

BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

DECEMBER 3, 2001

The meeting was called to order with the flag salute by Chairperson Herb Baze. Commissioners Wes Johnson and Bob Holter were in attendance.

BUSINESS

HEARING – 2002 BUDGET

The Board held a public hearing to consider the 2002 county budget.

Ione Siegler, Budget & Finance Director, explained that the 2002 preliminary budget is balanced but not ready for adoption as there are corrections and additions to be posted to the budget before adoption.

It was pointed out that 5.5 positions were eliminated in the Current Expense Fund. The Current Expense and Road levies are levied at 101%. Ms. Siegler stressed the County is having a revenue problem. \$908,000 of the beginning fund balance of the Current Expense Fund is Initiative 695 backfill from the State of Washington that has to be used in 2002. When the State repealed the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax (MVET) the County lost approximately \$1.7 million in revenue for criminal justice purposes. The legislature agreed to fund 53% of the lost revenue, which is \$908,000 that is in the budget. The state is currently debating whether they will continue to fund the 53% of the lost revenue. The cost for criminal justice services has continued to increase. The lost revenue from MVET plus the new 1-% limitation on property taxes could create significant funding problems in 2003 and the years to follow.

The capital improvement projects were outlined for 2002: remodeling and addition to the Mason County Jail; annual general obligation bond payment to finance the purchase of Building 7, 8 & 9; funds for earthquake repairs; reimburse Current Expense for costs of repair and rehabilitation of damage to parks; and other projects as outlined in the Parks Capital Improvement Plan.

Also outlined were the transportation improvement projects: the Road Fund has an Annual Construction Program and Six Year Road Plan and the sewer and water improvements.

Mike Byrne, Tourism & Recreation Director, referred to the proposed five-year Park Capital Improvement Plan which could be funded by the REET 2 funds. Currently, there are 12 active parks in various stages of development and improvement and three dedicated parcels, if improved, would bring the park system to 15 sites and a total of 263 acres. The objective of the plan is to bring the park sites up to a completed level for maximum public use. He stated that completed parks are more efficient in terms of operation and maintenance. A survey in 1996 indicated that the public would be interested in the enhancement of existing parks as the number one priority. The REET 2 funding will provide for the continuation of the 50/50 matching program which involves the community to participate in the development of the parks. Letters were acknowledged in support of the REET 2 funding for capital improvement for parks from: Mark Ziegler, City of Shelton Parks Director; Terry Dittmer, President of Mason County Youth Fastpitch Association; and Dr. Brian Petersen.

Gary Yando, Utilities & Waste Management Director, noted the main project the County is working with is the North Bay/Case Inlet sewer project which was begun in March of 2001. The Allyn and Victor area are nearing completion. The system is up and running and functioning in a normal manner. They are working in Lakeland Village area and hope to have the new condominiums some of the northern part of Lakeland Village on-line by the end of the year. Beard's Cove, Rustlewood and Hartstene Pointe they have normal operation and maintenance of the systems. There are issues they are working with on the outfall at Hartstene Pointe. Also, the water storage tank they are working at securing funding from FEMA to upgrade back to before the earthquake damage took place. They are looking at constructing a new facility to store the trailers at the landfill. They don't anticipate any rate increases for the landfill in 2002.

John Mallinger spoke in favor of the REET 2 and noted that recreation and parks are so important to the community.

Denny Temple concurred with Mr. Mallinger and also offered to help with an MCRA advisory.

Jerry Swartos noted that 20 – 30 years ago he was involved in an organization that started building recreational facilities on a volunteer basis in Mason County. Through community work they accomplished a lot. He also applauded the Board in the REET 2.

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The Board closed the budget hearing.

ADJOURNED

The meeting adjourned due to no further business.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MASON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Herb Baze, Chairperson

Wesley E. Johnson, Commissioner

Bob Holter, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Rebecca S. Rogers, Clerk of the Board