

BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

DECEMBER 16, 2008

1. Call to Order – The Chairperson called the regular meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance – The flag salute was led by Sheriff Casey Salisbury.
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 Sherry Whisenant, Karen Rogers and Robert and Kathleen Pennington oppose the proposed rezone of parcel 1230400000 for the Gig Harbor Gun Club.
 - 4.1.2 The Governor will honor the request for Judge Finley to be sworn in effective January 12, 2009.
 - 4.1.3 The Washington State Liquor Control Board sent notice of establishments in Mason County with liquor licenses due to expire on March 31, 2009.
 - 4.1.4 John Komen is seeking appointment to the TIP-CAP.
 - 4.1.5 Helen May is seeking appointment to Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council.
 - 4.1.6 The Mason County Treasurer listed depositories used to hold public funds per RCW 36.48.010.
 - 4.1.7 The City of Shelton submitted Ordinance No. 1737-1208 regarding their intent to annex the City into the Timberland Regional Library District.
 - 4.2 Proclamation - National Mentoring Month. Betty Wing, Central Operations Director, read aloud the proclamation encouraging mentoring of youth in the community during the month of January 2009.
5. Open Forum for Citizen Input
 - 5.1 Denny Temple expressed concern about losing a deputy. He felt that the Sheriff's Department had already trimmed their budget down and then was requested to cut another \$140,000. He felt there was no choice on this. He wanted to go on record that attention needs to be given to this matter because when the economy is down crime goes up. He felt it will get worse before it gets better. The comment has been made that 11 deputies have been added. In reality they have added maybe five deputies in the last five years. There were a couple positions from the old administration that were not filled. They talked about three sergeants and in reality two were deputies that were promoted and reallocated. It was not a new position. He stated that when information is put out it needs to be accurate.

He urged the Board to pay attention to people that come and talk to them. Listen to them. The Board made tough decisions based on facts and different things. The county deserves to have the Board here most of the time to ask questions. It is a tough and traumatic experience for a Department Head to have to make cuts in their budgets.
 - 5.2 Karen Herr, Mason County Auditor, commented about Cmmr. Sheldon's comments in the Shelton-Mason County Journal last week that court services are more critical to the public than longer lines in the Auditor's office. She found the statement unfortunate and believed that all mandated services are vital to the public and deserve adequate funding. At a time when they are asking all county employees to do even more because of reduced staffing levels it is regrettable that by implication they chose to diminish the importance of mandated services provided by not only the Auditor's office and those in other offices as well. She is responsible for four departments within her office. With the exception of licensing which generates a substantial amount of revenue, all the services provided are mandated by law. Because of limited discretionary funds into which to reduce the budget the amount she was directed to cut out of her budget has resulted in the elimination of 3.5 positions in her office of 16 staff (1 financial services; 1 licensing; 1 recording; 1 elections), which is a substantial reduction. Her concern is not longer lines in her office; rather her concern is the ability to provide the mandated services to the taxpayers. Law does not only require this, but it is also critical to the public and its

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taxpayers. This has not been an easy process to balance the budget. The intent is not to promote her own interest or those in her offices, but to ensure that the information used to reach the budget decisions is accurate and realistic and budget cuts would be equitable. In spite of the soon to be staffing shortage; she will continue to provide reliable financial information in the most transparent manner possible.

Cmmr. Sheldon stated the commissioner job is about 70% executive. In his opinion, if the citizens have to wait a little longer to obtain their license tabs, he felt they would agree it would be preferable to losing a deputy sheriff that might serve them in another capacity which is much more important to their life and safety. He did not mean any disrespect to any office or staff.

5.3 Pat Swartos, Clerk, stated this has been the worst time in 37 years in working for the court system. It has been hard for her office and the elected officials and every other county employee. She has lost three people. They are not full time, they are extra help and vital because they do the things that the regular staff has not had time to do. The functions in the Clerk's office are mandated as well as the functions in the Auditor's office. Court services are something they cannot do without. If there is court, they have to provide services for the court. If there is domestic violence, they have to be available to aid those people. People will be standing in line. There will be very unhappy people when they come to her office or call on the phone. They had to cut the operating expenses drastically. They are trying to count paper, copies, paper clips, everything. She thanked the Budget Director for her endless work.

5.3 Lisa Frazier, Mason County Treasurer, noted that due to the significant budget cuts in the Assessor, Treasurer, and Auditor offices they have lost a total of nine employees. With so many of their employees laid off who worked the front counters and helped the public, it will be impossible to have adequate staffing during lunch hours. This causes a security and safety issue, both for public funds and the employees. She asked that the board consider a resolution, per RCW 36.16.100 regarding work hours. She asked the Board to consider changing or closing the county offices during the lunch hour (12:30 – 1:30 p.m.) and still provide safety and security for their departments.

6. Adoption of Agenda – **Cmmr. Gallagher/Ring Erickson moved and seconded to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously. G-aye; RE-aye; S-aye.**
7. Approval of Minutes – **Cmmr. Gallagher/Ring Erickson moved and seconded to approve the regular meeting minutes for November 25 and December 2, 2008. Motion carried unanimously. G-aye; RE-aye; S-aye.**

(Recorded audio was lost after this time)

8. Approval of Consent Agenda:
 - 8.1 Approval to reappoint John Eaton and Arvilla Ohlde to the Mason County Parks and Trails Advisory Board for four-year terms ending December 31, 2012.
 - 8.2 Approval of the 2008 annual tax refunds made by the Mason County Treasurer. A total of 554 refunds were made in the amount of \$356,971.02.
 - 8.3 Approval to schedule a public hearing for January 6, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. to consider an amendment to the Mason County Code Title 15 eliminating the requirement for staff to make a recommendation to the Hearing Examiner on type III reviews.
 - 8.4 Approval of a resolution to temporarily amend the salaries of Mason County Department Heads by a 5% reduction and suspend all non-union employee salary step increases for the year 2009. **Resolution No. 131-08 (Exhibit A)**
 - 8.5 Approval of a resolution to temporarily suspend the salary increases for certain Mason County Elected Officials for the year 2009. **Resolution No. 132-08 (Exhibit B)**

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- 8.6 Approval to set a public hearing on Tuesday, January 20, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. to review the request by Peninsula Topsoil to rezone two parcels (50 acres total area) within the Rural Area from Rural Residential 20 zone to Rural Residential 5 zone.
- 8.7 Approval to execute the Memorandum of Understanding between Lewis-Mason-Thurston Area Agency on Aging (LMTAAA) and Mason County Emergency Management (DEM). This will provide DEM with the LMTAAA database to be used during emergencies and disasters to perform welfare checks.
- 8.8 Approval for Public Works to advertise, set bid date/time, award, and allow the Public Works Director to sign the Service Contract and the Chair to sign all pertinent documents for the 2009 Service Contract for routine paint striping. The contract award will be announced during a regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.
- 8.9 Approval to set a public hearing on Tuesday, January 13, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. to consider changing the speed limit on Reservation Road from 35 mph to 25 mph (Milepost 0.00-0.588, County Road Number 43130).
- 8.10 Approval of the Veterans Assistance Fund applications for: Robert Ramar - food \$156.04 and Arthur Stephens - housing \$310.00 for a total of \$466.04 as recommended by the Veterans Assistance Fund Screening Committee.
- 8.11 Approval of Warrants
- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Claims Clearing Fund | Warrant #s 150945-151492 | \$1,257,626.91 |
| Salary Clearing Fund | Warrant #s 2066-2122 | \$ 316,140.05 |
| Direct Deposit Fund | Deposit #s 8713-9137 | \$ 595,528.37 |
- 8.12 Approval of the contracts for the 2009 Mason County Fair & Rodeo with Imagine In Action Design for the premium guide layout, \$450.00, and the sponsorship pamphlet, \$360.00, for a total of \$810.00. These amounts are budgeted in the Fair/Rodeo budget.
- 8.13 Approval to set a public hearing on Tuesday, January 13, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. to consider the Rustlewood Wastewater Treatment Plant and Water System rate amendments.
- 8.14 Approval to set a public hearing on January 13, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. to consider the Beards Cove Water System rate amendments.
- 8.15 Approval of the resolution allocating \$825 per person, for the County contribution toward employee medical insurance for Elected officials and eligible Non-Union Employees. This is the same allocation as 2008. **Resolution No. 133-08 (Exhibit C)**
- 8.16 Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding for a 4.3% Cost of Living Adjustment for the Mason County Engineers Guild bargaining unit for 2009, per the contract.
- 8.17 Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding for a 4.3% Cost of Living Adjustment for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) bargaining unit for 2009, per the contract.

Item 8.6 removed for further discussion

Approval to set a public hearing on Tuesday, January 20, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. to review the request by Peninsula Topsoil to rezone two parcels (50 acres total area) within the Rural Area from Rural Residential 20 zone to Rural Residential 5 zone.

Allan Borden, Planner, noted that Jack Johnson of Peninsula Topsoil is in attendance and has requested the Board reschedule the rezone hearing to the first Tuesday in February (February 3, 2009) as Mr. Johnson will not be able to be present on January 20th.

The Board briefly discussed that this could be tabled.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson commented on Item 8.16 and 8.17.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Gallagher moved and seconded to adopt agenda Items 8.1 – 8.5 and 8.7 – 8.17. Motion carried unanimously. G-aye; RE-aye; S-aye.

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Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Gallagher moved and seconded to table Item 8.6 to allow the applicant to work through this matter and come back to staff. Motion carried unanimously. G-aye; RE-aye; S-aye.

9. 9:30 a.m. Public Hearings and Items Set for a Certain Time

- 9.1 Public hearing to consider additions and amendments to the Mason County Code and Development Regulations, Title 17, relating to signs and repeal Title 12 Chapter 12.44 relating to signs.

Kell McAboy, Planner, presented the staff report and recommended approval of the proposed sign ordinance.

There was no comment given during the public comment time.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson expressed she appreciated the thoughtfulness on this matter.

Cmmr. Gallagher/Ring Erickson moved and seconded to approve the Ordinance amending the Mason County Code (and Development Regulations) Title 17 relating to Signs; and repeal Title 12 Chapter 12.44 relating to signs. Motion carried unanimously. G-aye; RE-aye; S-aye. Ordinance No. 134-08 (Exhibit D)

- 9.2 Public hearing to consider the Private Line Utility Permit applications between Mason County and William Hardy for a sewer line on North Shore Road and between Mason County and Mission Creek Correction Center for a septic line on Sand Hill Road.

A staff report was given by Rick Hirschberg, Public Works.

No one was present to provide public comments.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Gallagher moved and seconded to approve and execute the Private Line Utility Permit applications between Mason County with William R. Hardy and Mission Creek Correction Center. Motion carried unanimously. G-aye; RE-aye; S-aye.

- 9.3 Public hearing to consider the 2009 Annual Construction Program and the 2009-2014 6-year Transportation Improvement Program for Public Works.

Charlie Butros, Public Works Director, presented the

No comments were provided from the public.

Cmmr. Gallagher/Ring Erickson moved and seconded to approve and execute the resolution to adopt the Annual Construction Program for 2009. Resolution No. 135-08 (Exhibit E) and approve and execute the resolution to adopt the 2009-2014 Six Year Transportation Improvement Program. Resolution No. 136-08 (Exhibit F)

- 9.4 Public hearing to consider a budget transfer in the Current Expense Fund/Facilities and Grounds, in the amount of \$48,775.

Ione Siegler , Budget & Finance Director, presented the information to the Board and recommended approval.

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Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Gallagher moved and seconded to approve a budget transfer in the Current Expense Fund in the amount of \$48,775. Motion carried unanimously. G-aye; RE-aye; S-aye.

10. Other Business (Department Heads and Elected Officials)
10.1 Adoption of the 2009 Budget.

Ione Siegler, Budget Director, read aloud a one-page news release concerning the adoption of the 2009 budget.

It was noted the public comment portion was closed at the end of the December 1st hearing.

Cmmr. Gallagher noted that his salary is not being reduced and that he would donate the increased portion of his salary to one of the county's funds such as Sheriff's chaplain fund.

He stressed that they need to keep their eyes on things. There is anticipated an upturn in 2010. He noted that people are not making purchases or building things. People want protection and want their kids to be able to play ball. He noted that this is the budget for the coming year and we have to go from there.

Cmmr. Sheldon stated there is a wider problem that is across the country and across the world. There will probably be adjustments during 2009. The county will have to be vigilant about revenues.

Cmmr Gallagher/Ring Erickson moved and seconded to adopt the 2009 Mason County Budget. Motion carried unanimously. G-aye; RE-aye; S-aye. Resolution No. 137-08 (Exhibit G)

11. Board's Reports and Calendar – The Board reported on their calendars for the past week, December 9 – 16, 2008 and also announced their schedule for the upcoming week, December 16 – 23, 2008.
12. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 10:09 a.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 23, 2008; 9:00 a.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MASON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Tim Sheldon, Chair

ATTEST:

Lynda Ring Erickson, Commissioner

Rebecca S. Rogers, Clerk of the Board

Ross Gallagher, Commissioner