

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 50  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
Commissioners' Proceeding for August 3, 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. Board meeting convened at 9:01 am.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

County Administrator Fred Bowen met with the Board. Present in audience: Robin Stanco from Auditor's Office, Sharon Paradis, Tri-City Herald Reporter Dalina Castellanos and Stella Pederson.

Public Hearing: To take testimony for and against decreasing the revenue and expenditure bottom lines of the 2009 Current Expense Budget, Number 001-000-001 by \$707,852, from \$24,326,313 to \$23,618,461

Public Hearing convened at 9:01 am. Present: Commissioners Miller, Koch and Peck; County Administrator Fred Bowen; Robin Stanco from the Auditor's Office; and Clerk to the Board Mary Withers. Present in audience: Sharon Paradis, Tri-City Herald Reporter Dalina Castellanos and Stella Pederson.

Mr. Bowen said several county staff members have been working on the budget figures for several months. He said we think this change will get us to the end of the year but we are continuing to monitor the budget very closely. If we have any more difficulties, we will open the budgets again. Our goal is to keep our reserves. He thinks we'll be able to do that.

Robin Stanco said she feels they are good solid adjustments and include salary adjustments for the terminated employees, a reduction in our retirement rate from approximately 8.31% down three points to about 5.29%, and the effect of the furloughs.

Mr. Miller asked if anyone in the audience would like to testify as a proponent. There was no response.

Mr. Miller asked three times if anyone in the audience would like to speak against the decrease. There was no response.

Mr. Bowen and Ms. Stanco answered the Board's questions about the Commissioners travel line items.

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Mr. Peck said in the comments you use the term "terminated employees." Do you mean eliminated positions? Ms. Stanco said right. Mr. Bowen said four positions were eliminated under the Commissioners departments. Mr. Bowen said two other positions are not going to be refilled at this point, one in the Clerk's Office and one Sheriff's deputy.

Mr. Miller said we have gone through the budget figures over the last three months.

**Motion** – Mr. Peck: I would move that we decrease the revenue and expenditure bottom lines of the Current Expense budget by \$707,852 from \$24,326,313 to \$23,618,461 as presented in the resolution by the County Administrator. Second by Mr. Koch. 3:0 vote in favor. This is Resolution 2009-313.

Discussion regarding possible inter-fund loan of \$500,000 from 2009 Miscellaneous Expense

Public Works has requested a loan from Current Expense. If the county cannot give a loan, Public Works will need to go on interest-bearing warrants. Mr. Bowen asked for approval to use \$500,000 as a loan to Public Works. He explained the source of the funds. Public Works will not be able to refund that loan until April 2010. We would receive interest on it while they are using it. Mr. Bowen said his biggest concern is if Current Expense were to have cash flow problems. If Public Works used interest-bearing warrants, the interest rate would be substantially higher. He answered the Board's questions.

Mr. Koch asked for background information about why Public Works needs the loan. Mr. Bowen said the budgets are based on revenue projects, as they have been for many years. Public Works projected the revenues and started the chip seal program and purchased \$1.2 million in oil products. However, the gas tax amounts are not coming in as expected. Public Works knows it will not reach its projected revenue by the end of the year, leaving them short by \$500,000. They know that next year they will not be doing any chip seal program which will make them whole again. They will divert their

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attention to gravel roads because of recent complaints about gravel roads. It will save more than \$1 million. He said Public Works has laid four people off.

If Current Expense needs the money, Public Works would pay it back immediately.

Mr. Peck asked Mr. Bowen to obtain more information.

Mr. Peck said I wouldn't have any problem making the transfer on the stipulation you said that they could switch to warrants literally in a work week or less. Otherwise, he would want to know what the dollar cost is to issue warrants now, to look at the actual dollar cost against the risk.

Mr. Koch feels the Treasurer and Auditor should be able to keep us informed with less than a 30-day notice for sure. Mr. Bowen said interest-bearing warrants would put quite a workload on the Treasurer's office because they have to monitor it almost daily. It would be simpler if we could lend them the \$500,000. Mr. Peck said I agree, cheaper and simpler if we could get the money back when needed.

Mr. Bowen said he feels fairly comfortable the funds available (\$1 million) that will be put into Current Expense for cash flow purposes will carry us to tax collection time but he is also a little leery. He has been told the Office of Public Defense may need another \$140,000 transfer.

Mr. Peck said it becomes an interesting study in the interrelationship between how many law enforcement people you have on the street versus crimes committed versus downstream costs of courts. Just preventing one of those crimes and eliminating one of those murder trials would save the county a lot of miles of road that people want paved.

Mr. Miller said he would agree to the loan if it can be returned to Current Expense quickly if needed. Mr. Koch also agreed.

Mr. Bowen said if there is no guarantee that there is a quick turnaround on the money, then we will not do it. Mr. Bowen left the meeting to talk to the Treasurer.

**JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER (JJC)**

JJC Director Sharon Paradis met with the Board. Present in audience: Dalina Castellanos.

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Percentage Split for 2010 Operations Budget

Ms. Paradis gave the Board a chart showing the five-year figures of the at-risk population that determines the percentage split for the Operations Department year 2010 budget (Exhibit 1). The at-risk population is defined as 10- to 17-year-olds in each of the two counties. We look at it over a five-year average. We rely on year-old OFM population information. The five-year population for Franklin County has increased a bit so Franklin County's share for 2010 will be 30% with Benton County's share 70%.

The Facilities budget remains the same at 72/28, a historical fixed rate that does not vary.

**OFFICE BUSINESS**

Vouchers

**Motion** – Mr. Peck: I move approval of Salary Clearing payroll in the amount of \$688,157.05 as well as Emergency Management payroll for \$17,61.85 and Irrigation payroll for \$14,075.02:

Salary Clearing Payroll warrants 48911 through 48991 for \$175,714.20; warrants 48992 through 49003 for \$223,087.20; and Direct Deposit for \$289,355.65;

Emergency Management Payroll warrants 20010 through 20021 for \$4022.35; warrants 20022 through 20031 for \$5199.10; and Direct Deposit for \$7940.40; and

Irrigation Payroll warrants 20160 through 20172 for \$9320.18; and warrants 20173 through 20180 for \$4754.84.

Second by Mr. Koch. 3:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 2)

Consent Agenda

Secretary Patricia Shults met with the Board. Present in audience: Dalina Castellanos, Stella Pederson and Engineer Tim Fife.

**Motion** - Mr. Koch: Mr. Chairman, I would move for approval of the consent agenda for August 3 as presented:

1. Approval of **joint Resolution 2009-314** in the matter of appointing Kathy Mills-George as a County-Designated Mental Health Professional. (Exhibit 3: Information sheet.)

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2. Approval of **Resolution 2009-315** establishing an Infrastructure and Useful Lives Policy.
3. Approval of **Resolution 2009-316** authorizing payment of \$1,956.20 for Franklin County's portion (1/5 share) of an invoice accrued by the Landfill Group to Aspect Consulting LLC for professional consulting services.
4. Approval of **joint Resolution 2009-317** 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 between the Juvenile Justice Center and Ernie Chapin, effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. (Exhibit 4: Information sheet.)
5. Approval of ***Voluntary Transfer of Annual Leave Request***, as per Resolution 2001-246, for John White to transfer 9 hours to Scott Long (Connell Road Department).
6. Approval of **joint Resolution 2009-318** in the matter of the request for signature from the Chairman of the Boards of Benton and Franklin County Commissioners on the Interagency Agreement, Number IAA10121, between the Juvenile Justice Center and the State of Washington, Administrative Office of the Court, effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2011, for Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) representation to dependent youth. (Exhibit 5: Information sheet.)
7. Approval of **joint Resolution 2009-319** in the matter of the request for signature from the Chairman of the Boards of Benton and Franklin County Commissioners on the Amendment to the Agreement, Number 07/09-SA-FSCCS-01, between First Steps Community Counseling Services and Benton-Franklin Counties Department of Human Services, extending substance abuse treatment services through September 30, 2009, and amending Franklin County Resolution 2007-353. (Exhibit 6: Information sheet.)
8. Approval of **joint Resolution 2009-320** in the matter of the request for signature from the Chairman of the Boards of Benton and Franklin County Commissioners on the Amendment to the Agreement, Number 07/09-SA-AFW-01, between Advocates for Wellness and Benton-Franklin Counties Department of Human Services, extending substance abuse treatment services through September 30, 2009, and amending Franklin County Resolution 2007-359. (Exhibit 7: Information sheet.)
9. Approval of **joint Resolution 2009-321** in the matter of the request for signature from the Chairman of the Boards of Benton and Franklin County Commissioners on the Amendment to the Agreement, Number 07/09-SA-KCS-01, between

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Knowledge Counseling Services and Benton-Franklin Counties Department of Human Services, extending substance abuse treatment services through September 30, 2009, and amending Franklin County Resolution 2007-360. (Exhibit 8: Information sheet.)

10. Approval of **joint Resolution 2009-322** in the matter of the request for signature from the Chairman of the Boards of Benton and Franklin County Commissioners on the Amendment to the Agreement, Number 07/09-SA-SCC-01, between Somerset Counseling Services and Benton-Franklin Counties Department of Human Services, extending substance abuse treatment services through September 30, 2009, and amending Franklin County Resolution 2007-361. (Exhibit 9: Information sheet.)
11. Approval of **joint Resolution 2009-323** in the matter of the request for signature from the Chairman of the Boards of Benton and Franklin County Commissioners on the Amendment to the Agreement, Number 07/09-SA-UCS-01, between Unity Counseling Services and Benton-Franklin Counties Department of Human Services, extending substance abuse treatment services through September 30, 2009, and amending Franklin County Resolution 2007-383. (Exhibit 10: Information sheet.)
12. Approval of **joint Resolution 2009-324** in the matter of the request for signature from the Chairman of the Boards of Benton and Franklin County Commissioners on the Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED) Housing Division, Housing Assistance Unit, Housing Opportunities for Personnas with Aids (HOPWA), Grant Number 09-45201-07, effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. (Exhibit 11: Information sheet.)
13. Approval of **Resolution 2009-325** amending Resolution Number 2007-165 for the agreement to provide Spanish interpreting services for Franklin County Superior Court between Franklin County and Rosie Arteaga, effective August 3, 2009 through December 31, 2009.
14. Approval of Franklin County Motor Vehicle Fund payroll in the amount of \$11,923.54 and County Road Fund payroll in the amount of \$82,730.02 for pay period ending July 23, 2009.

Public Works loan

Mr. Bowen returned to the meeting. He said banks don't do interest bearing warrants anymore. They will open up a line of credit. Whether you use it or not, you're paying fees that are substantially higher than the state investment. The current state

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investment rate is .65. If Current Expense loans to Public Works, our rate would be at .65 also. The treasurer can do interest-bearing warrants. They treat that just as they do any other investment. They would loan Public Works the \$500,000 at .65. The difference is that it puts a lot of work on the Treasurer's Department to keep track of the investments, while a loan would be a one-time set fee plus the interest. If we need the money back, it would be just as easy as writing a warrant. We can meet the one-week window.

Mr. Koch said as far as the quick turnaround time, I would be comfortable loaning \$500,000. Mr. Miller agreed. Mr. Peck said you already have my position; it has not changed.

Mr. Bowen told Mr. Fife the Board will loan \$500,000.

Vouchers

**Motion** – Mr. Peck: I move approval for vouchers for August 3, 2009, in the total amount of \$175,799.36: Current Expense warrants 20216 through 20284 for \$4,153.19; Veteran's Assistance warrants 20386 through 20387 for \$1,037.50; Franklin County Unemployment Fund warrant 20388 for \$19,931.65; Auditor O&M warrant 20389 for \$200.00; Current Expense warrant 20398 for \$149.00; Current Expense warrants 20399 through 20422 for \$17,033.61; Law Library warrant 20423 for \$73.92; Treasurer O&M warrant 20424 for \$382.57; Current Expense warrants 20425 through 20449 for \$54,451.11; Jail Commissary warrants 20450 through 20458 for \$13,698.94; Crime Victims warrants 20459 through 20460 for \$5,719.50; Franklin County Capital Projects Fund warrant 20461 for \$18,441.87; Franklin County Public Facilities Construction Fund warrants 20462 through 20463 for \$3,978.87; Auditor O&M warrants 20464 through 20465 for \$12,890.49; and Current Expense warrants 20466 through 20517 for \$23,657.14. Second by Mr. Koch. 3:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 12)

**Motion** – Mr. Koch: Mr. Chairman, I move for approval if inter fund loan in the amount of \$500,000 from the 2009 Miscellaneous Expense Capital Projects Fund #300-000-001 to the 2009 Miscellaneous Expense County Roads Fund #150-000-001. Second by Mr. Peck. 3:0 vote in favor. This is Resolution 2009-326.

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**PROSECUTOR**

Chief Civil Attorney Ryan Verhulp and Engineer Tim Fife met with the Board.

Present in audience: Dalina Castellanos, Stella Pederson and Lee Eickmeyer.

Public Hearing: To take testimony to consider and possibly take final action on whether or not to authorize condemnation of certain property and/or property rights. The properties at issue are portions of the properties commonly known as Franklin County Parcel Nos. 593-01 (Tax Id.# 115-170-048), 593-02 (Tax Id.# 115-170-084), 593-03 (Tax Id.# 115-180-019), and 593-04 (Tax Id.# 115-180-037).

Public Hearing convened at 10:05 am. Present: Commissioners Miller, Koch and Peck; Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor Ryan Verhulp; Engineer Tim Fife; and Clerk to the Board Mary Withers. Present in audience: Dalina Castellanos, Stella Pederson and Lee Eickmeyer.

Mr. Fife said there are four parcels for which we have not settled on right-of-way. Notice has been provided to all property owners. In addition, we have exchanged information with property owners and their attorney Stella Pederson who is present here today before the Board.

Mr. Fife said we have numbered the parcels from 1 to 4. He pointed out the parcel boundaries on a map on the screen.

The meeting was recessed while a computer problem was resolved.

**Recessed** at 10:28 am.

**Reconvened** at 10:43 am.

Rick Doehle and Kyler Bachofner joined the audience.

An aerial map was reviewed on the screen. Mr. Fife outlined the route of the road on the screen using a pointer.

Mr. Fife answered Mr. Peck's questions about the current routes in the general area.

Mr. Peck said he was not here when the effort on the Road 100 Extension/Dent Road project started. He asked what is the primary motivation? Is it avoiding Road 68? Mr. Koch said yes. Mr. Fife said before we made any decisions, we took an area that

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includes portions of Sagemoor Road and Road 68 and did a model of current and projected traffic out 20 years and what the needs were. He gave a brief history of the route design work that has been done and the needs that were identified. The study showed a need to let people avoid the commercial corridor on Road 68 and get to Road 100 to access the freeway if they are headed towards the west. Public hearings were held. The way it is turning out, Powerline Road may be built first. It was not planned when the initial route for the Road 100 Extension was being prepared.

He explained the route for which the RAP funding has been approved. If we do not do the project, we would probably have to turn the money back and may also have to repay the amount that has been spent already.

Mr. Miller asked how big Powerline Road will be. Mr. Fife said it is being planned now as a 28 foot wide shouldered road. His understanding is as it develops, they would eventually put curb, gutter and sidewalk in.

Mr. Miller said he hates to see a circle being divided like that but because of the loss of funding -- He asked we would lose all the funding if we changed anything? Mr. Fife said we would have to look at turning it back because the funding we have in place is to replace this route (indicated). He showed which would be local access roads and which would be arterial routes once it is built. He said it would be more functional to get traffic through the area. One portion has been designated as a Federal arterial route for many years.

Mr. Fife said there was not any opposition at the public hearing that he was aware of. There were a number of open houses held. Most of the responses were overwhelming that we need this; let's get it done. Some different alternatives were considered that modified the route, primarily at the north end near Easy Street. Financially some of the alternatives were not viable.

Mr. Miller asked three times if anyone in the audience would like to comment as proponents in favor. There was no response.

Mr. Miller asked if anyone in the audience would like to speak in opposition.

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Stella Pederson, 84 Winwood Lane in Richland, Washington, spoke. I am counsel for the owners of all four of these pieces of property. My clients object to the location and specifically to the design, particularly as it passes through and divides that circle. Mr. Eickmeyer is the owner or tenant of each piece of these properties.

Ms. Pederson said Mr. Mullen had spoken to someone during the process so she believes there was opposition at the public hearings.

We've reviewed the county's appraisals and we disagree with their calculations on lost acreage, on how they propose to redesign the irrigation, because they ignore the fact that when you move a circle it impacts the other circles around it. She gave examples.

Ms. Pederson said Mr. Eickmeyer is also a resident of Easy Street and doesn't want to see Easy Street become a major thoroughfare.

Mr. Peck asked if our appraiser took into account the potential lost property issues that counsel raised. Mr. Fife said he took it into consideration. He may not have viewed it the same way. Mr. Peck asked but it's not an unknown? Mr. Fife said it's not an unknown. The original appraisals were done in July 2008. We did not hear anything back from the property owners until a couple months ago. We finally have that information. Because the appraisals are a year old, we had to do another appraisal. The negotiation process has not really taken place to date.

The hearing was set to at least get the process moving and do a condemnation action if it becomes necessary. That does not mean we can't reach an agreement.

Mr. Peck asked what I think I heard you say is if we move forward with this action, it doesn't close out the window for negotiating compensation? Mr. Verhulp said it does not. Mr. Verhulp said it just furthers the prosecutor's and the Board's authority to acquire the property and by negotiations is one of those means. I've advised Ms. Pederson of that as well.

Ms. Pederson said we have provided a counter offer to the county on June 9. We'll negotiate but we really would rather see the process not move forward.

Mr. Verhulp said prior to any Board action, I would recommend we take a brief executive session.

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Mr. Miller asked if anyone else would like to speak in opposition.

Lee Eickmeyer, 510 Easy Street, spoke. I'm against it. I can't understand dividing the farms. It doesn't make a lot of sense. How you are going to put a half circle here and not lose any ground is beyond me. I talked to your appraiser about it. He didn't want to hear anything. Every circle is going to be impacted and every circle is going to cost.

Mr. Eickmeyer said you seem to be really money conscious (pointed at Tim Fife). We've got neighbors who are dying to get this road. I don't know where the \$7 million for a mile of road comes from but aren't you spending a lot of money to go this way? I understand you have grant money.

This is your showcase of the whole Tri-Cities right here (indicated another area on the map near the Columbia River) and you are bypassing it. He thinks the tax base from the area he pointed out would be large. He said the area he indicated is a diamond in the rough. This is a chance for the county commissioners to really do something good for the county.

Mr. Eickmeyer talked about some intersections and how people don't like to have to stop. He asked where the stop signs will be at the intersection where Douglas Fruit is located. Mr. Fife said that hasn't been designed yet.

Mr. Eickmeyer said he understands it's all about the money for you but sometimes you've got to look past that. He feels the road would be a road to nowhere. He would like the road built on another corridor where everybody wants it. He questions why it would cost \$7 million to build a mile of road. He said I'm sure you can do it cheaper than that.

Mr. Fife answered Mr. Eickmeyer's question, saying the funding we received is for redoing existing routes.

Mr. Eickmeyer asked if the tax base of Franklin County was brought up and if economic development was brought up. He said you've got to look at it going this way (gestured horizontally on the map). It's not always about the money. You're going to pick up the money with the tax base.

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Mr. Fife said we need both of the routes, referring to the Road 100 Extension/Dent Road project and another road that would possibly be built west of it.

Mr. Eickmeyer said put the one that belongs there first instead of breaking up property. You're breaking up farms. There's not a person that lives in the corridor on Easy Street that wants the road. Nobody wants to develop and live on a fast road like Taylor Flats Road. Now you want to put roads through the farms and break up farms. You guys should understand it as county commissioners.

He said who knows how long it's going to drag out between us. It's your call there.

Mr. Miller told Mr. Eickmeyer that he has brought this matter up, to go another route. Mr. Fife said you need to do both but we have funding for this route. Mr. Miller said we have discussed these different issues and different possibilities. I farmed. I raised potatoes. I know what it's like to split a circle. If we could do it, I would prefer going the other direction myself, but the funding is not there. To me, I think we would have to review that and do it over again.

Mr. Fife said the six-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that was just passed was a study to determine routes in this area. We're not ignoring it. I would suspect that corridor is the one that we'll survey but we don't know yet.

Mr. Miller asked do we have any numbers on traffic flow? Mr. Fife said there is a model done for this whole area in that study that went to the Board before it was approved. I realize the Board members have changed since then. I can share it with you but I don't have it with me right now.

In response to Mr. Eickmeyer's questions, Mr. Fife said the plan that was approved is to come down Fanning Road and cross Fanning, then Easy Street and come down (indicated). We've already been told a lot of people are going to use Fanning Road so that's why we paved it. Mr. Eickmeyer said you're running all this traffic through the farming areas.

There was a discussion about traffic use on Taylor Flats Road compared to Columbia River Road. Mr. Fife has a model he can show Mr. Eickmeyer.

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Mr. Eickmeyer said I think you as county commissioners should reconsider where you're going to put this road. It's not always about the money. You're going to pick up the tax base by putting the road over there (indicated). You'll pick up enough money to build all the roads you'll need. I don't know where you came up with the number \$7 million but I'll guarantee for a mile of road I can build it a lot cheaper than \$7 million.

Mr. Miller asked for the third and final time if anyone would like to speak as an opponent or against this public hearing. There was no response. Hearing was closed to public comment.

Mr. Koch said he did not have any questions at this time.

Mr. Peck pointed to an area on the map that is currently in houses in the city of Pasco west of Road 68. He asked what its use was prior to the homes being built on it. Mr. Fife said he believes it was vacant land without irrigation.

Mr. Peck said there is a perception that as communities grow, it's inevitable that farmlands and ag lands like this would be consumed. A lot of the growth that we've experienced has been in areas that were not farmed, that were vacant, non-irrigated lands. He wants to avoid the perception that what is being proposed here (indicated) is no different than what happened here (indicated). In fact it is different. We're starting to get into long-established farms and that should be a consideration of our thinking. I'm not saying it drives the answer. I just don't want to just assume that this is the natural course of things and the way it's always been because this is a new time.

Mr. Fife said the other thing that has happened since this route was selected is that the City of Pasco requested that the urban growth boundary be extended and it has been extended. He showed where the boundary is now. The City of Pasco is now planning for growth into the area.

Mr. Miller asked with the anticipation of Powerline Road coming in, although not guaranteed, can we change a portion of the road route down to the river and go to Dent Road and do the one leg that hits the ending of Road 100? Mr. Fife said you could start over.

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Mr. Fife said that route would not have the same utilities as the current arterial route. It would not get traffic through the area, which is what arterials do. That's their function.

Mr. Miller said he is looking at connecting in the future to Fraser Road and eliminate going through farmland. Mr. Fife said this does connect to that road and would serve that road. Mr. Miller said yes, but he is talking about eliminating going through the circle up to Easy Street. Mr. Miller asked can we connect that leg but not go north? Mr. Fife said that's a change of scope. We would have to go back to the funding sources to do that.

Mr. Miller said he feels Fraser Road will be developed in the future. Mr. Fife said the funding is for arterial routes. We can spend the money we've got for a new route as long as once we're done, this (indicated) becomes an access road and this becomes the new arterial route (indicated). He said if we only do a portion, it does not change it from an arterial so they wouldn't do it.

Mr. Fife said the money we received replaces this leg of Dent to here (indicated). He showed other sites on the map, specifying which would be arterial routes and which would be local access roads. The new arterial route to the north was specified in the study work that was done. It wouldn't have the same utility if you went across the middle of it, if it was only built part way.

**Executive Session** at 11:23 am based on RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) regarding legal risks of potential action or litigation for up to 10 minutes. (Those in the audience left the meeting.)

**Open Session** at 11:34 am. Stella Pederson, Lee Eickmeyer, Dalina Castellanos, Rick Doehle and Kyler Bachofner rejoined the audience.

Mr. Peck said I am opposed to the notion of government taking actions just in principle but also cognizant of the fact that sometimes the greater good has to be served. In this particular case I'm concerned that we may be moving ahead when we have some more time to work on this. We have a draft resolution that would essentially set in

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motion the process for county-level government legal action to eventually take lands to build those projects. I'd much rather see us be able to come to terms.

**Motion** – Mr. Peck: I would move that we extend the period for this public hearing to Wednesday, September 30, and that window that we would create of approximately 60 days would give additional time for the updating of property evaluations, appraisals and so forth and give all the parties involved an additional time period, perhaps a final opportunity to discuss in earnest the needs of both sides with the idea of coming to an agreement on how best to serve the public interests and minimize the impact on private parties, recognizing that at that time when we finish this hearing that we will still have this draft resolution available to us and would seriously entertain at that point in time moving forward with an action to secure those lands in the public interest. Second by Mr. Koch. 3:0 vote in favor.

Mr. Verhulp said to clarify, the time of that public hearing will be September 30 at 9:30 am.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

Engineer Tim Fife met with the Board. Present in audience: Dalina Castellanos and two men.

### **Vouchers**

**Motion** – Mr. Koch: Mr. Chairman, I move for approval of vouchers for County Road Fund, Public Works and Solid Waste in the total amount of \$103,081.23. Broken down the amount is \$49,753.28 for County Road, Motor Vehicle Public Works is \$53,217.89, and Solid Waste is \$110.06. Second by Mr. Peck. 3:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 13)

### **CRP 581 Pasco Kahlotus Road – Rural Arterial Program (RAP) Agreement**

#### **Supplement #2 Scope Change**

**Motion** – Mr. Koch: Mr. Chairman, I motion to approve the State of Washington, County Road Administration Board, Rural Arterial Program, Project Agreement, Supplement #2, CRP 581 Pasco-Kahlotus Road, Project #1104-01, Pasco-Kahlotus Road from mile 10.18 to 13.08. Second by Mr. Peck. 3:0 vote in favor. This is Resolution 2009-327.

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Layoffs Update

Mr. Fife said two engineering technicians and two maintenance aids are being laid off for a total of four full-time positions.

Asphalt costs and chip sealing

Mr. Peck asked if long-term asphalt agreements have been considered. Mr. Fife said the county engineers in the state have considered the possibility of getting asphalt bids as a group, hoping the increased quantity would lead to a better price. He told the Board about his understanding of the current oil refining process. There was a shortage of asphalt last year. Mr. Fife does not think the cost of asphalt will go back to what it was four years ago.

He said next year we're considering cutting way back on our chip seal program. The negative effect would not be seen right away. The amount of chip sealing that is done next year depends on the winter. We will have to take care of roads that have to be chip sealed due to winter weather damage because we don't have a choice.

Road 170

Mr. Miller said Senator Murray has notified him she put funding for Road 170 as a high priority on an appropriation list. She expects it to be approved in September.

Benton County Engineering Services

Mr. Fife said the contract for his services to Benton County ended at the end of July. Benton County has hired a county engineer. There will be some transition time. Mr. Fife said he has been told that Benton County will still need his services for two to three weeks.

**SECURE CRISIS RESIDENTIAL CENTER (SCRC)**

Rick Doehle, EPIC President/CEO, and Kyler Bachofner, EPIC director of Youth Services, met with the Board. Present in the audience: Dalina Castellanos.

Mr. Doehle said EPIC has been serving youth in the community for about ten years, doing the secure crisis residential center for eight of the ten years. We work closely with police departments and help kids get back in contact with their parents. We

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have a very successful program here. He said we have a concern that has arisen from the state and wanted to bring it to your attention.

Mr. Bachofner told the Board about the Becca Bill that passed the legislature in about 1995. EPIC is a private nonprofit organization that contracts to handle the program. The facility is located near the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) with five secure crisis beds used for youth who registered as runaways or are in dangerous circumstances.

In February, due to state budgetary deficits, the Kennewick facility was slated to be shut down. We joined the nine other providers who operate these services and negotiated so we were able to save the Kennewick portion.

About 15 days ago, we were notified that they are again considering cutting the Kennewick services, not due to budget cuts but due to allocating these resources to the west side of the state. The services are slated to be transferred either to Whatcom or Snohomish County. We feel and we've lobbied the state that the services provided here in Kennewick are important to the community and important to our region. We average 300 youth coming through our facility on a yearly basis and provide services for those youth and families. A majority are new so we don't have a lot of reoccurrence. The center is used about 90% of the time by Benton or Franklin County sheriffs deputies. We do see some youth from the Walla Walla, Grandview, Prosser and Sunnyside areas.

Mr. Doehle and Mr. Bachofner asked for the Board's support as they lobby legislators to not remove eastern Washington resources. They answered the Board's questions about the use of the facility. A state audit shows the facility is occupied 43% of the time but the number is a little deceptive because our goal is to have a child come into our services and leave as soon as possible. Our job is not to occupy all of our beds. Our job is to have that service available, mediate with the family, and have that child out of our services as soon as possible. Mr. Bachofner thinks the figure of 300 youth we serve a year is more accurate. A child can stay in our services for up to five days and then they have to be released.

Mr. Bachofner answered Mr. Peck's questions about occupancy and use rates in various county areas.

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Mr. Bachofner said we currently provide a stabilization and planning program for youth in the Tri-Cities area that are leaving placement and we stabilize them to move them into a new placement, whether that be back to parents, foster home or guardianship. That program could be jeopardized if we were to lose the SCRC because they do share the same building.

There is another service also for children so the effect would be compounded on children's services that are leaving the area. It will just leave a larger void for services. These services are for high risk children that have severe mental or behavioral issues.

**Adjourned** at 12:10 pm.

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There being no further business, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned until August 10, 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 August 31, 2009.