

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 50
FRANKLIN COUNTY
Commissioners' Proceeding for April 20, 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. Mr. Bowen was absent on other county business at the beginning of the meeting.

OFFICE BUSINESS

Secretary Patricia Shults met with the Board.

Consent Agenda

Motion - Mr. Peck: I move for approval of the consent agenda for April 20, 2009, as follows:

1. Approval of **Resolution 2009-150** for the Franklin County Public Works Department Organization Chart.
2. Approval of **Resolution 2009-151** authorizing the Chairman to sign the Minolta Copier Maintenance Contract between Abadan and Franklin County Information Services for model number C353, serial number A02E010014005, for period of twelve months commencing March 26, 2009, to be paid from the Current Expense Information Services Budget, Number 001-000-350, line item 518.80.45.0001 (Rentals & Leases – Copier).

Second by Mr. Koch. 3:0 vote in favor.

Vouchers/Warrants

Motion – Mr. Peck: I move approval of 2009 vouchers for April 20, 2009, in the total amount of \$479,093.53: Current Expense warrants 15814 through 15881 for \$96,442.50; Courthouse Facilitator warrant 15887 for \$895.00; Boating Safety warrants 15888 and 15889 for \$2324.50; DARE Fund Sheriff warrant 15890 for \$86.26; Sheriff/Sex Offender Grant warrant 15891 for \$1107.27; Crime Victims/Witness warrant 15892 for \$2781.31; FC Public Facilities Construction Fund warrant 15893 for \$10,276.47; FC Capital Projects Fund warrants 15894 through 15896 for \$9905.87; Courthouse Renovation Fund warrant 15897 for \$224.26; Sheriff/Sex Offender Grant warrant 15898 for \$245.88; Trial Court Improvement Fund warrant 15899 for \$717.70; Crime Victims/Witness warrant 15900 for \$387.20; Sheriff/Sex Offender Grant warrant 15901 for \$33.52; Jail

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Commissary warrants 15902 through 15907 for \$7405.05; Auditor O&M warrant 15908 for \$256.67; Election Equipment Revolving warrant 15909 for \$43.78; Sheriff's Narcotic Trust warrant 15910 for \$164.00; Jail Commissary warrant 15911 for \$103.41; Auditor O&M warrant 15912 for \$1049.97; L&I Reserve Fund warrant 15913 for \$1252.14; Current Expense warrants 15914 through 15963 for \$49,137.52; Solid Waste warrant 15964 for \$455.68; and Current Expense warrants 15965 through 16020 for \$293,797.57. Second by Mr. Koch. 3:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 1)

TRAC

TRAC Manager Troy Woody met with the Board.

Arena Naming Rights Agreement with Ranch and Home

Mr. Woody said the contract for naming rights in the arena is for \$35,000 a year for five years. The Board decided to have County Administrator Fred Bowen review the contract and put it on the consent agenda.

Capital Plan Projects

Mr. Woody has prepared a list of capital projects that could be done at TRAC using .09 monies (Exhibit 2). He said everything at TRAC except chairs is almost 14 years old.

January-March financial statement draft

The draft January through March financial statement was reviewed. Mr. Woody has not yet had a chance to analyze it in detail. Mr. Woody is considering paying a consultant to review the natural gas bills since there was a large spike in the cost.

Mr. Bowen joined the meeting.

TRAC Advisory Board

Some people have picked up applications for the vacant TRAC Advisory Board position. Mr. Peck restated his interest in having a mix of county and city representatives on the TRAC Advisory Board.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

County Administrator Fred Bowen met with the Board.

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Wireless Communications Policy: Cell Phone / Blackberry

Mr. Bowen told the Board his concerns about parts of the draft policy. He would like to implement the policy when the budget is open so that elected officials/department heads could explain why they want particular employees to have cell phones and/or Blackberries.

Mr. Peck said when we send a document to the Prosecutor for review, they are to review for legal form, not content. The content is the Commissioners' domain. He thinks we should ask which changes are based on legal necessity as opposed to policy preference. Mr. Bowen has spoken to Prosecutor Steve Lowe who told him whatever the commissioners want to do is fine.

Mr. Koch said he has never charged the county for any data for his Blackberry because he didn't feel it should be wide open to have anyone charge the county for data. Consequently he may be one of the few employees who has never charged for data. In reviewing invoices, he is not sure that people who are charging the County Current Expense budget for data necessarily need that data charge. Mr. Miller agreed. Mr. Koch said the majority of the county employees he is aware of that are using Blackberries work from eight to five. They are not working from home or working out of town. He said if they have a use for it, a need for it, then I'm all for it.

Mr. Miller said we discussed once that department heads should probably come to us to present who they were going to give that data service to. Mr. Koch said he feels the approval needs to come before the Commissioners.

Mr. Peck said he can see three approaches. One approach is we set a policy and say only elected officials and department heads and name what positions would be eligible. The second option would be for us to give broad categories and then leave it up to the discretion of an elected official of who within the categories they would give it to. Third, we can simply say it is up to the elected official and say they should have to take it out of their budget. Mr. Peck said the third option is too open-ended for him to be comfortable.

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Mr. Bowen said there could be a Communications line in the department budgets to pay for that service and then the elected official/department head will have to explain the need. Then it can be plugged into the budgets.

Mr. Peck said instead of identifying specific people, couldn't we have them identify which positions? He feels the duties of the job are what would determine whether a wireless communications device was needed.

PUBLIC WORKS

Assistant Engineer Guy Walters met with the Board.

Vouchers

In response to Mr. Peck's concern about the process to prepare and approve vouchers, Mr. Walters said each voucher is signed individually by the engineer or himself prior to review by the Board of Commissioners.

Motion – Mr. Peck: I would move approval of Franklin County Public Works vouchers for County Road Fund for \$65,125.46; MV & PW Equipment Fund for \$71,518.33; Solid Waste Fund for \$18,727.24; and Solid Waste Fund for \$514.87. Second by Mr. Koch. 3:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 3)

Recommendation: Just Compensation CRP 596 R-170

Mr. Walters asked for approval of Just Compensation recommendation to begin negotiations with the McAfee family for three parcels.

Mr. Koch asked if there are still other acquisitions required for this particular project. Mr. Walters thinks this is the last one for the south end of the project. He believes there are still some property acquisitions required on the north end.

Mr. Koch asked if this parcel fits with the English parcel and the one mile portion of the project. Mr. Walters said yes. The maps were reviewed.

Motion – Mr. Peck: I move approval of Franklin County offer of just compensation to the McAfee Family Trust in the approximate total amount of \$42,000 for three parcels as part of CRP 596, R170 project. Second by Mr. Koch. 3:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 4) (Clerk's Note: The above motion was amended on April 22, 2009.)

R170 Funding – Letter to Representative Doc Hastings

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Rick Miller said he called a staff member from Doc Hastings office about the R170 project. For this authorization, the deadline is April 24. When new programs come out, then the project can be added to the appropriations list.

Mr. Peck said he read in the Tri-City Herald about the county having missed a deadline. He asked what Public Works' perspective is about that. What happened? Mr. Walters does not know because he was not involved in this project.

Mr. Miller said he had asked County Engineer Tim Fife previously and was told the project was on the list and we were just waiting. Mr. Koch said I don't think Mr. Fife realized it had to be sent in every year. He sent it in but didn't realize it was an annual application.

Mr. Peck asked to anyone's knowledge did we get a notice from Doc Hasting's office for the funding? Mr. Koch said he doubts they would do that. Mr. Peck said he wonders if we got a notice and missed it. He said his interest is not in trying to scapegoat someone but he wants to know how it got dropped so we don't do it again.

Mr. Miller said he feels Mr. Fife has been on this job long enough that he should have known. Has it been a practice or has it been changed? Mr. Walters said one factor may be that we're not used to submitting projects. It is not a common thing that has been experienced in the past.

Mr. Miller one factor would have been that the transportation aide working with Representative Hastings is new on the job.

Mr. Miller asked Mr. Bowen if he was aware of the deadline. Mr. Bowen was not aware of it. He had forwarded any information the National Association of Counties (NACo) sent him to the Public Works office.

Motion – Mr. Koch: I move that we forward a letter to Doc Hastings, United States House of Representatives, regarding the high priority project request for the R170 landslide road replacement. Second by Mr. Peck. 3:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 5)

INFORMATION SERVICES (IS)

IS Director Kevin Scott and Assistant Director Liz Cupples met with the Board.
Present in audience: Carrie Huie Pascua.

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Firewall Upgrade

Mr. Scott explained the need to upgrade the firewall. It can be purchased now or be replaced in October at an extra cost of \$437. He is asking for Board approval because of the spending freeze. Mr. Scott is recommending upgrading now.

Mr. Bowen asked the Board for clarification. Does the Board want the departments to come to them for approval of these types of requests or can he just handle these and not waste the Board's time?

Mr. Peck said my understanding was that anybody who wanted to make major purchases for anything not already in the budget needed to go to Mr. Bowen and he should exercise discretion about whether it should come to the Board. Mr. Koch and Mr. Miller agreed.

The Board decided a resolution is not required for the firewall upgrade project.

I-Phone Equipment Estimate

Mr. Scott and Ms. Cupples responded to Mr. Peck's question about the cost to install equipment so that I-Phones could be used by county employees on county business. Ms. Cupples estimates the cost would be about \$5000 for the work, not including servers. Mr. Scott can obtain a more detailed cost estimate if the Board would like.

Mr. Bowen asked if it would make more sense to go to I-phone than Blackberry. Mr. Scott said not really. He briefly explained some security concerns.

Mr. Peck said it doesn't sound like there are enough people using I-phones to pursue it at this time when only two people are using the I-phones.

Mr. Scott said the Board should be aware that there is a one-time fee of \$99 to buy each Blackberry license.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

County Administrator Fred Bowen met with the Board. Present in audience:
Carrie Huie Pascua.

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Agendas

Mr. Bowen asked for Board direction about the County Administrator agenda. He is concerned about slowing county business if all items are required to be in detail on his agenda several days ahead of a meeting. Mr. Miller said there will be things that cannot be on the agenda ahead of time but when items are known, it should be on the agenda ahead of time.

Mr. Koch said he feels it should be on the agenda to carry on a decision-type conversation. We do have the option to make a last-minute change if we need to for government business. He said after reading last week's minutes, he is having a hard time wondering why you would change for one person, such as moving meeting days to Tuesday and Thursday. Mr. Miller said it's a public meeting for many people, not just one person.

Mr. Bowen said what I'm hearing is my agenda needs to be on the Commissioners' agenda. Mr. Miller said it should say Other Business too.

Mr. Peck said I share Mr. Bowen's concern about slowing the process. Maybe a compromise position is any items that will involve formal board action, i.e., resolutions, need to be on the agenda with only limited exceptions for short notice items that should not wait and that we be allowed under other business to do just as our meeting announcement says: The Board may add, delete or postpone items or take action on items not on the agenda. He said he is not sure the policy is in need of adjustment, just that we make an effort to list individually any items where we intend to take action.

Mr. Miller said I agree. If there was going to be a discussion and an approval, a decision, I think that needs to be on the agenda.

Mr. Bowen said everyone that comes in would have to bring their agenda items in a week in advance to put it on the agenda. It's not good for business.

Mr. Koch said Public Works usually includes vouchers so voucher approval could be listed on the agenda. He said TRAC and RV Park could be listed as a department update.

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Mr. Peck asked if a commissioner would be willing to research what the legal requirement is and run it against our policy and make a recommendation. It sounds like we have two or three different points of view of how much detail is required. I'm not sure how much detail is legally required. Mr. Bowen asked if the civil attorney can work on finding out what the legal requirements are.

Mr. Koch suggested asking the Municipal Research Service Corporation (MRSC). Mr. Miller asked Mr. Koch to work on researching the matter. Mr. Koch said he feels there is so much work assigned to the civil attorney now that this matter would be an added burden.

Recessed at 10:35 am.

Reconvened at 10:40 am.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

County Administrator Fred Bowen and Human Services Director Carrie Huie Pascua met with the Board.

Executive Session at 10:41 am regarding contract negotiations based on RCW 42.30.140(4) expected to last 15 minutes.

Executive Session continued at 10:58 am expected to last 10 minutes. Those waiting outside the room were notified.

Open Session at 11:10 am.

Recessed at 11:10 am.

The Board met in a Budget Workshop Session at 11:15 am.

The Board met in a Workshop Session with the Community Action Committee (CAC) and the Human Services Department and for CTED at 2:30 pm to discuss the lead agency application to the Washington State Community Trade and Economic Development (CTED) in coordination with the Benton and Franklin Counties' Ten-Year Plan to reduce homelessness.

Adjourned at 3:45 pm.

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There being no further business, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned until April 22, 2009.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Chairman

Chairman Pro Tem

Member

Attest:

Clerk to the Board

Approved and signed April 22, 2009.