

BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

MAY 17, 2005

1. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by the Chairperson.
2. Pledge of Allegiance – The Chairperson led the flag salute.
3. Roll Call - Present: Cmmr. Dist. 1 – Lynda Ring Erickson; Cmmr. Dist. 2 – Tim Sheldon; Cmmr. Dist. 3 – Jayni L. Kamin.
4. Approval of Minutes – **Cmmr. Sheldon/Ring Erickson moved and seconded to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 26 and May 10, 2005 and briefing minutes of January 24, February 1 and 2, March 1 and 29, 2005. Motion carried unanimously. K-aye; RE-aye; S-aye.**
5. Correspondence and Organizational Business
 - 5.1 Correspondence
 - 5.1.1 Skokomish Indian Tribe has requested the County's consideration of their potential new tribal residential area.
 - 5.1.2 Civil Service Applicant: Ray Jenne.
 - 5.1.3 Don Elander wrote concerning a building permit at Lake Cushman. (Copy to Community Development).
 - 5.1.4 North Mason High School Students submitted letters on local issues: Chris Hitz, Sarah Lavin, Jordan Lowe, Alexander Castellano, Sara J. Van Hoover, Katie Daroff, Athena MacDougall, Kristina Wardean, Nick Johnson, Sara Smither, David McConnell, Kylee Hull, Mitch Kissler, Kystin Robbins, and Dylan Nordstrom. (15)
 - 5.1.5 Regional Support Network Mental Health Advisory Board Applicant: Michael J. Logan
 - 5.1.6 Comcast has given notice of changes to their Hispanic tier of programing on or shortly after June 8, 2005.
 - 5.1.7 Raymond E. Hite urged the County to make improvements to Highway 3 in the North Mason area.
 - 5.1.8 TIPCAP resignation: Ted Smethers
 - 5.1.9 Shelton School District appointed Ross Gallagher to work with Mason County in updating the Comprehensive Plan as it relates to their District.
 - 5.2 Debbie Riley, Environmental Health Director, introduced new employee Christine Clark, Environmental Health Specialist I. She explained that Christine is a graduate of University of Washington and was an intern at Kitsap County. She will be working with the solid waste program.
 - 5.3 Public Works Director Charlie Butros, introduced Matthew Stull, Public Works/GIS. He noted that Mr. Stull has a Bachelors Degree in cartography, geography and computer science. He has experience with consultants.
6. Open Forum for Citizen Input
 - 6.1 Raymond Dingfield stated that he is representing at least 6 of the 8 permanent residents on Auseth Lane. They are dissatisfied with the road work on Crestview Drive. Crestview Drive at Auseth Lane (approx. ½ - ¼ mile to the west of Agate Road) was raised around 8 or 9 feet to correct the site distance. They felt they did not get the improvement in site distance they had hoped for. The new road has created a speedway. One neighbor has expressed concern about children coming to visit and the safety of travelling the road. They felt the guardrails which were placed along the road do not protect them. He noted that Cmmr. Kamin did go out and look at the area and their concerns.

Cmmr. Kamin stated she has talked with the Public Works Director and they are looking for some way to provide some relief and increase the site distance on Crestview Drive. The road project is not completed yet. The county will be working starting again in June.

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Public Works Director Charlie Butros noted they have been concerned with issues that Mr. Dingfield brought up and have been brought up by others. They have gone out to Crestview Drive to look at and deal with some of the issues. They understand the concerns and are looking at options to fix them.

7. Adoption of Agenda – **Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Sheldon moved and seconded to adopt the agenda with the addition of 11.1 retirement recognition. Motion carried unanimously. K-aye; RE-aye; S-aye.**
8. Approval of Consent Agenda:
 - 8.1 Approval of the resolution authorizing the Mason County Auditor to conduct all Mason County elections by mail ballot.
 - 8.2 Approval of Veterans Assistance Fund applications for: Franklin R. Gearhart – housing \$600.00; Larry M. Tunno – utilities \$115.86; Michael B. Ong – housing \$400.00; Kenneth F. Henderson – burial \$600.00; Billy G. Pettey – housing \$600.00; and Gerrold A. Graham Jr. – utilities \$514.62 for a total of \$2,830.48.
 - 8.3 Approval for the Equipment Rental & Revolving Fund Manager to purchase a truck from the Washington State contract and call for bids to furnish Mason County with a new 2,000 gallon asphalt distributor to be installed on the truck for Public works. Bid opening to be Friday, June 17, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.
 - 8.4 Approval of Warrants
Claims Clearing Fund 88866-89559 \$586,633.28
 - 8.5 Approval for the Chairperson to execute two CRABoard Rural Arterial Program - Project Agreement for Construction Proposals: Cloquallum Road (M.P. 05.85 to 06.85) and Grapeview Loop Road-2 (M.P. 02.15 to 03.30).
 - 8.6 Approval of CRP No's. 1848 and 1849 as roads to be placed on the 2005 A/C Paving Program, and set the bid opening date and time for the 2005 Asphalt Paving contract on June 10, 2005, at 9:00 a.m.
Resolution No. 44-05 (Exhibit A)
 - 8.7 Approval to set a public hearing on June 7, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. to hear public testimony on the Mason County Master Trails Plan.
 - 8.8 Approval of the contract with MacLeod Reckord, for design and construction administration services for Sand Hill Park Phase I improvements, in an amount not to exceed \$119,525.
 - 8.9 Approval of the AFSCME contract amendment to implement the reorganization in the Auditor's office.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson requested that Item 8.1 be pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

Al Brotche, Auditor, noted that under House Bill 1754, the Board of County Commissioners, with the concurrence of the Auditor may declare Mason County to become an all mail ballot. He requested that the Board concur with the Auditor to conduct all future elections by mail. During the past general election, 82% of Mason County voters supported an all mail ballot.

Presently, 31 of 57 precincts have been declared all mail ballots under the law. He felt that cost savings could occur by not having to redistrict precincts and making program changes in the elections system if the County is declared an all mail ballot. Currently, 70% of Mason County voters are voting by mail and have been doing so in the past two years. Also, 80% of the taxing districts have been requesting special elections be conducted by mail. He felt there are more safeguards in place to protect the integrity of the election system by comparing signatures on all return absentees. It will give the Auditor the ability to process provisional ballots in house. Those voters that do not appear on poll books can vote in the Auditor's office. Cost savings will occur by eliminating polling places because of the costs associated with the election boards, hall rentals and setting up the new system. There could be cost savings by not having to purchase a number of touch screen voting devices at an estimated cost of in excess of \$350,000. Twenty three of the 39 counties in Washington State have indicated they are moving towards all mail ballots.

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Cmmr. Ring Erickson stated she is struggling with this. This is a philosophical problem. It is unfortunate that people don't take voting seriously in terms of going to the polls. She felt there is a compelling argument for moving toward an all mail ballot.

Cmmr. Sheldon commented that after the legislative session there has been a lot of interest in this issue. The gubernatorial election controversy arose. The fact that Mason County voters already voted 82% in favor of an all mail ballot shows they are in favor of this. Mason County has conducted all mail ballots several times. He did not feel Mason County would have the controversies that other counties have had. Mason County takes care in matching signatures to the returned ballot. He felt it will keep the voter turn out high and save a considerable amount of money which could be used for other purposes including law enforcement and other activities.

Cmmr. Kamin expressed appreciation for the good work of the Auditor's staff in the local elections. Some of the concerns that she has with the elections in general are the proof of citizenship. How do they best safeguard the people at the poll. She felt that the election workers are a good safeguard, because they know the voters. She hoped to have a little more discussion on this topic. She questioned if the \$350,000 is for a voting machine in each polling place.

Al Brotche, Auditor, responded the \$350,000 is for all of the DREs (Direct Recording Equipment) which is touch screen voting. There are 31 polling locations in Mason County. You would have to have at least two machines in case one breaks down. Now that paper audit trails are being mandated by legislation the cost is going up an additional \$1,500 or \$2,000. They will be looking at approximately \$10,000 for each touch screen voting system as well as the programs to implement them. They are looking at approximately \$250,000 for the equipment. They have been awarded \$321,000 in grant money from the federal government. They will need to use some of that money for table tops. There may be costs for maintenance down the road. There appears to be ample federal grant money.

Cmmr. Sheldon noted that it is significant that 80% of the taxing districts in Mason County have been requesting that all special elections be conducted by mail in ballot. Also, twenty-three counties are already conducting elections by mail in ballots. Of the citizens that voted in the last general election, 82% were in favor of a mail in ballot for Mason County. There will be savings by the all mail ballot.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson expressed she would like a week to consider this. She is struggling with this and would like to hear from a few people about the issue.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Sheldon moved and seconded to table this matter for one week, to obtain additional public comment. K-aye; RE-aye; S-no.

Cmmr. Sheldon/Ring Erickson moved and seconded to approve consent Agenda Items 8.2 through 8.9 as read. Motion carried unanimously. K-aye; RE-aye; S-aye.

9. 9:30 a.m. Public Hearings and Items Set for a Certain Time

10. Other Business (Department Heads and Elected Officials)

10.1 Public Works Director Charlie Butros, recommended approval of bid award for CRP 1380, Grapeview Loop Road culvert replacement. Recommendation from Public Works is that, pending issuance of the Army Corps of Engineers, Section 404 Permit, the contract be awarded to Mountain West Construction, LLC at their bid price of \$592,232.40 and authorize the Chairperson to execute the contract and all other pertinent documentation. The bid opening was May 13, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Sheldon moved and seconded that the Public Works Department, pending issuance of the Army Corps of Engineers, Section 404 Permit, be authorized to enter into a

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contract with Mountain West Construction, LLC at a bid price of \$592,232.40 and the chairperson be authorized to execute the contract and all other pertinent documentation. Motion carried unanimously. K-aye; RE-aye; S-aye.

- 10.2 Approval of bid award for CRP 1847, Satsop-Cloquallum Road culvert replacement. Recommendation from Public Works is to award the contract to Pivetta Bros. Construction, Inc. at their bid price of \$119,479.50 and authorize the Chairperson to execute the contract and all other pertinent documentation. Bid opening was May 13, 2005 at 9:15 a.m. Staff: Charlie Butros

Cmmr. Sheldon/Ring Erickson moved and seconded that Public Works be authorized to award the contract for replacement of two culverts on Satsop Cloquallum Road to the apparent low bidder, Pivetta Bros. Construction Inc at their bid price of \$119,479.50 and authorize the chairperson to execute the contract and all other pertinent documentation. K-aye; RE-aye; S-aye.

- 10.3 Bob Fink, Planning Manager, presented the recommendation for approval of an interim ordinance deleting SEPA Administrative Appeals and setting a public hearing on Tuesday, June 14, 2005 at 9:30 a.m.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson questioned if this is a local ordinance that supports the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).

Mr. Fink responded the County implements the SEPA through its Environmental Policy Ordinance which is Title 8. It was originally adopted in the 1970's and has been amended several times since then. It sets up the process by which environmental review is done by the local government. Environmental review covers issues of what the impacts are to ground, water, air, housing, traffic. Whenever a permit comes in the County makes a determination on whether there is probable significant adverse impact because of the project. Whether the project is exempt or does not rise to a level so it receives a complete SEPA. If it does rise to the level then a threshold determination is made on whether there is a significant adverse impact is probable. If there is no probable adverse or significant impact then a determination of non-significance is issued and there is a 14-day comment period. If it is determined there is likely to be a significant adverse impact then the determination of significance is issued and there is a 28-day comment period on that.

This would not reduce the opportunity for people to comment on the determination.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Sheldon moved and seconded to approve Ordinance No. 45-05 to repeal the Mason County administrative appeal of SEPA (State Environmental Policy Act) determinations and actions and to set a public hearing on Tuesday, June 14, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. Ordinance No. 45-05 (Exhibit B)

11. Administration
11.1 The Board recognized Nancy Plews who will be retiring after 20 years of service with Mason County.
12. Board's Reports and Calendar – The board gave an overview of appointments they met during the last week and also meetings they are scheduled for in the upcoming week.
13. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MASON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Jayni L. Kamin, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Lynda Ring Erickson, Commissioner

Rebecca S. Rogers, Clerk of the Board

Tim Sheldon, Commissioner