

BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

MARCH 28, 2006

1. Call to Order – the Chairperson called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
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 (arrived at 6:01 p.m.).
4. Correspondence and Organizational Business
 - 4.1 Correspondence
 - 4.1.1 The City of Shelton expressed some concerns regarding tourism in Mason County and the adoption of the MOU.
 - 4.1.2 Destination Development outlined tasks they have completed while working with Mason County in pursuit of a more focused and unified visitor industry.
 - 4.1.3 The Port of Bremerton thanked the Commissioners for their support in efforts to gain funding for the SR3/SR16 Corridor Study through the 2006 Legislative process.
 - 4.1.4 Jim Leggett requested consideration of financial support for the Annas Bay Music Festival via Lodging Tax.
 - 4.1.5 Don & Carolyn Maddux asked to be included in those supporting Annas Bay Music Festival and seeking its inclusion in the allocation of lodging tax funds.
 - 4.1.6 The Washington State County Road Administration Board asked for "County Engineer of the Year" Nominations.
 - 4.2 News Release – Vacancy on the Mason County Trails End Water District Board. Cmmr. Sheldon read the news release into the record. Mason County is accepting letters of interest until April 14th.
 - 4.3 News Release – Transportation Improvement Program Citizens Advisory Panel (TIP-CAP) Citizen Survey. Charlie Butros read aloud the news release that talks about a citizen survey that is available to gather information about Mason County Roads from the residents.

5. Open Forum for Citizen Input

Wes Johnson addressed the issue of the Fairgrounds Manager. He stated when he was a commissioner, a policy was adopted to reduce the spread between the revenue and expenditures at the Fairgrounds and he believes that still stands. He stated the subsidy from taxpayers has been reduced by about 1/3. He believes that it appears the performance of the Fair Manager has been very good. He also understands that volunteers who help at the Fairgrounds, has increased substantially over last year so there is a great deal of community participation and he believes the Fair Manager has had a major part in seeing that this transpired. He again stated that he believes her performance has been very good and she is following county policy. He asked the Commissioners to give serious consideration to the points he has raised. He noted that he understands her performance evaluation was also very satisfactory.

Dave Bowers, Puget Sound Enduro Riders (off-road motorcycle club), stated they have held events at the Fairgrounds and they have never been more satisfied than with Gretchen Stewart-Jankauskas. He believes the Fairgrounds have improved immensely under her guidance. He encouraged the Board to keep her.

Wendy Ervin, expressed concerns from being on the Planning Advisory Commission and having attended TIP CAP meetings. One of her concerns is Mason County has three Urban Growth Areas that all need roads. She stated there is a plan for Belfair and one coming in for Allyn, but the Shelton UGA needs a plan for roads. She believes both the County and the City are ignoring this issue. She is concerned that due to lack of infrastructure in the UGA, all growth is then forced into the rural area. Her second subject was eminent domain and she has spoke to the Board previously. She received a letter stating that eminent domain cannot be used in Washington State to take away private property and give it to a private person. She stated it is currently being used that way in Seattle where people had their property taken away for the monorail, that property is now being sold back to the highest bidder, not to the previous owner. She wants an ordinance that says private property cannot be taken from one citizen and transferred to another private citizen and if

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private property is taken under eminent domain, and then surplus, it must be offered to the previous owner at the price that it was taken away from them.

Rick Hoss, representing Annas Bay Music Festival, stated he has had contact with an LTAC Board member who was very responsive and suggested that waiting until the May LTAC meeting was not appropriate and this should be decided much sooner. They are anxious to move this forward sooner than May. He said there is a very positive response from the community. He stated this is opportunity to have a world-class musical festival with support from the county.

Dick Lorenz, Federal Way, Co-Chair for the tractor show that is held at the Fairgrounds. He believes Gretchen has done an outstanding job and is she has been very easy to work with. He asked the Board to think long before taking action.

6. Adoption of Agenda –
Cmmr. Sheldon/Kamin moved and seconded that Item 10 be moved to after Item. 7. Motion carried unanimously. RE-aye; S-aye; K-aye.
7. Approval of Minutes – None.
10. Other Business (Department Heads and Elected Officials)
 - 10.1 Personnel Issue
Cmmr. Sheldon/Kamin moved and seconded to hire John Keates as the Parks & Trails Director effective April 24, 2006. Motion carried unanimously. RE-aye; S-aye; K-aye.

Cmmr. Sheldon/Ring Erickson moved and seconded to terminate Gretchen Stewart-Jankauskas effective immediately.

Cmmr. Sheldon spoke to the motion. He stated we are facing quite a challenge as we move through the next few years in relocating our Fairgrounds. The relocation of the Fairgrounds is essential to the community and he looks forward to the improvements that will be made at the new location at the Highway 101/102 intersection. He has talked to existing staff at the Fairgrounds and he feels they have done a terrific job. They are well positioned to serve the public and keep the Fairgrounds running in a very effective manner. He stated there is no reason to believe that the public subsidy cannot continue to drop nor is there any reason that volunteer efforts can't increase with a new director. He believes this is an opportunity to move on. He thanked Gretchen for her service.

Cmmr. Kamin stated this agenda item is probably one of the most difficult they have faced as a Commission. She noted that Gretchen has been employed by Mason County since 2002 when she was hired as the Fair Manager and it was then decided to make her position a year-round position. She was given the charge to do her best to make the Fairgrounds fully self-sustaining, and at least reduce the subsidy from taxpayers. Cmmr. Kamin believes this transition made it a very difficult and controversial position. She noted it is the Fair Manager who works the most closely with the community compared to other department heads. She believes Gretchen has done an admirable job with very little resources, support or direction and has reduced the subsidy to the taxpayers by approximately \$140,000 a year. She stated much of the work that has been done is due to Gretchen's personal efforts to solicit donations, salvage materials and use volunteer and community service labor.

Cmmr. Kamin stated she has several concerns with this action, first of which is the manner in which it was initiated. She stated there was absolutely no warning to herself or Gretchen before the action. One of the things that she believes has been most important to this Commission was a commitment to open, accountable and efficient government. She noted that last year they initiated employee performance reviews of all the directors.

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Another concern she has is with the timing of this action. Now is the time that the fair, tourist and event season start to pick up the pace and is not the time to be searching and training a new manager. She is concerned there has been no plan to address these issues in a timely manner. She also is concerned that any time the County initiates terminate of employment, we are susceptible to potential litigation. She has spent a lot of time deliberating this issue to determine what is best for the citizens of Mason County and realizes she was elected to make tough decisions. She stated she has worked closely with Gretchen and has great respect for her. She believes that as Commissioners, they must have a relationship where they work together with trust and respect. Cmmr. Kamin stated she has worked very hard to bring the community together on various levels and she will not vote to terminate Gretchen but is resolved to continue to work together with her fellow Commissioners.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson commented that she has worked as an at-will employee for many years and recognized that at any given moment, the leadership could change and want to take a different direction with her position, which is a vulnerability of working as an at-will employee.

Motion carried. S-aye; RE-aye; K-Opposed.

8. Approval of Consent Agenda:

- ~~8.1 Approval of a resolution establishing a Mason County Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. removed~~
- 8.2 Approval to remove Item 8.7 that was tabled at the March 21, 2006 meeting and take no action to approve the resolution establishing a new Capital Projects Fund (355-000-000).
- 8.3 Approval of Utilities & Waste Management Department's request to post for quotes for a pump replacement at the Nantucket pump station at the Hartstene Pointe Sewer System. Estimated cost is between \$4,500 and \$6,000.
- 8.4 Approval of Amendment #4 to an existing consultant contract between HDR/Economic and Engineering Services, Inc. The amendment is a no-cost contract extension to August 31, 2006 for consultant services in a review of flood plain management in the Skokomish River Valley.
- 8.5 Approval of Amendment #1 to the contract between Mason County and Mason Matters to include expenses associated with the 2006 Homeless Count, not to exceed \$2,500, and community planning event scheduled in May 2006, not to exceed \$2,500.
- 8.6 Approval of the Department of Ecology SRF loan #L0600011 for the Hartstene Pointe Outfall relocation in the amount of \$662,500.
- 8.7 Approval of the contract for professional services between Mason County Juvenile Court Probation Services and Kerry Duke, Licensed Social Worker and certified Functional Family Therapist.
- 8.8 Approval of Veterans Assistance Fund applications for: Robert J. Ramar - utilities \$129.09; Robert Plant - housing \$449.88; Dale Carrell - utilities \$202.97 and food \$397.03; Duane Lee Pewo (Marlene Pewo) - housing \$600; Walter Glosup - food \$100 and Myrna M. Green - utilities \$159.08 for a total of \$2,038.05.
- 8.9 Approval of the interlocal agreement between South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group & Mason County for the installation and coordination of Malaney Creek and Uncle Johns Creek culvert replacement projects.
- 8.10 Approval of CRP 1872 - Island View Road for a culvert replacement project at milepost 0.84 and 0.96. The projected costs are Engineering, \$15,000; Right of Way, \$8,000 and Construction, \$440,000 with The South Sound Salmon Enhancement Group **Resolution 21-06 (Exhibit A)**
- 8.11 Approval to extend the Interim Zoning Regulations for the Allyn UGA until December 31, 2006 and set a public hearing on Tuesday, April 18, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. to take public comment.
Ordinance 22-06 (Exhibit B)
- 8.12 Approval for the Public Works Director to enter into a Consultant Agreement with Otak Incorporated of Kirkland to update the County's Stormwater Policies and regulations and develop Stormwater Management Plans for Hoodspout and Belfair.

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- 8.13 Approval for the Equipment Rental & Revolving Fund Manager to purchase an additional end dump pup trailer from Seattle Mack Sales & Service of Des Moines, WA for Public Works. Total cost is \$52,950 plus tax.
- 8.14 Approval for the Equipment Rental & Revolving Fund Manager to call for bids to furnish Mason County with Emulsified Asphalt for 2006. Bid opening date to be Wednesday, April 26, 2006 at 9:00 a.m.
- 8.15 Approval of warrants:
Claims Clearing Fund Warrant #s 103250-103777 \$569,761.83
- 8.16 Approval for the Facilities & Grounds Department to call for bids for remodel work in the Mason County Auditor/Elections Department. Bid opening to be Friday, April 14, 2006 at 3:00 p.m.
- 8.17 Approval for the Facilities & Grounds Department to call for bids for revisions to Building #8, Public Works area, to provide additional office space for staff. Bid opening to be Friday, April 14, 2006 at 3:30 p.m.

Ken VanBuskirk asked that Item 8.12 be removed for further discussion.

Cmmr. Sheldon/Kamin moved and seconded to approve the Consent Agenda, as read, except Item 8.12 which has been removed for further discussion. Motion carried unanimously. RE-aye; S-aye; K-aye.

Ken VanBuskirk asked about the Belfair stormwater management plan. He would like to know what the cost and scope of this project is going to be and if it is for the whole UGA or just for Highway 3. He also questioned the time frame and what happened to the work that the Perteet Group did.

Charlie Butros, Public Works Director, responded that while the timeframe has not been very well defined, they hope to perform the work by mid 2007. He stating the available funding is from WA State CTED and the Department of Ecology, who is administering money specifically for the Belfair stormwater study. The legislature authorized studies to be done for Belfair and Hoodspout as well as a review of the existing overall requirements that are in place for the county and updating these to current state requirements. He noted that the work Perteet did was put together information on the improvements to Highway 3. This proposal is for the entire UGA.

Emmett Dobey noted that Mason County has been awarded a grant from CTED for low impact development criteria that we might use to help control stormwater and will be adding that to the work effort.

Mr. Van Buskirk stated he attended a Planning Commission meeting on wetlands and he gave the Board information on creating an inventory of wetlands.

Cmmr. Sheldon pointed out that at the state level, stormwater regulations have changed rapidly which may impact the work Perteet did. He understands that this consultant (Otak Consultants) does very good work and are experts on the current regulations.

Cmmr. Kamin/Sheldon moved and seconded to approve Item 8.12 as read. Motion carried unanimously. RE-aye; S-aye; K-aye.

- 7. 6:30 p.m. Public Hearings and Items Set for a Certain Time - None
- 8. Board's Reports & Calendar - The Board shared highlights on some of the meetings attended the previous week and announced their calendar for the upcoming week.
- 9. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MASON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Lynda Ring Erickson, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Tim Sheldon, Commissioner

Rebecca S. Rogers, Clerk of the Board

Jayni L. Kamin, Commissioner