

BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

MAY 24, 2005

1. Call to Order – The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance – The flag salute was led by the Chairperson.
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 – None
5. Correspondence and Organizational Business
 - 5.1 Correspondence – Email from Ken VanBuskirk
 - 5.2 News Release – NACO Community Engagement Luncheon. Staff: Jayni Kamin
 - 5.3 News Release – Compost Bin Sale. Staff: Doug Micheau
 - 5.4 Certificates of Appreciation – Lower Hood Canal Watershed Implementation Committee - Cmmr. Kamin thank participation of the members.
 - 5.5 News Release – Open House for the Lynch Cove/North Shore Potential Sewer Service Area. Staff: Doug Micheau
 - 5.6 News Release - Historical Preservation Task Force.
6. Open Forum for Citizen Input – No public comment
7. Adoption of Agenda – **Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Sheldon moved and seconded to adopt the agenda as published. Motion carried unanimously. K-aye; RE-aye; S-aye.**
8. Approval of Consent Agenda:
 - 8.1 Approval of Veterans Assistance Fund applications for: Frank E. Ori – housing \$600.00; Donald J. Kinzle – housing \$600.00; James A. Broughton – housing \$500.00 for a total of \$1,700.00.
 - 8.2 Approval to appoint Ray Jenne to fill the vacant position on the Mason County Civil Service Commission. The term will expire on December 31, 2007.
 - 8.3 Concurrence with chairperson's letter of no objection to the special occasion liquor license:
Applicant: Shelton-Mason County Chamber of Commerce
Place: W 190 Sentry Drive, Shelton, WA (Sentry Pavilion)
Date: Wed., 5/18/05; 5 – 7 pm and Thurs. 5/19/05; 12 – 7 pm
 - 8.4 No objection to the liquor license applications:
Special Occasion
Applicant: Harstine Island Community Club
Place: 3371 E North Island Drive, Shelton, WA (Harstine Island Hall)
Date: Sat.,5/28/05; 4 – 7 pm

Change of Corporate Officers/Stockholders
Applicant: Sol Food, Inc. & Pyong Ho Yi
Tradename: Teriyaki Wok
Loc Addr: 23969 NE State Route 3, Ste A., Belfair WA
Privileges Applied For: Beer/Wine Rest – Beer/Wine
 - 8.5 Approval of the Low-Income Housing (SHB2060) Funding application request from the Mason County Shelter for \$30,000.
 - 8.6 Approval to post for quotes to purchase fertilizer and grass seed for annual turf management at County parks for an estimated amount of \$8,000 to \$9,000.
 - 8.7 Approval of the resolution authorizing a road closure for a large culvert installation on St. Andrews Drive (Cranberry Creek). Road closure is from 8:00 a.m. July 25, 2005 to 4:00 p.m. September 1, 2005 from milepost 1.41 to 1.47. **Resolution No. 47-05 (Exhibit A)**

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- 8.8 Approval for the ER&R Manager to purchase a one new small 4x4 utility vehicle from the Washington State contracts for the Assessor's department. Maximum costs are approximately \$17,000 plus tax.
- 8.9 Approval for the ER&R Manager to utilize the post-for-quotes/telephone bid procedures to trade in the existing Kubota L-2650 and purchase a new Kubota model L-2800 with attachments for the Convention Center/Fairgrounds. Total cost not to exceed \$22,000.
- 8.10 Approval of Warrants
- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Salary Clearing Fund | 148282-148537 | \$211,759.00 |
| Claims Clearing Fund | 89560-89851 | \$807,061.22 |
- 8.11 Approval of the sewer connection agreement between Mason County and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints for Zion's Camp for connection to the North Bay Sewer System and authorize the chair to sign any collateral documents and releases.

Cmmr. Sheldon/Ring Erickson moved and seconded to approve consent agenda items 8.1 – 8.11. Motion carried unanimously. K-aye; RE-aye; S-aye.

9. 6:30 p.m. Public Hearings and Items Set for a Certain Time
- 9.1 Public hearing to consider a supplemental appropriation to the 2005 Health Services Fund budget in the amount of \$216,368.

Budget & Finance Director Ione Siegler presented the supplemental appropriation for the Health Services Fund and recommended the Board approve the \$216,368 extension for the 2005 budget.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Sheldon moved and seconded to approve a supplemental appropriation to the 2005 Health Services Fund Budget in the amount of \$216,368.

10. Other Business (Department Heads and Elected Officials)
- 10.1 Approval of the resolution authorizing the Mason County Auditor to conduct all Mason County elections by mail.

Auditor Al Brotche recommended that the Board approve an all mail ballot for Mason County. Last year, the prior Board approved a resolution for an advisory ballot for an all mail ballot at the general election. The voter response was 82% in support. He noted there is cost savings and higher voter participation. There are 36 out of 57 precincts, which have been declared all mail ballots in Mason County.

Cmmr. Kamin expressed she had not heard a pro/con when they discussed this a week ago. She questioned if the mail in ballot extended the election results for at least ten days or however long it is necessary to wait for the ballots to come in. Also, she asked if last minute voting extends the results.

Mr. Brotche responded the law is specific about certification of elections. The ballots are to be postmarked on election day to be counted.

Cmmr. Kamin noted another concern she had was if some new information comes out after a person has cast their ballot, it could change the dynamics of the election.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson expressed concern if this would change the outcome of elections. She heard it would not change that.

Cmmr. Kamin stated one of her concerns for the all mail ballot is the privacy issue and being influenced by someone in your home when casting a ballot. She asked if they could reduce the number of polling places, but still keep the option available.

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Mr. Brotche stated the difficulty he is having with a polling place is the staffing.

Cmmr. Sheldon noted that people feel comfortable voting in their own home with an all mail ballot as they have campaign literature in front of them and can make a decision.

State Representative Kathy Haigh stated she has been immersed in this issue for the past three years and still is not sure. She did not think it is possible that everything will be in place for an all mail ballot. There are demands on having a paper trail and how people are able to access elections. She has struggled with this over the past three years. She felt it is a trade off. There is no system that is perfect. There is no system that will not be influenced in one way or the other. She felt that the all mail elections process has been very successful in where it has been used. Oregon went all mail ballot in 1995 and it has many glowing reviews. Anyone that goes into a voting booth and pulls the levers or punches the holes or fills in the space is influenced. Ultimately, it is their decision. She personally feels she does a better job with a mail ballot with the opportunity to look at the voter pamphlet. There are more people to vote by mail. She felt the county would be saving money.

Pat Sykora, Mason County Election Supervisor, voiced her support of an all mail ballot. Since 1997 Mason County has gone from approximately 24% to over 60% voters on permanent absentee and as many as 70% absentee in any election. The trend is to vote by mail.

Dan Ward, Commissioners of Fire District 11, asked that the Board support the mail in ballot. They ran a bond issue last year, which required 60% of registered voters. They get a higher percentage of voters by mail than going to the polls.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson interjected that is consistent with what she heard from the school district and city fire that there is a higher percentage of voters by mail.

Louis Cofoni stated he is against mail in ballots. He questioned why fix something that is not broken. There is a Help America Act that demands counties go to an updated way of voting. Currently, the voter signs in on the register at the voting place. He questioned if the County goes to an all mail ballot, if it would be a general mailing for all people, or only those that are registered.

The Auditor's office responded it would only be for those that are registered.

Jack Miles, Mason County Republican Central Committee Vice-Chair, several members of the committee have voiced their concern after voting for an all mail ballot. They have changed their minds about the all mail ballot. He noted concerns about the latest election with King County where they counted votes by persons that were disqualified from voting.

Cmmr. Sheldon noted that King County is 37 times larger than Mason County. He has watched the Mason County election workers and staff do a terrific job. There is a vast difference here than King County. Mason County elections does have an excellent record.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson interjected that King County has a different form of government than Mason County. The Mason County auditor and superintendent of election have and continue to do a fine job.

She noted they are a local government that struggled with this issue. If there is a possibility to participate as local government representatives at the state, in the future they would like that.

Brian McCartney commented that sometimes his mail doesn't come in on time. He has had mail show up a month or two late. He would be disappointed if he did not get to vote.

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Cmmr. Sheldon stated this would be substantial cost savings and the money could go for deputies and law enforcement.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson commented this is local government and need to make a decision. The Elections Department believes this is the best strategy at this time.

Cmmr. Kamin stated there has been interesting and convincing discussion, but not convincing enough for herself. One of the issues brought up is that it is a solemn responsibility that citizens take to vote. She felt that there is a lot lost in the effort to save money and make things easier.

Cmmr. Sheldon/Ring Erickson moved and seconded to authorize the Mason County Auditor to conduct all Mason County elections by mail. Motion carried. RE- aye; S-aye; K-no. Resolution No. 48-05 (Exhibit B)

11. Administration – The Board announced their night meeting at Belfair on the fifth Tuesday in Belfair. They will be having a guest a representative from Department of Transportation giving information about the appropriation made by the legislature for the Belfair Bypass.
12. Board's Reports and Calendar – The Board gave a report on meetings they attended the past week and also announced their upcoming schedule.
13. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

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