

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 51
FRANKLIN COUNTY
Commissioners' Proceedings for January 26, 2011

The Honorable Board of Franklin County Commissioners met on the above date. Present for the meeting were Robert E. Koch, Chairman; Rick Miller, Chair Pro Tem; and Brad Peck, Member; Fred Bowen, County Administrator; and Mary Withers, Clerk to the Board. Meeting convened at 9:00 am.

TRAC

TRAC Manager Troy Woody met with the Board.

Public Hearing: To take testimony for and against increasing the revenue and expenditure bottom lines of 2010 Miscellaneous Franklin County TRAC Facility Fund Budget #405-000-001 by \$100,000 from \$2,471,045 to \$2,571,045

Public Hearing convened at 9:00 am. Present: Commissioners Koch, Miller and Peck; County Administrator Fred Bowen; TRAC Manager Troy Woody; and Clerk to the Board Mary Withers. Present in audience: Dana Crutchfield, Lara Neiffer, and Tri-City Herald Reporter Kristi Pihl.

Mr. Koch asked three times if anyone in the audience would like to speak in opposition. There was no response. Mr. Koch asked three times if anyone wished to speak in favor. There was no response. Mr. Woody answered Mr. Miller's question about the revenues and expenditures. Mr. Peck asked if it is consistent with recent past years. Mr. Woody said yes.

Motion – Mr. Peck: Mr. Chair, I move for approval of the requested increase in revenue in the bottom lines of the 2010 Miscellaneous Franklin County TRAC Facility Fund. Second by Mr. Miller. 3:0 vote in favor. This is Resolution 2011-039.

Executive Session at 9:05 am expected to last 10 minutes regarding contract negotiations based on RCW 42.30.140(4)(b). Those in the audience left the room.

Open Session at 9:16 am.

LOBBYIST

Lobbyist Jim Potts spoke with the Board by phone. Present in audience: Dana Crutchfield, Lara Neiffer and Kristi Pihl.

Legislative Report

Mr. Potts gave the Board an update about state legislative work in Olympia. Some legislative matters that were mentioned were Department of Ecology (DOE) issues, a proposed

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change in relinquishment of water rights from five years to 15 years, House Joint Resolution 4214 that would authorize the state legislature to dissolve and reorganize counties under certain financial conditions, a noxious weed bill, bills that would affect ground water management areas, and extraordinary criminal justice trial reimbursement.

OTHER BUSINESS (9:32 am)

Dana Crutchfield and Lara Neiffer met with the Board. Present in audience: Kristi Pihl and Toni Fulton.

Animal Control

Dana Crutchfield said she spoke with the Board several months ago about animal control. She is aware that two more dog bite attacks occurred in the past few weeks. She asked what has been done since she spoke to the Board. She said the problem continues. She hopes the safety of the county residents is a priority and that there can be some sort of partnering and agreement so that at least people can be held accountable for these animals and have to follow rules and regulations.

Mr. Peck said we put a contract in place with a local vet to receive dangerous dogs. Mr. Bowen said the sheriff does respond to dangerous dogs. Mr. Peck said that was intended to be an interim step. Mrs. Crutchfield explained what happened after one of the dog bites. She asked is the owner required to have insurance, to have an enclosure, to meet some safety standards? There should be some safety for people and other animals.

Lara Neiffer told about her experience with severe dog bites. She said the west Pasco area is not rural, that it's a very close neighborhood. She said owners need to be responsible and she should feel safe walking down the street. There is a school nearby. She showed the Board pictures of her face and her husband's hand following the attack. She said a leash law is important. She would like laws and a contract in place for the safety of the community and safety of dogs.

Mr. Bowen said the county budgeted \$20,000 for 2011 and has entered into negotiations with the city. We have some issues we need to work through. We have contracted with a veterinarian in the interim. It is moving forward very slowly.

Mrs. Crutchfield thanked the Board for their time and interest.

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OFFICE BUSINESS (9:55 am)

Administrative Assistant Toni Fulton met with the Board. Present in audience: Kristi Pihl.

Vouchers/Warrants

Motion – Mr. Peck: Mr. Chair, I move for approval of vouchers audited and certified by the accounting officer by RCW42.24.080 in the total amount of \$517,029.12 as presented. Second by Mr. Miller. 3:0 vote in favor.

Current Expense warrants 44536 through 44575 for \$8,711.28; Current Expense warrants 44576 through 44620 for \$106,355.75; Current Expense warrants 44621 through 44631 for \$23,459.74; Jail Commissary warrants 44632 and 44633 for \$3,731.12; Solid Waste warrant 44634 for \$275.74; TRAC warrants 44635 through 44672 for \$78,648.53; FC Unemployment warrant 44673 for \$7,470.87; Election Equipment Revolving warrants 44674 and 44675 for \$1,101.43; Trial Court Improvement Fund warrant 44676 for \$1,522.04; Sex Offender warrant 44677 for \$599.40; Jail Commissary warrants 44678 through 44682 for \$3,110.04; Current Expense warrants 44683 through 44687 for \$2,223.38; Treasurer O & M warrant 44688 for \$919.66; RV Park warrants 44689 through 44691 for \$5,367.75; Auditor O & M warrants 44692 through 44696 for \$3,977.92; Election Equipment Revolving warrants 44697 and 44698 for \$148.27; Trial Court Improvement Fund warrants 44699 and 44700 for \$16,420.00; Jail Commissary warrants 44701 through 44703 for \$533.04; E911/State Contract warrant 44704 for \$348.00; TRAC warrant 44705 for \$1,156.00; RV Park warrants 44706 through 44709 for \$3,538.76; Current Expense warrants 44710 through 44727 for \$18,773.29; Current Expense warrants 44728 through 44756 for \$39,119.64; Current Expense warrants 44757 through 44814 for \$44,250.01; Current Expense warrants 44815 through 44843 for \$143,501.82; and Current Expense warrant 44844 for \$1,765.64; for a total amount of \$517,029.12. (Exhibit 1)

Consent Agenda

Motion - Mr. Peck: Mr. Chair, I move for approval of the consent agenda for Wednesday, January 26, as presented. Second by Mr. Miller. 3:0 vote in favor.

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1. Approval of Resolution 2011-040, Minolta copier maintenance contract between Franklin County and Abadan for the copiers located in the E911 Dispatch Center and E911 Administrative Office
2. Approval of Resolution 2011-041, Interagency Agreement between Franklin County and Connell Heritage Museum
3. Approval of County Road Fund payroll for \$70,759.87 and Motor Vehicle Fund payroll for \$11,405.33 for January 20, 2011
4. Approval of Resolution 2011-042, payment of Franklin County's portion of an invoice accrued by The Landfill Group to Aspect Consulting LLC for professional consulting services

Minutes

Motion – Mr. Peck: I move for approval for Commissioner Proceedings for January 19, 2011.

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

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Policy

The Board members have reviewed some sample policies. A draft policy has been prepared for Board review. The policy is required if the county accepts CDBG funds for the Eltopia Water Association project. Mr. Koch said he hates to be held up from the CDBG funding by the requirement to have a greenhouse gas reduction policy. Mr. Miller will review a policy but he also would prefer not to have a policy. After discussion, the Board members said they are willing to at least consider a policy and review the draft. Mr. Peck said he believes it is absurd to think there is a connection between greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. His position is entirely dependent on what the policy says. Mr. Miller and Mr. Koch agreed.

Recessed at 10:07 am.

Reconvened at 10:12 am.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR (10:14 am)

County Administrator Fred Bowen met with the Board. Present in audience: Kristi Pihl.

Travel

The Board **gave consensus approval** for Mr. Bowen's travel and attendance at the Washington County Administration Association 2011 Annual Conference.

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Law & Justice Council

Mr. Miller said it's time to take a look at what we are going to do regarding the jail. He is the chairman of the county's Law and Justice Council and would like to reconvene the council to discuss the jail issue. The jail has a leaking roof and HVAC problems. We will be spending quite a bit of money on the existing system.

Mr. Bowen said the building was built in about 1982 and occupied in 1985. Very little repair/maintenance work has been done except for emergency repairs. The estimate to do a complete repair of the infrastructure was \$4.5 million. The roof is in serious need of replacement. A temporary roof could be put in place at approximately \$62,000 to \$65,000 that would last about four to five years. The hot water system needs to be replaced.

Mr. Miller said the philosophy of the NACo Law and Justice Committee he serves on is more into letting people out of jail through re-entry programs and pre-trial programs. We're a small county and don't have the money to do those types of programs. Mr. Miller described the makeup of people on the Law and Justice Council. He feels the issue needs to be addressed now instead of waiting for five years to begin. Mr. Miller asked if the other Board members are interested in going out for a 3/10ths of 1% sales tax on the ballot. There is now an exemption from the tax on motorized vehicles including motorized farm equipment but not on other farm equipment. Mr. Bowen said the proposal can be on primary or general election ballots but not other elections.

Mr. Koch asked if Mr. Miller feels there has been enough change in sales tax to make a change in the outcome of an election at this point. Mr. Miller doesn't want to increase tax but there is a need in the county. He doesn't know if the voters have changed their minds. He said we shouldn't just drop it. He doesn't want to keep going out and out to voters. He thinks there is a need. Another way to do it is to let people out of jail but he thinks people are in jail for serious crimes, not crimes like jaywalking. He is also looking at other options.

Mr. Peck said the cities appear to have changed their policy on incarceration where now sentences in many cases run concurrently instead of consecutively so some overcrowding has been reduced. He sees the pressure on the jail reduced some, economy faltering, unemployment still at or above 8%, and does not see significant change since the last ballot.

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Mr. Miller said some serious thought is needed for the future. Another thought is to ask for 1/10th of 1% to be used to remodel the jail or find funds in our own budget. The Federal government has taken over jails in some areas and then tells the local jurisdiction what to do. He wants to avoid that situation.

Mr. Peck said we are predominantly an ag county. Tax relief for people buying motorized farm equipment doesn't bother him and he's sure would be appreciated by our ag community but he doesn't think it would change a vote. The majority of the population is still in the urban areas. Mr. Peck commended Mr. Miller for looking forward. He is not convinced we have found the solution. He is not convinced that what the architect has provided previously is the most cost effective solution. He said I do agree we need to be looking at as many options as possible. If the state facility in Connell isn't full, I think we should also look at the possibility of leasing bed spaces for people put on long-term incarceration, as long as they're not likely to be making frequent trips back and forth to see a judge. It is okay with him to reconvene the Law and Justice Council.

Mr. Miller said we could also check with other counties about space in their jails.

Mr. Koch said I don't disagree with your thought process but I don't know that we have seen enough economic change in the county to put a bond issue on the ballot. Maybe in June it will be different.

Mr. Peck is not in favor of a 3/10ths of 1% tax proposal at this time. He said there may be other options.

Mr. Koch told Mr. Miller that the Law and Justice Committee can meet to discuss the matter and then Mr. Miller can report back to the Board.

Prosecutor

Prosecutor Shawn Sant introduced two new deputy prosecuting attorneys, Teddy Chou and Teresa Chen.

Inter-Budget Transfer/Extraordinary Criminal Justice Cases

Motion – Mr. Peck: Mr. Chair, I move approval of the request for inter budget transfer of \$150,000 as presented in this draft resolution. Second by Mr. Miller. 3:0 vote in favor. This is Resolution 2011-043.

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Auditor's Office request for release of payroll on January 31, 2011

Motion – Mr. Miller: Mr. Chairman, I move that we authorize payroll release for January 31, 2011. Second by Mr. Peck. 3:0 vote in favor.

Atomic Foods

The owner of Atomic Foods has asked if the county is interested in purchasing Atomic Foods property. No decision is needed today. No amount has been given yet. Mr. Peck said yes, we should investigate further. Whether we would move forward to buy it depends on the terms.

Ridges to Rivers (10:54 am)

The Ridges to Rivers group has sent the Board members its vision plan for an open space network and asked for a formal endorsement and the ability to participate in planning processes. Mr. Peck is the Franklin County representative on the Ridges to Rivers' Jurisdictional Advisory Council. Mr. Peck said his recommendation is that we commend them for their work but that we stop short of a formal endorsement because not all of the constituents that we represent would agree. As long as it's a public meeting, they're always welcome to come and participate in planning processes. That, too, would have limits in that they would not be members of the Planning Commission, planning staff or Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Koch said I fully support the rationale that they are not a governance board. Mr. Miller also supports Mr. Peck's position.

Mr. Peck will draft a reply letter for the chairman's signature.

OTHER BUSINESS (10:58 am)

Support letter for Odessa Subaquifer

The Board **approved** the letter of support for the Odessa Subarea Draft Environmental Impact Study to Chuck Carnohan, Technical Projects Study Manager, Bureau of Reclamation. (Exhibit 2)

Legislative Issues

Mr. Miller spoke about water rights legislation regarding wells and the amount of acreage they serve. He also thinks the Board should support legislation in which the Snake River Irrigators Association is asking to make a Water Commission.

Adjourned at 11:10 am.

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There being no further business, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned until February 2, 2011.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Robert E. Koch, Chairman

Rick Miller, Chairman Pro Tem

Brad Peck, Member

Attest:

Clerk to the Board

Approved and signed March 2, 2011.