

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 50
FRANKLIN COUNTY
Commissioners' Proceeding for April 27, 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.

LOBBYIST

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

OFFICE BUSINESS

Secretary Patricia Shults met with the Board. Present in audience: Troy Woody.
Consent Agenda

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

1. Approval of **Resolution 2009-157** authorizing expenditures in the amount of \$22,963.76 utilizing funds from the Miscellaneous Trial Court Improvement Fund, Number 128-000-001, line item 594.12.60.0000 (Capital Expenditures), as requested from the Trial Court Improvement Fund Authorization Committee.
2. Approval of **Resolution 2009-158** authorizing an inter budget transfer in the amount of \$2,530 from the 2009 Current Expense Information Services Budget, Number 001-000-350, to the Capital Outlay Budget, Number 001-000-710, line item 594.18.64.3501 (Computers & Equip) to pay for firewall protection.

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

Minutes

Motion – Mr. Koch: I would move for approval of Commissioners Proceedings for March 30, April 8, that I was present for. I would move for approval of April 13 and 15 as read. Second by Mr. Peck. 3:0 vote in favor.

Vouchers/Warrants

Motion – Mr. Koch: I would move for fund expenditures in the total amount of \$17,209.08: Law Library warrants 16296 through 16298 for \$8,308.87; Veteran's Assistance warrants 16299 through 16302 for \$391.14; Current Expense warrant 16303 for \$2,285.96; and Franklin County RV Facility warrants 16304 through 16309 for \$6,223.11. Second by Mr. Peck. 3:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 1)

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TRAC

TRAC Manager Troy Woody met with the Board. Present in audience: Joe Chapman.

First Quarter Profit and Loss Statement

The first quarter profit and loss statement was reviewed.

Gas Consumption Update

A chart was reviewed showing a five-year historical use of gas at TRAC. Further work will be done to try to determine why the gas consumption was so high in certain months. Mr. Peck asked Mr. Woody to shut down all the gas appliances and see if the meter is still moving to determine if there is a significant leak.

Emergency Preparedness Update

Mr. Woody showed the Board a map of where people would converge at TRAC during an emergency. The emergency preparedness planning has included TRAC staff, Emergency Management Office and Red Cross. Other entities will also be involved before the final plan is prepared.

Mr. Woody said the Board eventually will have to determine who is in charge in the event of an emergency. He said the International Association of Auditorium Managers information says the facility people have to maintain control of the facility and told the Board several reasons. TRAC management can assign other agencies to specific spaces and then those agencies can have control of those spaces.

Comedienne Show/GAP West Broadcasting

Mr. Woody said TRAC received a total of about \$2550 profit for a revenue sharing event. We received \$905 in room rental, \$900 in beer garden and \$750 in ticket fees.

Posters

Mr. Woody gave the Board several posters for upcoming events at TRAC.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

County Administrator Fred Bowen met with the Board.

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Executive Session at 9:34 am regarding contract negotiations expected to last 15 minutes based on RCW 42.30.41.140(4).

Executive Session continued at 9:50 am expected to last 10 minutes.

Open Session at 10:03 am.

PUBLIC WORKS

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

Resolution: Acceptance of Goose Hollow Road, Pheasant Lane, Pheasant Court and Pelican Court as shown in the Final Plat of Goose Hollow and declaring them county roads

Motion – Mr. Koch: I would move for the acceptance of Goose Hollow Road, Pheasant Lane, Pheasant Court and Pelican Court as shown in the final plat of Goose Hollow and declaring them county roads. Second by Mr. Peck.

Mr. Fife answered Mr. Peck's questions about the process involved to declare the roads as county roads.

3:0 vote in favor. This is Resolution 2009-159.

Engineering Services for Benton County

Benton County has requested approval to use Franklin County Engineer Tim Fife to perform engineering services for Benton County on a temporary basis. Mr. Bowen said the figure used for reimbursement should be salary and benefits plus overhead. Mr. Fife read from the duties list that Benton County provided to him. Mr. Bowen said the work is expected to last two to three months at the most. A termination date will be added to the contract. It will be reviewed by the Prosecutor's Office. Mr. Bowen does not see it as a conflict of interest to Franklin County.

Mr. Peck asked if Mr. Fife has time to do the work. He asked are we that well staffed in Public Works? Mr. Bowen said no, I think we're just trying to assist our neighboring county. Mr. Fife said we are between projects right now. Mr. Bowen said Benton County has staff doing most of the work but needs the engineer's stamp. Mr. Fife said if I have to put in extra hours, that's what I'll do.

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Mr. Peck said I think we should approve the request. Mr. Koch and Mr. Miller agreed.

TRANSIT AND JAIL TAX

Sharon Zeller cancelled her meeting with the Board. Present in audience: Joe Chapman, Lisa Schumacher and Connie Curiel.

Mr. Miller said Ms. Zeller sent a note to the Board.

Mr. Peck said Ms. Zeller's note says that she would not like to see money go towards the jail and she wants it to stay in the transportation system. Mr. Peck said he wanted to make a comment.

He thinks this is a response to a general misrepresentation of the comments that he has made that are certainly researchable through our electronic minutes. The perception that has been created through media coverage and other sources is that I want to move money from the Transit system to jails. Actually what I have said repeatedly and openly and on the record is that my two objectives are to shine light on where taxpayer dollars are going now and to stimulate public debate that leads to citizen input so the commissioners can make informed decisions about where those tax dollars are spent and to give citizens a greater voice in where those dollars are spent.

Mr. Peck said it is true that I have said that Franklin County needs improved jail facilities and I have suggested that if there were a reduction in the Transit tax, the voters might be more amenable to voting in funds for a jail. But I've also made it very, very clear that not only is it not my proposal but it's not even legal to move funds directly from Transit to jail to anywhere else. We've got a severe funding shortage in the public health department. My initial look at the budget suggests that the Transit budget is approximately 325% of the Benton-Franklin Health Department budget. If I read those numbers correctly, I think that is ridiculous. I'm really trying to bring some reason to where the funds are going. I'm a fan of Transit. I think Transit is a wonderful resource in the community. I think it's necessary. I'm not advocating that it go away. I'm simply saying that I've chosen to use Transit to illustrate my point, which is when you don't have the money to pay for everything you want, you absolutely must distinguish between wants

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and needs. When I do that and I look at the disparity between Transit and Health and criminal justice, I think things are badly out of balance and need to be re-prioritized. Rather than Commissioners doing that in a vacuum, I think we should seek citizen input on the question, which frankly in the case of Transit requires the issue to be on the ballot.

Since Ms. Zeller had scheduled time to come in and speak about not having money go towards the jail and staying in the transportation system, it's clear that she is also under the misimpression that my effort is to move money from Transit to Jail.

As I've just described, I want to shine light on the current situation, seek citizen input, get some prioritization about where the dollars go, and frankly if the citizens decide that they want 99% of their tax revenue to go to Transit, I can certainly respect that. I think we have an obligation to bring some clarity to the situation. That's what I'm trying to do.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

County Administrator Fred Bowen met with the Board. Present in audience: Joe Chapman, Lisa Schumacher and Connie Curiel.

Review of Commissioners Budget #001-000-680

Mr. Bowen asked the Board members to review the Commissioners Budget regarding travel amounts and give him suggestions for reducing the amounts. Rather than open up the budgets at this time, the reduced amounts will be put in a reserve account. Mr. Bowen asked the Board to also review some information about a reduced vehicle rental rate.

Resolution to establish a uniform work week

County Clerk Mike Killian joined the audience.

Mr. Bowen said we have been working on establishing a uniform work week since 2008. It balances out the salaries for all employees in Current Expense. He has received verbal approval from the Sheriff's Clerical workers union but not received written approval yet. It will become effective May 1, 2009.

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Motion – Mr. Peck: I move approval of establishing uniform work week of 37.5 hours per week for non-exempt employees with exceptions as noted in this resolution. Second by Mr. Koch. 3:0 vote in favor. This is Resolution 2009-160.

Executive Session at 10:30 am regarding contract negotiations expected to last 20 minutes based on RCW 42.30.110(g) for performance review.

Open Session at 10:50 am.

Adjourned at 10:50 am.

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There being no further business, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned until April 29, 2009.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Chairman

Chairman Pro Tem

Member

Attest:

Clerk to the Board

Approved and signed April 29, 2009.