

**BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
DECEMBER 27, 2005**

1. Call to Order – The regular meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.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 Washington State Dept. of Fish & Wildlife submitted a copy of the Concise Explanatory Statement of regulations adopted by DFW in December and proposed regulations to be considered for adoption.
 - 4.1.2 Transportation Improvement Program-Citizens Advisory Program (TIP-CAP) Advisory Board Applicants: Steve VanDenover; Bob Allen; Clifford Hall; Norm Eveleth; and Joe Spaulding
 - 4.1.3 Civil Service Commission Applicant: Donald R. Oars
 - 4.1.4 Hartstene Pointe Maintenance Association has submitted a petition asking for reconsideration of recent increases in the sewer and water rates.
 - 4.1.5 The Community Foundation of South Puget Sound announced that they have approved several grants for agencies serving Mason County: Turning Pointe Domestic Violence services and Thurston County Legal Services Foundation.
 - 4.1.6 Skagit County Commissioner Munks asked for the County's financial support to assist in paying the salary of a Washington DC timber lobbyist.
 - 4.2 Mason County Employees Group Report. Mr. Kelly Frazier and Mr. Ben Ramsfield announced the employees of Mason County raised \$2,259 from a bake sale and donations and were able to purchase everything on the nursing homes' lists and also donated \$500 to 40 et 8. The various departments decorated twenty-two Christmas trees and donated them to the nursing homes.

The Board congratulated Mr. Frazier and Mr. Ramsfield on their very successful project.

- 4.3 Staff recognition. Staff: Greg Hering announced Mr. Frazier and Mr. Ramsfield are being recognized for their extraordinary efforts for the county and for the people of the county through the employee group.

The Board presented Mr. Frazier and Mr. Ramsfield both with an "Above & Beyond Award".

5. Open Forum for Citizen Input

Michelle Hedding, Habitat for Humanity thanked the Commissioners for supporting the affordable housing.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson read into the record a press release dated on Friday, December 23, 2005, stating that the courthouse would be opened immediately to provide supervised housing for those individual who require shelter if inclement weather were to strike during the holiday season. The Commissioners are very concerned that a sudden change in conditions could force many into potentially dangerous situations if they are forced to be outside unprotected. Presently, no approved shelter is available to house individual homeless persons in Shelton.

6. Adoption of Agenda – **Cmmr. Sheldon/Ring Erickson moved and seconded to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried with all in favor. RE-aye; S-aye; K-aye.**
7. Approval of Minutes – **Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Sheldon moved and seconded to approve the regular meeting minutes of November 1, 2005 and briefing minutes of November 15, 29, 30 and December 13, 20 and 21, 2005. Motion carried with all in favor. RE-aye; S-aye; K-aye.**

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8. Approval of Consent Agenda:
 - 8.1 Approval to appoint Sue Chaplin to serve a 3-year term on the Thurston/Mason Mental/RSN Advisory Board.
 - 8.2 Approval of the resolution amending the Non-Union Salary Range Table to reflect reclassifications approved in the 2006 Mason County Budget. **Resolution No. 132-05 (Exhibit A)**
 - 8.3 Approval of the Veterans Assistance Fund application for Michael J. Heimbigner for housing in the amount of \$600.
 - 8.4 Approval of Amendment #3 to an existing consultant contract between HDR/Economic and Engineering Services, Inc. The amendment is a no-cost contract extension to March 31, 2006 for consultant services for review of flood plain management in the Skokomish River Valley.
 - 8.5 Approval to appoint the following to the Transportation Improvement Program Citizens Advisory Program (TIP-CAP) for 2006: Greg Hering, Bill Hrbacek, Richard Knight, Gale McGrath, Daniel Michener, Ken Wilson, Jack Nicklaus, Mel Williamson, Drew Noble, Bob Allen, Clifford Hall, Norm Eveleth, Steve Van Denver and Joe Spaulding.
 - 8.6 Approval of Warrants
Salary Clearing Fund Warrant #'s 98882-99259 \$754,175.24
 - 8.7 Approval of a contract between Mason County and Washington State Community, Trade, and Economic Development for the Growth Management Act Update Grant of \$25,000 to Mason County for the GMA mandated update of the county critical area regulations, and approval of the signature of the contract amendment on behalf of the county by Chairperson Jayni Kamin.
 - 8.8 No objection to the new liquor license application for Lupita's Tienda Mexicana, 24090 NE SR 3, Ste J, Belfair. Applicants are Franco M Camacho & Ricardo Franco-Gutierrez. Privileges applied for are grocery store – beer/wine.
 - 8.9 No objection to the new liquor license application for The Hungry Bear Café, 36830 Hwy 101, Lilliwaup. Applicants are By the Sea Restaurants & Catering, LLC; Rohn M & Carin D. Rutledge. Privileges applied for are spirits/beer/wine restaurant service bar.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Sheldon moved and seconded to approve the consent agenda items 8.1 through 8.9 as presented. Motion carried with all in favor. RE-aye; S-aye; K-aye

9. 9:30 a.m. Public Hearings and Items Set for a Certain Time
 - 9.1 Public hearing to consider a supplemental appropriation to the 2005 Election Equipment Holding Fund Budget in the amount of \$286,000. Ms. Ione Siegler, Budget & Finance Department Head announced a \$286,000 grant from the Helping Americans Vote Act (HAVA) to replace the County punch card voting system with an optical scan. The 2005 Election Equipment Holding Fund Budget needs to be amended to allow the Auditor to purchase the equipment.

Mr. Al Brotche, Mason County Auditor stated the optical scanner, the paper ballot system and the direct recording equipment are for those that are disabled and need to vote in person. His department is preparing for the February election. He announced that the equipment would serve all of the school districts with the exception of Hood Canal School District.

Cmmr. Sheldon asked if the amount of money awarded in the grant would be sufficient to do the transition or would it need to be supplemented.

Mr. Brotche stated the award could be as much as \$330,000, but he is confident the \$286,000 is sufficient to complete the transition.

Cmmr. Sheldon questioned what the turn out was for the all mail in ballot in the last election.

Mr. Brotche stated there was a 62% turnout in the odd year general election, which is a 10% increase from past years.

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Cmmr. Ring Erickson stated it was her understanding that historically Mason County has a higher voter turnout.

Mr. Brotche stated that was correct.

There was no public testimony.

Cmmr. Sheldon/Ring Erickson moved and seconded to approve the supplemental appropriation to the 2005 Election Equipment Holding Fund Budget in the amount of \$286,000. Motion carried with all in favor. RE-aye; S-aye; K-aye.

- 9.2 Public hearing to consider a revision to rates for the building and planning fees in the Department of Community Development. Mr. Emmett Dobe, Community Development Department Head, stated that during his last briefing with the Board they requested the hearing be removed from the agenda, however, because it had already been advertised the public hearing must be opened for public testimony. After the public testimony has been heard a motion to dismiss the item from the agenda could be made.

Public comment opened.

Mr. Matt Matayoshi, Economic Development Council (EDC) stated his organization would like to participate in any additional discussions that pertain to the rates and fee schedule changes for building permits. The EDC would also like to have adequate time to review any proposed changes prior to a hearing.

Cmmr. Kamin stated the Board has decided to examine the changes further to insure that affordable housing and the economic component of the comprehensive plan reflect the rates that are proposed.

Cmmr. Sheldon/Kamin moved and seconded to close the hearing and take no action. Motion carried with two in favor and one opposed. S-aye; K-aye; RE-opposed.

10 Other Business (Department Heads and Elected Officials)

- 10.1 Approval of Phase I of the 10-Year Homeless Plan for Mason County. Ms. Kim Klint, Mason Matters, presented phase 1 of the 10-year Homeless Plan for Mason County. Ms. Klint stated the Legislative intent of the State House Bill (SHB) 2163 was that a well-planned and implemented Homeless Count was necessary to serve as a foundation for the Homelessness Housing and Assistance Act. The state has strongly encouraged counties, especially rural counties, to invest SHB 2163 funds in completing a more accurate homeless county and comprehensive planning process.

Ms. Klint stated Phase 1 of the 10-Year Homeless Plan would focus on planning activities. The plan outlines a comprehensive homeless count and a Homeless Summit to be completed by the fall of 2006. The Homeless Summit would enable the broader community to develop Phase II of the Homeless Plan. The final strategies to address homelessness in Mason County will require partnership and cooperation with other local governments, including the City of Shelton, and through existing regional planning efforts.

The comprehensive plan would address four targeted populations, which are families, youth, chronically homeless individuals and the non-chronic homeless. In each of the targeted populations there has to be a strategic plan that not only provides permanent housing solutions but also health and economic strategies. Ms. Klint reviewed the two strategies listed in Phase 1 for each of the four-targeted populations.

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The last homeless count conducted was in 2003 and it recorded 152 homeless people in Mason County. Ms. Klint did not feel like that accurately represented the number of homeless people in the county, which is why the count in Phase 1 will be important.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson questioned why the strategies listed for the homeless youth only listed the Shelton School District as a partner in services. There are several school districts in the county and she would like each of them to be included and involved.

Ms. Klint stated the North Mason and Mary M. Knight are both working on homeless issues under a Readiness to Learn grant.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson stated it was important that the plan identified and listed the support and services the other school districts are providing.

Ms. Klint asked if there was certain language that should be added to the final draft.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson stated she would like any ongoing programs with all of the school districts listed. Listing all of them and identifying their programs would improve the relationship and help develop a countywide system.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson also questioned the effectiveness of the homeless outreach program, which is a Mason-Thurston Regional Support Network. It is difficult to serve an individual that doesn't have transportation to the resource.

Ms. Klint stated she would make the changes discussed and submit it in the final copy for approval.

Cmmr. Sheldon questioned how the transient sex offender population was listed. He felt it needed to be addressed and added into the population of homeless.

Ms. Klint replied it was not required under the law but it would also be included as a separate category in the final plan.

Cmmr. Sheldon said he felt it was important for the community to know how many homeless sexual offenders there are in our county. It is also important for the service providers to know they are serving sexual offenders for their own safety.

Cmmr. Kamin talked about the recommendations for State Legislative and policy changes needed to address homelessness listed in Phase 1 of the plan. Item six under that list addresses the ex-felons. Under the current low income housing standards ex-felons are not allowed to live in the home. This means when an ex-felon returns to their family living in low income housing, the family must choose between living in the low-income housing unit or living with the ex-felon, which could mean they become homeless because they don't have the resources to move.

Ms. Klint stated she doesn't know what the solution is to the ex-felon situations but it was a recommendation from the committee to look into different resources to keep those types of families in affordable housing.

The Board commended Ms. Klint for the work she has done on the homeless plan.

Mr. Steve Goins, Planner stated the data collected from the first phase of the plan would be used to implement phase two. Phase two will be developing the prevention and intervention strategies by

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using the phase one data. As phase two is implemented another entity would be sought to actually take over the plan and put it into operation.

Mr. Goins stated he believes the homeless plan will help develop other elements of the comprehensive plan. The health and human services, economic development and the housing elements are all elements that will need to be addressed as the homeless plan is developed. After the summit is held in late spring or early summer the planning staff will review with the Board the strategies that have been developed.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson questioned if the homeless plan was consistent and in align with the Health and Humans services component for the comprehensive plan, or is it just an additional piece that has to be done because it is required under state law.

Mr. Goins stated the homeless plan has been set up to assist and help facilitate and develop coordination of the other comprehensive elements that still need to be developed to eliminate overlapping and duplication of their efforts. Mr. Goins stated the homeless plan is required under state law to be adopted by December 31, 2005. The deadline for the homeless count has been extended to January 31, 2006.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson questioned if changes needed to be made at a later date could the plan be amended.

Ms. Klint replied yes.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Sheldon moved and seconded to approve Phase I of the 10-Year Homeless Plan for Mason County. Motion carried with all in favor. RE-aye; S-aye; K-aye.

11 Board's Reports and Calendar – The Commissioners reported on meetings from last Tuesday and announced those appointments for the upcoming week.

12 Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 9:58 a.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