



FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 10, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

Commission Chairman, Rick Miller called the Franklin County Commissioners' Regular Board Meeting and Planning Workshop to order at 9:00 a.m., in the Commissioners' Meeting Room in the Franklin County Courthouse located at 1016 North Fourth Avenue, Pasco, Washington.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Miller led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners present: Commission Chair Rick Miller, Chair Pro Tem Robert E. Koch and Member Brad Peck

Staff Present: County Administrator Keith Johnson, Prosecuting Attorney Shawn Sant, Sheriff Jim Raymond, Human Resources Director Carlee Nave, Planning Director Jerrod MacPherson, Assistant Director of Planning Greg Wendt, Assistant to the Administrator Sherrie Young and Clerk to the Board Karin Milham

Public Present: Wendy Culverwell, *Tri-City Herald*, Cathy Merrill Holle, Community Action Connections, Judith Gidley, Community Action Connections, Lisa Toomey, Cultural Access Washington, Stephanie Green, Kevin Dougherty AFSCMF Rep, Steve Cooper, Franklin County Farm Bureau, James Alford, Franklin County Farm Bureau, Mark Nielson Franklin Conservation District, Bill Eller VSP Coordinator, Ron Shultz Washington State Conservation Commission, via phone John Stuhlmiller, Washington Farm Bureau and Evan.

CULTURAL ACCESS WASHINGTON

Presentation by Lisa Toomey Cultural Access Washington Board of Trustees

Ms. Lisa Toomey Cultural Access Washington Board of Trustees gave an overview of the successes of Cultural Access Washington.

Ms. Toomey explained Engrossed Substitute House Bill (ESHB 2263 dealt with sustainable funding for large and small Cultural and Heritage organizations in Benton and Franklin Counties, increased public access to cultural activities and expanded cultural education activities in schools. She explained there was potential for \$4.5 million annually to Benton and Franklin County Cultural Science and Heritage organizations.

She explained state legislature currently authorizes counties to place a tax on the ballot for voters to decide. The County will determine the source of the funding, i.e., sales tax or property tax, and place the measure on the ballot. If approved, local authorities (community foundation, main street foundation, etc.), would determine guideline and distribution of the funding.



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The Commissioners stated they understood the benefits of such funding project but explained the County was not in a financial position to participate at this time.

The Board thanked Ms. Toomey for her thorough presentation.

OFFICE BUSINESS

- County Administrator Keith Johnson explained operations and duties associated with the Office of Public Defense were new to the staff since Benton and Franklin counties split the department. He stated a special voucher run was necessary to issue January payments to the defense attorneys.
 - ❖ *Commissioner Peck moved to approve the County Administration office to submit vouchers necessary to pay Office of Public Defense attorneys for their January 2016 services. Commissioner Koch seconded and the motion carried.*
- Commissioner Miller stated he was concerned with the recent media coverage of regarding the relationship between Benton and Franklin Counties and had discussed the situation with Benton County Board of Commissioners Chair Shon Small. Commissioners Miller and Small felt a Bi-County meeting was appropriate. The meeting was tentatively scheduled for February 25, 2016.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Ms. Stephanie Green of Pasco addressed the Board expressing concern regarding her property taxes. Her home was purchased in 2006 and, as a result of an unrelated situation, she discovered the builder of her home sold approximately 4,000 square feet of her property after she had paid the earnest money and signed the agreement to purchase the property.

After discussion, Commissioner Peck asked Franklin County Assessor Steve Marks to work with Ms. Green to get this situation resolved.

Ms. Green thanked the Board.

- Mr. Jeremy Peterson, Founder/Member of the Tri-City Community Solutions addressed the Commissioners stating his organization was founded and organized to bridge the gap between communities and government agencies. He stated he was here today to ask about the Coroner's inquest. He stated he was working on an accountability issue with the shooting.



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Commissioner Koch stated it had been a year, today, and there had still not been a request for funding for the inquest by the Coroner's Office. He stated the Coroner's 2016 Budget was submitted and approved with no mention of funds needs for an inquest.

He explained an inquest is to determine how the death occurred, which is already a known fact, so he didn't feel an inquest was necessary, but the Coroner hadn't even broached the subject with the Commissioners.

- Mr. Peterson also addressed the Commissioners stating he felt funding issues with Franklin County could be resolved if the Board considered opening the County up for cannabis manufacturing and sales.

Commissioner Koch explained revenue from cannabis sales could only be used for enforcement and could not be used for other expenses within the County.

Mr. Peterson explained his organization could help educate the public on both issues discussed today.

Commissioner Peck the Board had a duty to follow the law and the statues do not allow elected officials to spend taxpayers' money without first going through the budget approval process. He said the Board never had issue with having an inquest. The issue is that funds were never requested and therefore, never approved. With that being said, as Commissioner Koch previously stated, an inquest is held to determine cause of death, which had already been done.

Commissioner Peck understood the community was asking for accountability in the shooting death, but didn't feel a formal inquest was the right mechanism to address accountability concerns.

The Board thanked Mr. Peterson for bringing the community's concerns to the Board.

OFFICE BUSINESS

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Ms. Judith Gidley and Ms. Cathy Merrill from Community Action Committee thanked the Board for approving the amendment to their contract during today's meeting.



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APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- Resolution 2016-052 Approval of Interagency Agreement W2RCLCP-1517-FrCoPW-00039 with State of Washington Department of Ecology
 - Resolution 2016-053 Approval of Interagency Agreement W2RCPG-1517-FrCoPW-00053 with the State of Washington Department of Ecology
 - Resolution 2016-054 Professional Services Contract Employment Specialist at Benton-Franklin Counties Juvenile Justice Center
 - Resolution 2016-055 Disposal of Surplus Property from WSU Franklin County Extension
 - Resolution 2016-056 Approval of Software Support Contract with Compu-Tech
 - Resolution 2016-057 Approval of Agreement for Law Enforcement Testing with Public Safety Testing, Inc.
 - Resolution 2016-058 Adoption of Franklin County Employee Benefits Premiums
 - Resolution 2016-059 Approval of Third Amendment to Agreement ESG-CAC 2015 Between Benton- Franklin Counties Human Services and Community Action Committee
 - Resolution 2016-060 Approval of Agreement CHG-CAC-TANF 2016 between Benton-Franklin Counties Human Services and Community Action Committee
 - Resolution 2016-061 Approval of Agreement CHG-CAC-HEN 2016 between Benton-Franklin Counties Human Services and Community Action Committee
 - Resolution 2016-062 Declaring County- Owned Property As Surplus
 - Resolution 2016-063 Authorizing Procurement of Packet 2016 Major Equipment Purchases for ER&R
- ❖ ***Commissioner Peck moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Koch seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.***



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COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR KEITH JOHNSON

Resolution 2016-064 Authorizing the Continuance of Contracts Currently in Effect Between Franklin County and Office of Public Defense

Mr. Johnson explained Franklin County was in the process of creating its own Office of Public Defense (OPD) and former bi-county contracts with Defense Attorneys needed to be separated. Instead of terminating current contracts, he and OPD Manager Larry Ziegler wanted to resolve the issue with one resolution and encouraged the Board to approve this process.

- ❖ ***Commissioner Peck moved to approve Resolution 2016-064 authorizing continuance of contracts currently in effect between Franklin County and its Public Defense Contractors. Commissioner Koch seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.***

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Miller recessed into Executive Session at 9:58 a.m., for approximately thirty (30) minutes.

RECESS

At Commissioner Peck's request, Commissioner Miller called for a five-minute (5) recess at 10:32 a.m.

RECONVENED

Commissioner Miller reconvened the Regular meeting at 10:33 a.m. Franklin County Prosecuting Attorney Shawn Sant asked the Board to approve a settlement agreement with Teresa.

- ❖ ***Commissioner Peck moved to approve a settlement agreement with Teresa Farris with the understanding there may be administrative direction necessary. Commissioner Koch seconded and the motion carried unanimously.***

RECESS

Commissioner Miller recessed the Regular Meeting at 10:44 a.m., explaining the Regular Meeting would reconvene this afternoon at 1:00 p.m., for a Planning Workshop.



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RECONVENED

Commissioner Miller reconvened the Regular meeting at 1:00 p.m.

PLANNING WORKSHOP

Volunteer Stewardship Program

Conservation Commission Policy Director Ron Schultz and Conservation Commission Volunteer Stewardship Program (VSP) Coordinator Bill Eller reviewed the purposes of VSP stating the timeline for Franklin County to consider participation had been extended.

Mr. Eller explained Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) administers funding for counties to implement the VSP program. Counties then designate a work group to develop a watershed-scale plan that will identify critical areas and resource concerns, identify agricultural activities in the critical areas, create a plan for targeted outreach to assist landowners in developing farm plans that address agricultural impacts to critical areas on their property and identify and maintain economically viable agriculture while protecting and restoring critical areas

He explained there are five critical areas identified in Washington’s Growth Management Act: wetlands, frequently flooded areas, critical aquifer recharge areas, geologically hazardous areas and fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas.

After extensive discussion of the pros and cons of participating in the program, the Board stated they were not ready to make a decision at this time.

ADJOURN

With no further business to bring before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:19 p.m.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Rick Miller - Absent

Rick Miller, Board Chair

Robert Koch

Robert Koch, Chair Pro Tem

Brad Peck

Brad Peck, Member

ATTEST:

Karin Milham

Clerk to the Board