present in audience: Bob Hoffmann and Joe Chapman.

**R170**

Mr. Miller has talked to Senator Patty Murray's office which sent the county a copy of the application for including R170 as a road project. Mr. Miller asked Mr. Fife to send an email copy of the R170 book to one of Senator Murray's staff members at an email address. Mr. Miller will also mention the R170 project to Senator Murray when he sees her tonight.

**R170 – Purchase Parcel 596-01**

Mr. Fife said in accordance with the county's acquisition policy, any time an administrative settlement on an acquisition of property exceeds \$5000 or 10% of the determination of value, it requires Commissioner approval. The English's have consistently asked for additional funds. The administrative settlement amount they are asking for is \$10,496. They have wanted to be paid for the relocation of the pump and

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the work that they would have to do to set up contracts to do that work and the additional work on redoing their pasture, and that type of work.

The Board reviewed a proposed resolution. The negotiator and Mr. Fife are recommending approval of the administrative settlement.

**Motion** – Mr. Peck: I would move that we accept the offer from the English family, their offer on parcel 596-01 for a total amount of \$40,000. Second by Mr. Miller. 2:0 vote in favor.

Mr. Fife said we'll pay the English's, then start the right-of-way certification process.

R170 Funding Application Process

Mr. Fife said Representative Doc Hastings' office staff told him the county would have to apply every year for funding for projects, even if funding has been requested before. The county did miss the deadline for the R170 project this year.

State Transportation Funding

Mr. Fife gave the Board some information about state transportation funding. Mr. Peck said the figures in the information are snapshots in time so one month or one year can affect the results. He cautioned that this information is very anecdotal and no one should look at this and determine that Benton and Franklin Counties are not getting their fair share. Mr. Peck said he spent some time with the Transportation Committee trying to make some sense of these numbers.

Other Business

Mr. Peck told Mr. Fife he would like to meet with him and Sheriff Lathim about a variety of issues including vehicle refurbishing.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

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

Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) Membership

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Mr. Peck said he does not see any compelling reason for us to be a member. Mr. Miller said Emergency Management Director John Scheer said he didn't see any reason either. The Board decided to cancel the membership.

Dispatch Supervisor Ed Bush joined the audience.

Franklin County Corrections Center – Appoint Representative

Mr. Bowen said Pasco City Manager Gary Crutchfield has requested that a committee be formed to determine how a jail, county offices and city offices could be financed. Mr. Crutchfield wants to start the committee right away.

Mr. Bowen asked the Board, first, does the county want to have a committee, and if so, who do you want to be on the committee? The committee would try to work out some details of the project.

Mr. Peck said we did have a consensus in previous meetings regarding moving forward on a jail so he feels taking this matter up in Mr. Koch's absence is not unreasonable.

Mr. Bowen said he agrees we need to have this committee. He had planned to wait until the initial drawings are available early in May so his timing of the issue is a little different than Mr. Crutchfield's.

Mr. Miller thinks Mr. Bowen should represent the county staff. Mr. Miller does not know if there would be any reason to be involved but he would be happy to attend also. Mr. Peck said let's give Mr. Bowen a chance to see what the time commitment will be and determine what the best makeup would be for this group. Mr. Peck would like to have a chance to get a sense of where this is going. He said to be candid, the economy is not doing very well. One of his concerns is going to the difficulty of getting a .03% increase in sales tax to fund the project and then with sales tax revenues down, not having that be enough. He is not sure at this point whether or not this is truly going to be viable. Mr. Peck said part of the reason for that is any efforts to create discussion about where we currently spend our money and making adjustments seems to be getting a mixed reaction at best.

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Mr. Peck asked based on your experience, what do you think the chances are that voters will want to support a .03% tax for criminal justice? It's been voted on twice before I got here. What's different now is what I'm asking.

Mr. Miller said a difference would be if the city was involved in approving it also. Mr. Bowen said the city took a neutral position on it before.

Mr. Bowen said if the city was to agree to move forward on the .03% it would be a big help. He said another difference was the last two times it was voted on, we were just looking for a general criminal justice tax increase and transportation to pave 30 miles of road. We didn't have a specific project. He has realized if there's a specific project, then the community is pretty reasonable to see a need in the community and come out in favor of it. If it's just general, it is not so likely. Mr. Bowen said we don't have a commitment from the City of Pasco that he knows of to support the .03%.

Mr. Peck would like to table the discussion of whether or not we appoint a commissioner to participate in that process until we've answered two questions: One, is the city willing to be an active participant with us; and two, are they willing to do so at the .03% level. If we can get those answers, we can revisit it. If the answer to both questions is yes, he would be more than happy to take this on. He is not particularly interested if there isn't a reasonable basis to think that this has a good probability of success.

Mr. Bowen said he knows that has been a concern of both of the other commissioners is that it has to be jointly done with the city and the county.

Mr. Bowen said he does not know if the answers can come back by Wednesday. Mr. Peck said he thinks Mr. Bowen's involvement is sufficient until we know the answer to those two questions.

Mr. Miller said he would agree, to see where that discussion goes and bring it back to us. He said there is a Law and Justice Council meeting scheduled for Friday, April 17.

Mr. Peck said I would certainly support the effort and would be happy to serve on the committee if the city is a full partner and they're willing to go for the 3/10ths.

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**DISPATCH**

Dispatch Directory Ed Bush met with the Board. Present in audience: Joe Chapman and Bob Hoffmann.

Washington State Military Department Contract Amendment #A to Contract #E09-048 for State Enhanced 911 Funds

Mr. Bush said the amendment does not change the bottom line on our budget. It is a process we go through every year. The 911 revenues have come in about \$30,000 more than predicted. The remainder is a change in our capital project for a phone system we have of about \$35,000 that was initially estimated to cost a higher amount.

Mr. Bush said last year we went through the process of having to pay the state some money back and then they paid it back to us. He has asked the state to make a change so that process does not need to occur again.

Mr. Bowen asked when the state reimburses the counties, it's based on the income you're receiving, and if you receive more income than you originally estimated, then the state's contribution declines by that amount? Mr. Bush said yes.

**Motion** – Mr. Peck: I would move that we approve Washington State Military Department Contract amendment #A to Contract #E09-048 for State Enhanced 911 Funds. Second by Mr. Miller. 2:0 vote in favor. This is Resolution 2009-145.

**Adjourned** at 9:58 am.

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There being no further business, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned until April 15, 2009.

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 April 27, 2009.