

BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

DECEMBER 13, 2005

1. Call to Order – The regular meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by the Chairperson.
2. Pledge of Allegiance – The chairperson led the flag salute.
3. Roll Call - Present: Dist. 1 – Lynda Ring Erickson; Cmmr. Dist. 2 – Tim Sheldon; Cmmr. Dist. 3 – Jayni L. Kamin.
4. Correspondence and Organizational Business
 - 4.1 Correspondence
 - 4.1.1 Per RCW 84.52.020 copies of the 2006 budget/levies were received from: Port of Grapeview.
 - 4.1.2 Transportation Improvement Program Citizens Advisory Program (TIP-CAP) Applicants: Gale B. McGrath; Daniel H. Michener; Jack Nicklaus; Ken Wilson; Richard A. Knight; and Mel Williamson.
 - 4.1.3 The League of Women Voters of Mason County unanimously support the Mason County Commissioners' Resolution to petition the Governor and Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission to end the Day Use Parking Fees.
 - 4.1.4 Letter of concern regarding the NASCAR track proposal was received from George D. Funk.
 - 4.1.5 Washington State Department of Natural Resources submitted the third quarter report of income from state forest board lands in Mason County and projection for harvest 2006.
 - 4.1.6 Washington State Department of Health issued an Initial Order reclassifying part of the shellfish growing area in lower Hood Canal from Prohibited to Approved.
5. Open Forum for Citizen Input
 - 5.1 Bob Harris thanked the Commissioners for going to North Mason and holding meetings. They have a problem that Mary E. Theler Community Center is losing hotel motel dollars and the North Mason Chamber of Commerce (NMCO) is receiving funds. Normally they split the fees. In the past, this was contracted out to the NMCO. He noted that the Theler Center has more display area of brochures and fliers and more parking spaces than the NMCO. He asked that this be set aside for a while.
 - 5.2 Mary Jean Hrbacek requested the County budget be included on the website. Also, copies of minutes on the web for current meetings. She did not want to see money that was going to the Theler Center going to another organization to do the same thing. She asked that the commissioners look at a reduction in taxes due to increased revenue projections.
 - 5.3 Wendy Irvin, Planning Advisory Commission member, felt that the Theler Center is a natural fit for tourism and should remain that way. She felt there is a basic unfairness that your neighbor can sell their home and make a profit and then you are left paying the increased taxes.
 - 5.4 Bruce Landram lives in Belfair. He stated that North Mason is waking up politically and they would like to get rid of the dividing line that exists. He referred to an email sent to the Board regarding a brief he wrote on the management of the Pacific Northwest Salmon Center and the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group. He wanted the Board to understand the integrated history of Theler, Pacific Northwest Salmon Center, and Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group. He provided the Board a copy of the application to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board for purchase of the Johnson farm property.
 - 5.5 Randy Neatherlin asked for support for the Theler Community Center and wetlands. The Lodging Tax Advisory Committee funds being considered for NMCO. He asked that the funds be directed to Theler Center as was in the past.
 - 5.6 George Rickel asked that Item 8.4 (3.7% cost of living) be removed from the consent agenda. He questioned if there were comparisons done outside the county. He questioned if this is excessive.
6. 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.**

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- 7 Approval of Minutes – **Cmmr. Sheldon/Ring Erickson moved and seconded to approve the special meeting minutes of November 29 and December 5, regular meeting minutes of December 6, and briefing minutes of October 18 and 24, 2005. Motion carried unanimously. K-aye; RE-aye; S-aye.**
- 8 Approval of Consent Agenda:
- 8.1 Approval of Veterans Assistance Fund applications for: Joe P. Laudenbach – housing \$600.00; Robert J. Ramar – utilities \$123.27 & food \$250.00; Doe Bridge – housing \$250.00 & utilities \$96.13; housing \$100.00; Bob W. Kozel – utilities \$84.15; George W. (Mrs. Mary C) Depoe – utilities \$153.96 & food \$339.27; Allan D. Reynolds – food \$56.00 for a total of \$2,052.78.
 - 8.2 Approval for Utilities and Waste Management to secure telephone or written quotes for the purchase of ultraviolet light bulbs and outer sleeves for the North Bay Wastewater Treatment Facility at an estimated cost of \$4,000.
 - 8.3 Approval of the resolution setting a public hearing on Tuesday, December 27, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. to consider a supplemental appropriation to the 2005 Election Equipment Holding Fund Budget in the estimated amount of \$286,000. **Resolution No. 120-05 (Exhibit A)**
 - 8.4 Approval of the resolution approving the 2006 Non-Union Salary Range Table to include a 3.7% Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) for non-union employees. **Resolution No. 121-05 (Exhibit B)**
 - 8.5 Approval of the resolution for CRP 1858, Beeville Loop Road culvert replacement project at milepost .33 **Resolution No. 122-05 (Exhibit C)**
 - 8.6 Approval of the resolution for CRP 1859, Beeville Loop Road culvert replacement at milepost 2.36. **Resolution No. 123-05 (Exhibit D)**
 - 8.7 Approval of Warrants
Claims Clearing Fund Warrant #'s 98224-98666 \$ 706,173.65
 - 8.8 Approval to set a public hearing on Tuesday, December 27, 2005 to consider revised planning and building permit fees. The proposal is for a two and one-half percentage increase effective January 1, 2006.

It was asked to pull Item 8.8 and 8.4

Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Sheldon moved and seconded to approve Item Nos 8.1 – 8.3 and 8.5 – 8.7. Motion carried unanimously. K-aye; RE-aye; S-aye.

Item 8.4 – Approval of the resolution approving the 2006 Non-Union Salary Range Table to include a 3.7% Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) for non-union employees.

Greg Hering, Human Resources Director, explained that Mason County compares itself with five other counties traditionally for the last five years. They perform salary surveys. The current salary survey which sets the levels for the non-union salary scale was conducted two years ago. They will conduct another survey this summer. The salaries are separate from the cost-of-living allowance. The cost of living allowance traditionally has been the consumer price index-U (all cities in US). The CPI-U is currently at 4.1%. Mason County sets the COLA each year for non-union salaries. His recommendation was higher at 4.1% and the Board took an average of all the unions, which ranged from 2.5% - 5.9%.

Mr. Rickel commented his main concern is what about within the states. He questioned if there was there an increase for the cost of living within Mason County that the salaries did not keep up with it.

Mr. Hering responded that was the standard that was set approximately five years ago and he has continued with that.

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Cmmr. Ring Erickson estimated that the cost of living in Mason County has escalated faster than other parts of the state.

The question was raised as to what five counties are used for comparison.

It was noted that Clallam, Jefferson, Grays Harbor and Lewis counties (rural counties on this side of the state that have a + or - 25,000 range of the current population for Mason County). Relatively rural, resource based counties and not urban high tech counties. It was those counties that are used in comparison for union negotiations.

Cmmr. Sheldon referred to the comment about the rising cost of housing in the County. The new housing costs have increased over 25% in the past year. That has been a big factor in raising the cost of living in Mason County. Everyone has to pay housing costs. The County tries to set this non-union salary increase (COLA) at the same rate as the other employees. They tried to average what the other employees received over the last several years. Some unions had signed a contract two years ago at a lower amount.

Mr. Hering noted that the non-union employees did not receive a wage increase. The salary range table was raised by 3.7% for the cost of living adjustment. The unions receive their increase is negotiate to include a salary comparison with like counties and the COLA.

Item 8.8 - Approval to set a public hearing on Tuesday, December 27, 2005 to consider revised planning and building permit fees. The proposal is for a two and one-half percentage increase effective January 1, 2006.

Chairperson Kamin noted that there would be time for public comment at the hearing.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Sheldon moved and seconded to approve items 8.4 and 8.8 as published. 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 Consider adoption of the 2006 Mason County budget.

Ione Siegler, Budget & Finance Director, presented the Board with an updated spreadsheet that shows the changes since the preliminary hearing. Those changes that have been posted since the preliminary hearing as follows: Hearing Examiner moved under Community Development for better management. There cost of the Capital Improvement Plan for parks was added for a total of \$125,000; Drug Court was moved to Probation Services from Superior Court at the request of Superior Court; they added a Traffic Policing program for the Sheriff at a cost of \$402,250; they also added three operating transfers out to establish new funds; \$48,000 out of the Current Expense Fund to establish a new Civil Litigation Fund; \$25,000 transferred for a new Reserve for Court Fund; there will be \$45,000 spent in a new Historical Preservation Fund (\$15,000 is revenue in the Current Expense Dept and transferred); there was a reduction of the Community Support Services Fund by \$95,000; Hotel Motel Fund has additional revenue of \$165,000.

Cmmr. Sheldon questioned if the fact that Alderbrook has been open for one full year and they are the greatest contributor to the hotel/motel funds.

Ms. Siegler concurred.

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Cmmr. Ring Erickson referred to the Historic Preservation Fund and asked if that is money that is dedicated as a result of a new fee that the state legislature approved earlier this year.

Ms. Siegler responded, yes, this is a new program.

Wendy Irvin commented that in the court system, the amount that is paid to the public defenders is so low that the system is that the public defenders go for a plea and do what they can to make sure there are no trials because they cost more money. The dollars for public defenders are kept at such a point that the people who are charged with something are almost coerced by public defenders into making a plea. There is a basic problem in Mason County in courts because of the amount paid to the public defenders. She felt this needs to be looked at.

Cmmr. Sheldon stated the state has increased the funding for attorneys that represent indigent defendants in Mason County. Mason County has also increased the funding.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson added they are looking at performance audits for various pieces of the criminal justice system. It will come under closer review by the Commissioners as they move along that process.

Cmmr Sheldon noted that most of the cases in Mason County are related to drugs (meth). Mason County has a drug court system in the County and they are trying to help some of the people that are seriously addicted to these dangerous drugs. It is very hard to do that. Some people would rather spend the time in jail than the time in drug court dealing with their problem. This is one of the biggest issues in Mason County.

Cmmr. Kamin asked for clarification on the intent of the Hotel/Motel Tax Fund and what it is for; who is taxed, how the money is to be disbursed; the role of the County Commissioners in overseeing that.

Ms. Siegler explained that the Lodging Tax (hotel/motel) was established to promote tourism. It is the housing providers (hotels) charge the tax and remit to the state. Mason County receives a portion of tax from the state. There are very strict rules. Mason County has been looking very closely at the legal requirements. One of the major requirements is that all of the requests for funding have to go through a Lodging Tax Advisory Committee who makes a recommendation to the Board of Mason County Commissioners. The Mason County Commissioners approve what will be funded. When the requests for reimbursement come in, they are looked at very closely. Not only the award is scrutinized, but each time they submit for reimbursement they are audited.

Cmmr. Kamin noted that the advisory committee is structured according to state law. There is an equal number of generators (those who are taxed) along with the spenders (those that help make best use of the tax).

Wendy Irvin questioned what part the tribes play in this.

Cmmr. Kamin noted they do not participate in this. They have their own tourism program.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson noted this has been an interesting and informative process. They are trying to make the budget process more and more open. The elected officials and department heads have done a wonderful job in asking the right questions and getting the right information to the Board to make good decisions and pass along a good package of services. The tax dollars that go to the county need to be well used and receive a good package of services for those tax dollars. They have made improvements in line level law enforcement. They are working at looking at performance audits and getting good value.

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Cmmr. Sheldon/Ring Erickson moved and seconded to adopt the 2006 budget for Mason County as presented. Motion carried unanimously. K-aye; RE-aye; S-aye. Resolution No. 124-05 (Exhibit E)

- 10.2 Consider adoption of the Ordinance amending the Capital Facilities Element of the Mason County Comprehensive Plan and authorize the Chairperson to sign the Findings of Fact for the Capital Facilities Plan update.

Steve Goins, Planner, there were some refinements made from the last version on December 5. This to reconcile the facilities plan to the budget. Mostly, in the table for financing on Facilities & Ground to make those documents internally consistent. There was no additional public document and they are recommending approval.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Sheldon moved and seconded that the County adopt Ordinance No. 125-05 amending the Capital Facilities Element of the Mason County Comprehensive Plan as part of the 2006 budget, and direct the chair to sign the Findings of Fact for the Capital Facilities Plan update. Motion carried unanimously. K-aye; RE-aye; S-aye. Ordinance No. 125-05 (Exhibit F)

- 10.3 Approval to award the bid for a new end-dump pup trailer to Seattle Mack Sales & Services of Des Moines, WA. for the Public Works Department. Total cost is \$53,660 plus tax. Bid opening was November 30, 2005.

Dave Loser, Equipment Rental & Revolving Fund Manager, recommended the Board award the bid for a new end-dump pup trailer to Seattle Mack Sales & Service of Des Moines, WA in the amount of \$53,660 plus tax.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Sheldon moved and seconded the Board of County Commissioners award the bid to Seattle Mack Sales & Service of Des Moines, WA to furnish Mason County with one new end dump pup trailer for Public Works. Total cost \$53,660 plus tax. Motion carried unanimously. K-aye; RE-aye; S-aye.

11. Board's Reports and Calendar – The board announced the upcoming week's schedule and reported on meetings they attended the previous week.
12. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 10:25 am

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MASON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Jayni L. Kamin, Chairperson

Lynda Ring Erickson, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Rebecca S. Rogers, Clerk of the Board

Tim Sheldon, Commissioner