

BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

FEBRUARY 13, 2007

1. Call to Order – The regular meeting was called to order at 9:00 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 – Ross Gallagher.
4. Correspondence and Organizational Business
 - 4.1 Correspondence
 - 4.1.1 The Washington State Department of Ecology sent their 2006 Report to the Legislature, Water Conservancy Boards. (On file with the Clerk of the Board.)
 - 4.1.2 The Washington State County Road Administration Board sent their County Freight and Goods System 2006 Status Report. (On file with the Clerk of the Board.)
 - 4.1.3 The Washington State Department of Natural Resources sent their Projection of Income from State Forest Lands for the calendar year 2007. (Copy to Budget and Finance.)
 - 4.1.4 Ken Wilson is seeking appointment to the Mason County TIP/CAP.
 - 4.1.5 Billie Schmidt and Frank Benavente are seeking appointment to the Mason County Parks and Trails Advisory Board.
 - 4.1.6 The Washington State Liquor Control Board sent notice of a Liquor License Application for Cameo Boutique in Belfair.
 - 4.2 Staff Recognition – Sheriff's Department -- Sheriff Salisbury – Deferred till later.
5. Open Forum for Citizen Input (5 minutes per person, 15 minutes time limit.) - None
6. Adoption of Agenda – **Cmmr. Gallagher/Sheldon moved and seconded to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously. G-aye; RE-aye; S-aye.**
7. Approval of Minutes – **Cmmr. Sheldon/Ring Erickson moved and seconded to approve the regular meeting minutes for December 19, 2006 with a correction on pg 5, par 3 (Cmmr. Kamin vote; aye; Cmmr. Sheldon vote: aye; Cmmr. Ring Erickson vote; nay); and briefing minutes for the week of January 16, 2007. Motion carried unanimously. G-abstained; RE-aye; S-aye.**
8. Approval of Consent Agenda:
 - 8.1 Approval of contract with the Mason County Economic Development Council for 2007 in the amount of \$29,000.
 - 8.2 Approval of the 2007 – 2009 agreement between Mason County and the Local 1504 of the Washington State Council of County and City Employees and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees AFL-CIO (AFSCME).
 - 8.3 Approval of Webb Hill Monitoring Wells and Hydrogeologic Investigation grant agreement No. G0700208, between Mason County and Washington State Department of Ecology, in the amount of \$68,000.00.
 - 8.4 Approval to use Mason County's Small Works Roster to select and contract for services related to the Webb Hill Monitoring Wells and Hydrogeologic Investigation grant project, and authorize the Board to enter into contract(s) necessary for this purpose.
 - 8.5 Approval of the Professional Services Contract Amendment #7 between Mason Matters and Mason County to extend the contract through December 31, 2007 in the amount of \$25,000.
 - 8.6 Approval of Veterans Assistance Fund applications for: Curtis Holmes - utilities \$397.34; Alan R. Strait - housing \$487.50 and food \$112.50; Gerald Cassell Jr. - food \$600.00; Bradley D. Blair - food \$600.00; Walter Glossop - housing \$175.00 and food \$175.00; John F. Miller (Irma) - food \$600.00; Klaus Mulvihill - housing \$600.00; for a total of \$3,747.34 as recommended by the Veterans Assistance Fund Screening Committee.

**BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
FEBRUARY 13, 2007 - PAGE 2**

- 8.7 Approval to award Ingersoll Rand Equipment & Services of Seattle, Washington the bid to furnish Mason County with one new 2007, Etnyre Model ARA, 8,000 gallon Hot Asphalt Trailer with Electric Heat, as recommended by the Equipment Rental & Revolving Fund Manager. Total cost with tax is \$88,429.38.
- 8.8 Approval for the Public Works Department to solicit bids for the well drilling improvement contract for the new Public Works Facility and Maintenance Shop site and award the contract to the most competitive bidder. Bid opening is Friday, March 9, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. The award will be announced at a regular scheduled Commission meeting.
- 8.9 Approval to set a public hearing on Tuesday, March 20, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. to consider Road Vacation #354, as petitioned by Douglas Moore, for the following right-of-way: The South half of Fourth Street adjoining Lots 1 through 3, inclusive, Block 53, as shown on the "Plat of Hood Canal Land and Improvement Company's Plat of Union City " in Mason County, Washington. **Resolution No. 13A-07 (Exhibit A)**
- 8.10 Approval to cancel the March 6, 2007 Mason County Commission meeting due to the National Association of Counties Conference in Washington, DC that Cmmr. Ring Erickson and Cmmr. Gallagher will be attending.
- 8.11 Approval for the Chair to sign the agreement negotiated between Mason County Salvage and Mason County, to remove and recycle metals collected at the Mason County Solid Waste Facilities located at W 501 Eells Hill Road, Shelton and on Sand Hill Road, Belfair.
- 8.12 Approval of the resolution setting a public hearing on Tuesday, February 27th at 6:30 p.m. to consider supplemental appropriations to the 2007 Current Expense Fund Budget in the amount of \$113,816 and the Wastewater System Development Fund in the amount of \$80,000 and to consider budget transfers in the Current Expense Fund in the total amount of \$541,413. **Resolution No. 14-07 (Exhibit B)**
- 8.13 Approval to reschedule the public hearing from March 6 to March 13, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. to consider renaming all of Vista Place (County Road Number 78610) to Bartlett Place (County Road Number 78610).
- 8.14 Approval of Warrants
Claims Clearing Fund Warrant #s 118327-118489 \$549,457.03

Cmmr. Gallagher asked that Item 8.2 be removed as his wife is an employee within the AFSCME Local 1504 bargaining unit.

Cmmr. Sheldon complimented the staff and in particular Pam Bennett-Cummings for being creative in finding money for further investigation of the Webb Hill project listed in Items 8.3 & 8.4.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson asked that a work plan for the Mason Matters project under Item 8.5 be submitted.

Cmmr. Sheldon/Gallagher moved and seconded to approve Consent Agenda Item 8.1, 8.3 – 8.14 as presented. Motion carried unanimously. G-aye; RE-aye; S-aye.

Cmmr. Sheldon/Ring Erickson moved and seconded to approve Item 8.2. Motion carried unanimously. G-abstain; RE-aye; S-aye.

RECESS – the Board recessed at 9:26 am until 9:32 a.m.

9. 9:30 a.m. Public Hearings and Items Set for a Certain Time
- 9.1 Public hearing to consider the realignment and construction of a portion of Capital Hill Road. Rick Brush, Right-of-Way Manager, presented the staff report from Public Works. This has to do with the proposed relocation of the northerly two miles of Capital Hill Road where it intersects with Johns Prairie Road next to the County's road maintenance shop and storage yard. The proposal is to relocate that segment of the road to the west.

**BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
FEBRUARY 13, 2007 - PAGE 3**

This is a joint project between Public Works, the Port of Shelton and Manke.

Representatives in attendance from the Port of Shelton: Jack Miles, Richard Byrd, Patti Miller Crowley, Bob Robinson, Norma Taylor and Harry Rydell.

Manke Family is seeking a road realignment because the road in its present location represents a barrier to future development of their property and future expansion of their gravel mining operation.

There are some immediate benefits the property owner could realize from the realignment including elimination of illegal dumping and it is also a popular location from car racing. Moving the road to the west would bring it into an area that is going to be developed in the near future. Problems would not be occurring. The road in its present location is isolated and runs through undeveloped property. The project would involve the dedication of new right-of-way 60' in width. The Manke Family would be dedicating 60' of right-of-way and would run through Port of Shelton property. It would follow routes laid out in their comprehensive plan for the development of this industrial park. Road construction would be conducted by the Manke group and will include a paved road, shoulders and appropriate ditching to handle storm water runoff. A final element in the project would be the vacation of the old right-of-way. That will be an exchange of old right-of-way for new right-of-way and construction of a brand new road.

Public Works is in favor of this project. They have negotiated development agreements among the three parties to govern the project. Public Works is recommending approval to enter into the development agreements.

Cmmr. Gallagher asked if there has been consideration for a speed limit.

Mr. Brush responded he understood the County has an obligation to establish the speed limit at a certain level. It was noted that is 25 mph.

There was discussion about the Port property boundary.

Bob Robinson, Port of Shelton, expressed appreciation of the cooperation experienced with the county.

A question was raised as to who is paying for the realignment.

It was noted the Port of Shelton is providing the right-of-way and Manke Family is performing and funding the construction.

Cmmr. Sheldon/Gallagher moved and seconded to approve the resolution for the realignment of Capital Hill Road and execute the development agreements between the County and the Port and between the County and Manke. Motion carried unanimously. G-aye; RE-aye; S-aye. Resolution No. 15-07 (Exhibit C)

- 9.2 Public hearing to consider a utility franchise application between Mason County and Detroit #2 Water District.

Rick Hirschberg, Public Works, presented the staff report recommending approval of the franchise application for Detroit #2 Water District. The project is located at the intersection of Grapeview Loop Road and Treasure Island Road.. It is for a water line that is currently in place.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson stated the County is following up on procedure from a couple of months ago in terms of setting guidelines for utility easements.

**BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
FEBRUARY 13, 2007 - PAGE 4**

No public was present to testify.

Cmmr. Sheldon/Gallagher moved and seconded to approve the utility franchise application between Mason County and Detroit #2 Water District. Motion carried unanimously. G-aye; RE-aye; S-aye.

RECESS – the Board recessed at 9:51 am. – 10:01 a.m.

10. Other Business (Department Heads and Elected Officials)
10:00 a.m. State of the County Address.

Chair Ring Erickson noted this is the third annual state of Mason County. She noted a conversation is a more appropriate term.

She noted that sometimes it seems they are moving with lightning speed and other times it seems it takes them forever to get things done. They are working well together as a Commission and trying to offer support to some projects, some of which have already been going on for a couple of years and others which seem to whip by because of issues happening outside the county, particularly at the state and federal level.

The state of Mason County continues to be very very good. Financially, Mason County is one of the most viable and stable counties in the state. That is not to suggest that any county has enough resources. Mason County is a rural service provider and has a tax base, which allows support of rural services. In a county with increasing urbanization in several areas that are not incorporated, that continues to present challenges for the County. There is an expectation of urban services on a tax base that they simply don't have. They are working very closely with the urban growth area communities: Belfair and Allyn to ensure that they help them set the course for future city hood and also the urban growth area around the City of Shelton. They work very closely with the City of Shelton to ensure that the needs for the City are being set in place as those areas begin to seek annexation with the City.

With any successful operation, they know that it is not about the three of them that sit on the Commission. It is a combination of the staff and citizens, advisory boards and volunteers, elected leaders in Olympia and Washington, DC and all of the local elected officials. She acknowledged the elected officials in attendance from Mason County, the City of Shelton, and Port of Shelton all who put in long hours.

Mason County has the 5th fastest growing rate of sales tax and is considered the 4th fastest growing county in the state. There are a lot of positive things happening which brings challenges. One of the county's challenges is to offer a good package of service with respect that the resources are limited. This is something that is facing all governments. It becomes more difficult on a day to day basis for counties in the state because of increasing regulations and mandates that come from the state. Cmmr./Senator Sheldon is working hard to educate the legislators about what those unfunded mandates mean to local government. They also have a lot of attention on the county, because they have some of the most pristine, precious and fragile saltwater wetlands in the nation. There is a lot of pressure on Mason County to not make the mistakes that other parts of the country and state has made in terms of developing the shoreline. They find it is expensive. They are kind of the canary in the mine in terms of really wanting to do with great passion the appropriate things to make sure the areas stay lovely, rural and pristine at a recognition that they are some of the farthest along in terms of calculating how much that will cost. Some times those costs are unreasonable to the citizens who live in Mason County. This should not become a place where families cannot live and people can't retire because the cost of living on a part of a peninsula with a lot of saltwater around is way too high. They have been working as a Commission very hard with the legislature and governor to make sure they have adequate funding so that as they move into some of the construction projects for sewers and stormwater as they begin to look at how they will preserve the shorelines, they have enough money so they are not changing the character of the community and making it a place where only the very very rich can live.

**BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
FEBRUARY 13, 2007 - PAGE 5**

Mason County is facing some catch up years. In 2006, they restored some staff to the Auditor, Assessor, Treasurer, Clerk, Prosecutor, and Sheriff's office. Staffing levels were the same as in 1980. The best information was in 1980, Mason County had around 16,000 people. This year there is approximately 53,000 people and yet the Sheriff's deputies are trying to do their work with the same number of officers. Hiring has gone slowly, by no fault of the department, but more availability of training spaces. They are continuing to work on that. With the other offices, they thank them for making very good use of the resources they are able to give them in 2006 and not asking for additional resources in 2007. They in fact are looking for additional efficiencies and effectiveness to use the tax dollars very well and not have to ask for additional services.

A lot of people over the past year have had discussions about the fairgrounds. In 2006, there was recognition by the commission that the current fairgrounds was in crisis. It was a facility that had been underfunded. The maintenance had been deferred so long that it was necessary for them to put some money into it to keep it going in the interim before they relocate to another site. Two things happened, it is a credit to the Facilities Director and other department heads that came together and looked at what the needs were, how they could operate that facility, put some money into painting, wiring and sanitation issues that made it a useable facility for the interim. They officially declared that the new fairgrounds would be moving to the site as the new Public Works Facility on the corner of State Route 101 and State Route 102.

Chair Ring Erickson stated that 2007 would be an exciting year. They are in the process of contracting with the same management group that is doing the Public Works facility to move the fairgrounds along. They have engaged an expert and are excited about the individual's successful background, but also his success in local fairs as opposed to fairgrounds in other parts of the country. They are expecting, at the end of the year, to have completed a public process and know what they will be building and hopefully, how they are funding that. They know that the Department of Agriculture has expressed an interest in helping with that. They will be looking for local partners who may have an interest in sponsoring some special use buildings.

Hood Canal and Puget Sound are complex problems and need multi-strategy solutions. This year and the coming year the staff will continue to work with the local communities and individuals that are on septic systems. They continue to pursue improving the three existing sewer systems in the county: Rustlewood, North Bay/Case Inlet, Harstine Pointe. They have had a project that is at or near completion at Harstine Pointe. This year is a culmination of 10 years worth to take the outfall farther. Rustlewood needs some serious work. It is a system that they inherited as county's do when there was a default in a contractor. Probably substandard to begin with and the staff has worked hard to keep it going. The reality is, it is not the system they need. The good part is, that community has been wonderful. In spite of a community of modest needs, they have supported increases in their own ways. They have come out to work on getting a community income survey and done all the right things. They have continued to be tremendously supportive of the process of keeping Puget Sound clean. They also have the sewer system at North Bay/Case Inlet and are looking at some potential projects that might make that a little more functional on a regular basis. It has run into some problems. It may have been somewhat underdesigned or a little bit new technology to begin with. They are looking at four other potential sewer projects. One is a more traditional type of sewer in the Belfair area on membrane system which is high technology and an upland discharge which will make us one of the least impacting communities in terms of Hood Canal. That will be very exciting. There also are three other projects. One that is in the Skokomish Reservation area, which is being led by the Tribe (the Potlatch bubble) and Hoodspout Rural Activity Center. There are a lot of things going on. These are huge projects, which are expensive. They do not have full funding at this time. They will be working to get full funding so they can make those affordable systems that can allow the communities to exist as they do now. They are working with the federal and state government on all of the projects. By this time next year, they will be digging on a couple of problems if not actually connecting homes.

In law enforcement, they added some staff to the Sheriff's office. They waited to hear back from the new Sheriff who wanted some time to evaluate his needs and realistically look at how best to impact law

**BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
FEBRUARY 13, 2007 - PAGE 6**

enforcement. They will be working with him in the next few weeks on what his recommendations are. She offered they have already seen a difference. The Sheriff's office is looking sharp. They see the command staff out in uniform doing emphasis work, particularly in the North end. They have already impacted some serious burglary rates out there. They are seeing great results from that department and look forward to working on the space needs and how best to configure staffing to continue off into the future to do the right things by Mason County. On the law enforcement area, they also did a study of the jail needs and jail operations. They will be continuing to work on developing some responses to that. The Sheriff and Commissioner will be meeting with some people in Thurston County to evaluate some additional capacity needs they have. One of the things they learn about law enforcement early on is if you arrest more people you need more jail beds, more resources in court, and more prosecutors. That is all part of making this a good community to live in. It is very expensive and one of the major things those counties do. They will continue to work with the Sheriff and the jail staff as well as the city that has capacity for jail as well. They have revitalized the criminal justice working team. This was something that was enacted under state law a number of years ago and had kind of fallen into a dormant period. They have reactivated that and are discussing the jail study and recommendations. They are receiving reports from the local law enforcement agencies. The city and tribes have been active in the team. They are seeing a great coming together of a lot of people from the criminal justice system to talk about a regional approach. When they try to be regional, they probably save the taxpayers money and get a better package of services. In an area with one city and a good relationship with the tribes, and as one county with approximately 50,000 + people that is probably where they will get the best tax dollar value. They will continue to work on that. Our directors of Planning and Public Works meets with the City's directors looking for opportunities to make the best value for the tax dollars.

Parks is a very exciting place for the County. They have done a parks survey and got over 500 responses. They have acquired Jiggs Lake, which is in the north part of the County. We have taken over Menard's Landing, which was a Port of Tahuya facility. They have completed the work at Sand Hill. Latimer's Landing is in progress. They have also completed a Parks & Trails Plan. Public Works progress on Grapeview Loop Road continues. They did some major culvert work on the Agate Road, at an inconvenience to many of the citizens but well worth the effort in the long run. The Kamilche Bridge was finished. They are working on the new Public Works facility. There are two areas with challenges: they are in the process of interviewing for Public Health Director; they need a public health strategic plan; they need to revitalize that particular department. The final piece is there is an ongoing and continuing need to improve the way the county communicates with the public. Hopefully, over the course of the year they will focus on how they develop the message and get it out to the public. The county does what the public wants done, but has not communicated it well. They want to communicate to the people in this county that they care. Sometimes they don't do what the people want, because the County is regulatory. At the same time they have ethical hard working customer friendly staff. They have both radio and news coverage that allows public discussions about what is going on. She thanked the community associations and their newsletters. This year they hope to do a better job of responding to questions from the public in a timely way.

Cmmr. Gallagher added they are trying to make the community work together. All the elected officials have taken this mandate. People need to realize the fire district is a neighborhood government of the area. He urged people to support the fire commissioners, which is a front line. Also, the school board for the past 11 years and has learned a lot about working with people. The projects in Belfair are mandates to succeed.

Cmmr. Sheldon stated that Mason County has reached out to the state government. Of 39 counties in the state, not one of has a surplus. The State of Washington has a \$2 billion surplus and it seems to be a magnet for counties to come and make their point. There is a regional outlook and the perspective locally with the City of Shelton this is a people business. It takes involvement of everyone in the region to make it successful. The sales tax has increased and it is a good measure of the health of the county. It is a good measure of the health of the county.

**BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
FEBRUARY 13, 2007 - PAGE 7**

One area of concern is Mason County is the only county in Washington State without a domestic violence shelter. Turning Pointe non-profit is working hard to make that a reality. They are hoping that the state capital budget will contribute a little bit more funds to finish the project. The government is people business. The Public Works staff has worked hard with the tough times of bad weather that the County had. He also thanked the media staff for getting the word out. He thanked all the county departments and staff for the hard work with little recognition. They are trying hard to improve the public facilities.

The Board encouraged people to join in the refreshments provided.

11. Board's Reports and Calendar – The Board reported on meetings attended the past week and appointments for the upcoming week.
12. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MASON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Lynda Ring Erickson, Chair

ATTEST:

Tim Sheldon, Commissioner

Rebecca S. Rogers, Clerk of the Board

Ross Gallagher, Commissioner