

BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

DECEMBER 23, 2008

1. Call to Order – The Chairperson called the regular meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. which was delayed an hour due to inclement weather.
2. Pledge of Allegiance – The flag salute was led by Mike and Tom Greene.
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 Judge Victoria Meadows administered the Oath of Office for Commissioner Lynda Ring Erickson and Judge Toni Sheldon administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Tim Sheldon.
 - 4.2 Correspondence
 - 4.1.1 The Washington State Liquor Control Board sent notice of a new liquor license application for Lakeside Bistro & Lounge in Allyn.
 - 4.1.2 The Timberland Regional Library is seeking confirmation of the Lewis County Commissioners re-appointment of Edna Fund to the Timberland Regional Library Board.
 - 4.1.3 Orrell and Dorothy Hess oppose Olympic Property Group's re-zone application for the Gig Harbor Gun Club.
 - 4.1.4 Olympic Property Group is withdrawing their rezone application and will search for a more remote location for the Sportman's Club's use.
 - 4.1.5 Jerrald Jensen is opposed to any new sewer rate increases in Lakeland Village.
 - 4.1.6 The North Bay Recyclers commented on recycling options in Mason County.
 - 4.1.7 The Port of Shelton submitted a replacement document for their 2009 levy amounts as requested by the Mason County Assessor's office.
 - 4.1.8 Mary M. Knight School District submitted their 2009 levy amounts.
 - 4.3 David Baker recognized staff, Dawnell Campagna, Rhonda Hargraves and Teri Byrd, from the Landfill for their outstanding work. The Board presented Green Stars and thanked them for their service.
5. Open Forum for Citizen Input

Judy Scott, Port of Allyn Commissioner, would like to comment on the curbside recycling ordinance and will wait for the public hearing.

Michael Siptroth, Trails End Drive, commented that their area has had many burglaries and break-ins recently and he requested the Sheriff's office to add extra patrols to the area. He has encouraged the people to report the incidents so the Sheriff's office is aware. The Commissioners will pass the information on to the Sheriff's office. They noted the Sheriff is an elected official and they do not manage that department. Cmmr. Ring Erickson noted that deputies will work with communities on how to reduce problems in their neighborhoods.
6. Adoption of Agenda

Cmmr. Gallagher/Ring Erickson moved and seconded to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously. RE-aye; S-aye; G-aye.
7. Approval of Minutes – regular meeting minutes for December 9, 2008; special meeting minutes for December 12, 2008; briefing minutes for December 1, 8, and 15 2008.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Gallagher moved and seconded regular meeting minutes for December 9, 2008; special meeting minutes for December 12, 2008; briefing minutes for December 1, 8, and 15 2008, Cmmr. Ring Erickson noted she did not attend the December 12th special meeting. Motion carried unanimously. RE-aye; S-aye; G-aye.
8. Approval of Consent Agenda.

**BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
DECEMBER 23, 2008 - PAGE 2**

- 8.1 Approval of Supplemental Agreement No. 3 to the Rustlewood Wastewater Plant Construction Management Services Contract with the consultant firm Hammond Collier Wade Livingstone (HCWL) in a amount of \$21,000.00.
- 8.2 Approval to set a public hearing on Tuesday, January 6, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. to consider approval of new field use fees for Mason County Recreation Area (MCRA) and Sandhill Park during the 2009 and 2010 seasons.
- 8.3 Approval of the ordinances to adopt indigent defense standards for Superior and Juvenile Court and District Court. The standards are required to continue receiving Office of Public Defense (OPD) funding. **Resolution No's. 139-08 and 140-08 (Exhibits A & B)**
- 8.4 Approval of awarding lodging tax dollars as recommended by the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee for the following 2009 tourism related events: Allyn Days - \$5,500; Annas Bay - \$3,800; Bluegrass in the Forest - \$4,000; Mason County Forest Festival - \$4,000; Taste of Hood Canal – up to \$5,000; Old Time Fiddlers Fest - \$1,500; Mason County Fair & NPRA Rodeo - \$100,000; North Mason Chamber VIC - \$35,000; Shelton-Mason County Chamber for Shelton & Hoodsport VIC's - \$47,100; and Joint Tourism Advisory Council - \$95,000.
- 8.5 Approval of a three-year extension of the Westlaw contract for the law library computer online access for legal research. The 2009 monthly charge is \$647.30 and is budgeted in the Law Library Fund.
- 8.6 Approval of the Veterans Assistance Fund applications for: John Peters - housing \$600.00 and Jean Showalter - food \$400.00 for a total of \$1000.00 as recommended by the Veterans Assistance Fund Screening Committee.
- 8.7 Approval of the following County Road Projects (CRP) for specific county-wide maintenance activities for 2009: CRP 1917, Sign Placement, estimated cost is \$20,000; CRP 1918, Culvert Installations, estimated cost is \$150,000; CRP 1919, Wetland Mitigation, estimated cost is \$16,000 and CRP 1920, Guardrail Placement, estimated cost is \$50,000. **Resolution No. 141-08 (Exhibit C)**
- 8.8 Approval of Warrants
Claims Clearing Fund Warrant #s 151493-151783 \$1,169,496.45
- 8.9 Approval for Public Works to select a consultant from the Professional Services Roster and enter into an agreement for geotechnical services, as needed, during 2009.
- 8.10 Approval of the Equipment Rental & Revolving Fund Manager to call for bids to furnish Mason County with one new truck-mounted excavator for Public Works. Date of time of opening to be January 14,2009 at 9:00 a.m.
- 8.11 Approval of all bids received to provide Mason County with Asphalt Concrete Class B and Class G, MC250 (cold mix) and/or CSS 1 (undiluted tack coat) for 2009. Mason County does not guarantee a minimum purchase of these materials.
- 8.12 Approval of the 2009 Property Tax Levies. The 2009 Current Expense Property Tax Levy at \$8,490,515; the 2009 Road Levy at \$9,167,067 and the 2009 Skokomish Flood Control Zone District Levy at \$63,692. **Resolution No's. 142-08, 148-08, 143-08, 149-08 and 144-08, 150-08 (Exhibits D, E, F, G H and I)**
- 8.13 Approval of Public Works to select Construction Project and Bridge Inspectors from the Letters of Interest Roster for 2009 and enter into a letter agreement/contract for Construction Project Inspector Services for 2009.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson asked that Item 8.4 be removed for discussion

Cmmr. Gallagher/Ring Erickson moved and seconded to approve Consent Agenda 8.1 through 8.13 omitting Item 8.4, which has been removed for discussion. Motion carried unanimously. RE-aye; S-aye; G-aye.

Jerry Ohail, Lakeland Village, stated he is here for the sewer hearing but noted the 2009 tax levies are on the Consent Agenda. He finds the proposed sewer rate increases burdensome. He understands part of the money that

**BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
DECEMBER 23, 2008 - PAGE 3**

needs to be raised is to pay off debt of the utility and he requested the Board budget funds from the General Fund (Current Expense) to the sewer fund.

Cmmr. Sheldon stated the utility fund is an Enterprise Fund and the Current Expense Fund will not be budgeting money to the utility funds.

Mr. Ohail said he has looked at a document that allows funds from the General Fund.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson commented on Item 8.4. She approves all the awards except the Forest Festival because she wants to know their policy for allowing candidates and/or elected officials in the parade. She stated there was some confusion at the last parade where some were allowed and some were not. She would like to see consistency.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Gallagher moved and seconded to approve all the LTAC awards (Item 8.4) except the Forest Festival award pending review of a policy addressing the issue of allowing candidates and/or elected officials in the parade. Motion carried unanimously. RE-aye; S-aye; G-aye.

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

9.1 Public hearing to consider the 2007 applications for the Current Use Open Space and Current Use Timber taxation program. Terry Bow Assessor's Office, stated there are 19 applications for the Current Use Open Space program and 13 applications for the Current Use Timber program.

There was no public comment.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Gallagher moved and seconded to approve the following Open Space Current Use Applications: James & Merna Bianchi, parcel #'s 12105-51-28001, 12105-51-27001 & 12105-51-24001; Marla Farren, parcel #52025-12-00160; John & Wendy Hickman, parcel #12107-41-90021; Warren & Heather Ireland, parcel #22124-44-00040; Larry & Toni Stevens, parcel #61924-40-00000; and Ruth Wingert Newton, parcel #22125-11-00080.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Gallagher moved and seconded to deny the following Open Space Current Use Applications: Jack & Gill Austin, parcel #12030-43-90011, 12030-43-90012, 12030-43-90013, 12030-43-90014; Harold Bucholz, parcel #22124-76-90022; Campbell Family Trust, parcel #22113-14-00000 and 22113-14-60000; James Karch, parcel #32026-75-90050 and 32026-75-90062; Mark & Bobbie Mager, parcel #32135-43-90043; David Roberts, parcel # 2123-14-00030; and Robert & Emily Smading, parcel #22221-31-00410.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Gallagher moved and seconded to approve the following Open Space Timber Program Applications: William Bingham & Cindy Waite, parcel #22003-43-00000; Campbell Family Trust, parcel #22113-14-60000 and 22113-14-00000; Jay Griffin, parcel #22302-75-00050; Alfred & Debra Jones, parcel #22004-11-00040, 22002-75-00070 and 22002-75-00180; Overton & Associates, parcel #12208-44-00000, 12209-21-01010, and 12209-20-04000; William Schumacher, parcel #42113-10-90014 and 42113-10-90011; Marshall & Artemia Settle, parcel #32014-44-00010; Larry & Toni Stevens, parcel #61924-31-00000; and Robert & Norene Stevens, parcel #22012-42-00000.

Motions carried unanimously. RE-aye; S-aye; G-aye.

9.2 Public hearing to consider a supplemental budget appropriation to the 2008 Budget for the Parks & Trails Department in the Current Expense Fund. Ione Siegler, Budget & Finance, presented the staff report for the public hearing. She explained the Parks & Trails Department received a \$20,000 grant from the WA State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board for development of the Camp Govey Back Country Trail Plan.

Michael Siproth asked the location of the back country trail.

Cmmr. Gallagher stated Camp Govey is in the upper Skokomish Valley.

**BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
DECEMBER 23, 2008 - PAGE 4**

Cmmr. Ring Erickson noted there are several former timber camps in the County and this is one of them.

Cmmr. Gallagher/Ring Erickson moved and seconded to approve a supplemental appropriation to the 2008 Budget for the Parks & Trails Department in the current Expense Fund in the amount of \$20,000. Motion carried unanimously. RE-aye; S-aye; G-aye. (Exhibit J)

9.3 Ione Siegler, Budget & Finance, explained this is a public hearing to consider a budget transfer in the 2008 Budget for the Human Resources Department in the Current Expense Fund in the amount of \$20,720. This is from the Current Expense ending fund balance to reimburse Human Resources for the cost of legal professional services for labor negotiations, union grievances, and union mediations/arbitrations.

Cmmr. Sheldon noted Mason County has 11 labor contracts that Human Resources negotiate.

There was no public testimony.

Cmmr. Gallagher/Ring Erickson moved and seconded to approve the budget transfer in the Current Expense Fund, Human Resources, in the amount of \$20,720. Motion carried unanimously. RE-aye; S-aye; G-aye. Carried unanimously. RE-aye; S-aye; G-aye. (Exhibit K)

Cmmr. Ring Erickson noted this was not unanticipated due to the large number of contracts that are in the negotiation process. She appreciates having an accurate budget amount.

9.3 Debbie Riley, Environmental Health, presented the staff report for the public hearing to consider the proposed 2009 Environmental Health Fee schedule. The proposal is for a 3.5% fee increase. Prior to setting fees, the schedule was evaluated by the department and the Board of Health and includes input from the industry. The fee for an illegal drug lab plan review is proposed to go from \$165 to \$248 to reflect the actual cost of performing such a review. The fee for a tire pile, recycling and conditionally exempt facilities is proposed to go from \$350 to \$248 to accurately reflect the cost of performing the work associated with processing those applications. The increased fees for 2009 are anticipated to raise \$13,000.

Cmmr. Sheldon asked if these fees are in line with surrounding counties.

Ms. Riley replied the fees are not increasing as much. The current resolution has an inflation clause that states the fees will be increased by the amount of the July to July Consumer Price Index (CPI U) for the Olympia Metropolitan Area with a maximum increase of 3.5%.

There was no public testimony.

Cmmr. Gallagher/Ring Erickson moved and seconded to amend Resolution No. 123-07 adopting the 2009 Environmental Health Fee schedule. Motion carried unanimously. RE-aye; S-aye; G-aye. Resolution No. 145-08 (Exhibit L)

9.4 Emmett Dobey, Utilities & Waste Management Director, presented the staff report for the public hearing to consider an amended North Bay Sewer System rate schedule. Mr. Dobey stated the utility is in need of money due to a cash flow issue. During 2008 they have seen a 25% cost increase in repair of equipment, a \$73,000 loan which is North Bay's portion of a \$20,000,000 lawsuit for illegal dumping of biosolids, and they saw fewer connections than anticipated. They expected an average of 50 connections per year, and in 2008 have had six connections. There were also increases in the bio-solids contract. If the rates are not increased, Mr. Dobey anticipates ending 2009 with a \$62,000 balance. In January 2010 there will be \$385,000 of interest payments due on the loan associated with this utility and without this increase, they will be unable to meet the 2010 expenses. They have tried to keep utility rates as low as possible. Mason County has had discussions with Cng. Dicks to lower the Rural Development loan interest rate but have not been successful. They have moved \$200,000 from the total utility

**BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
DECEMBER 23, 2008 - PAGE 5**

administration costs by deferring some of the Belfair sewer system and stormwater costs and that saves this utility \$43,000. As the Belfair utility comes on-line in 2011, there will be more customers and the administrative fee will be lowered even more.

Included in this rate increase staff is working on some other changes, but they have not completed them due to the weather. These changes include increasing the plan review fees, increasing inspection fees, and they need to clarify senior and disability exemptions. Mr. Dobey stated we need to adopt a new rate structure which takes into account the economic and condition of the community as far as foreclosure and vacant structures.

A letter was mailed to all the utility payers of the hearing. Mr. Dobey has received four comments opposing the rate increase and one e-mail. Mr. Dobey requested the Board to move forward with this rate increase and before the first billing, staff will come back with the additional changes. He noted that if this rate increase is not done this year and we wait until 2009, the rate would have to be increased \$29.33 and a short-term loan would have to be made to cover the \$385,000 payment due in 2010.

Cmmr. Sheldon asked what the rate will be.

Mr. Dobey replied it will go from \$86 a month to \$95 and will raise an additional \$120,000. The connection fee will also be increased.

Mr. Dobey pointed out that one issue of this utility is it has not been keeping up with capital improvements. If the projected connections had been made, capital costs would still be behind.

Tom Moore, Utilities Department Deputy Director, explained that for duplex/triplex and multi-family dwellings, the multiplier is .7 REU (residential equivalent unit). A full unit charge would be \$95. The connection fee is \$9,554.44. He stated a lot of properties are being redeveloped so they are adding the plan review fee of \$75 per hour to address those properties that are improved and to address those situations when the customers have caused an issue that has impacted the system. They are looking at a reduced rate when a house is not occupied. Condominiums are charged the same as a single family residence.

Cmmr. Gallagher asked when was the last increase and how many hook ups are being used.

Mr. Dobey replied the last increase was in 2006. There are 1,204 accounts, some are not full REU's. The potential build out of the system is 1,500 to 1,600 units and until that occurs, this will not be a stable utility. The customers are needed and with the economic slow down it makes it very difficult to operate the system.

Mr. Moore added that a number of capital improvement projects have been delayed in light of the slower growth but they cannot delay the replacement of capital equipment because it continues to wear out.

Mr. Dobey noted that \$300,000 was allocated to the Allyn pump station from the .09 fund.

Cmmr. Sheldon commented the facility was completed in 2002 and equipment wears out.

George Funk, Allyn, testified that given the assumption that North Bay rate users should cover all costs and debt service, he believes the rates will not cover all costs. Even if the increases are implemented, he believes there will still be a significant cash short fall. The increase will result in additional revenues of \$120,000 and based on the present budget and assuming none of these dollars will be used for capital improvements, the cash balance at December 2009 will be \$303,000. The debt payments due in March 2010 are \$385,000 for the GO bond and another \$100,000 for the state and there remains a serious question if there will be enough cash to make the debt payments in 2010. He stated the budget includes only \$9,000 for capital improvements, remedial or otherwise, and believes it is foolish to operate this system at such a dangerously low level. He believes the question is how to cover the costs without imposing a rate of at least \$115 a month. Mr. Funk believes making the rate payers fund debt services

**BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
DECEMBER 23, 2008 - PAGE 6**

on the County's general obligation bond (GO Bond) to the RUS, is inappropriate because the resulting rates are unreasonable and constitute defacto discriminatory taxation.

Mr. Funk referred to Section 7, Pledge of Taxation and Credit, of County Resolution 11-02 which adopted and authorized the GO bond in February of 2002. "The County hereby irrevocably covenants and agrees for as long as any installments of the Bond are outstanding and unpaid that each year it will include in its budget and levy an ad valorem tax upon all property within the County... . Mr. Funk pointed out this is a general obligation bond, not a revenue bond. He expressed frustration that the bond has to be paid by the users. He stated this bond is senior to the state debt because it is a GO bond. He stated the grant agreement and loan indenture with the federal government include at least six items that were a condition to the loan and he believes they were violated. He requested, besides having the County levy the tax, that the County go to the RUS (USDA) and request the interest rate be reduced. He believes this rate increase will not solve the problem and the problem is just being delayed.

Cmmr. Sheldon stated there is also the alternative for the rate users to form a sewer district, like Hartstene Pointe has done.

Mr. Funk stated they may do that, but they will not take over the County debt.

Cmmr. Sheldon believes the 2002 resolution that Mr. Funk read from is a "boiler plate" which the County was required to sign to get the loan. If the loan goes into default then the County taxpayers would be responsible but not until it is in default.

Mr. Dobey added they did contact Rural Development (USDA) at the first of 2008 to renegotiate the loan but were not successful. He is willing to go back and see if there are additional things that can be done. They also contacted the Department of Ecology. It is a competitive process and existing systems don't compete well against new systems and they have not scored high enough.

Mr. Funk expressed frustration with the RUS (USDA).

Jerry Ohail, Allyn, referred to Resolution 11-02 and noted it doesn't say it has to be a default situation for county tax dollars to be used. He can understand the County not wanting to do that because it does seem unfair to those not using the sewer system. He pointed out that when the system was built, the rates were \$48 which were at the higher level compared to other systems and now it is almost doubling. He stated there are provisions made by state and federal agencies that the rates should be reasonable and he feels the rates are far above other sewer rates. He pointed out this is a pure sewer rate, not including other utilities, it is not based on usage and there is nothing the rate payers can do. He also noted the lawsuit settlement was not the rate payers fault.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson interjected that the Commissioners did not want to pay the lawsuit this way, but they were advised by legal staff to do so.

Mr. Ohail requested that some of the debt be assumed by the County.

Cmmr. Sheldon stated he doesn't believe that's fair to other areas of the County. He is a firm believer in local control. He again asked about forming a utility district and the users being in charge of the system. He noted there are several sewer districts in the state.

Mr. Ohail replied that had that question been asked 6 to 8 years ago, when this started, it would have required 60% majority approval and he is relatively certain that wouldn't have happened. They did not have a high failure rate for on-site systems so he believes it wouldn't have passed. He stated that today, it's too expensive. His opinion is the Board represents the people and feels it is unreasonable for the Commissioners to pass a budget that is sustained by only rates. He noted there are parts of his property tax bill that he doesn't use.

**BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
DECEMBER 23, 2008 - PAGE 7**

Cmmr. Sheldon stated the property values are improved because there is a sewer system.

Mr. Dobey pointed out the sewer rate in Rustlewood is \$88 and in Belfair it will be between \$95 and \$104 and he believes the North Bay rate is in line with other systems. He understands that to install an onsite enhanced nitrogen sewer system this system is comparable in cost.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson understands the sewer rate on Bainbridge Island is \$96 to \$104 and Carnation is \$104 and they are similar size systems.

Michael Siptroth, Trails End Lake, stated he is currently on a septic system and has heard the Allyn facility could be extended up to the Trails End area due to high density. He stated making equitable fees for preservation of health should be considered for all taxpayers. He knows the new septic systems are \$20,000 to \$30,000 per lot and knows these people would be upset after paying for an onsite system and then being required to hook up to a sewer system. He stressed the entire ecosystem should be considered for the health of Puget Sound and Hood Canal but the sewer system has to be affordable for everyone.

Mr. Funk commented that the North Bay system was put in to protect Puget Sound, he stated the fecal count is as high as it was before the system was installed.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson asked for staff comments on fecal coliform levels.

Debbie Riley, Environmental Health, explained the Department of Health has shellfish sampling stations in Allyn. She stated Station One and Station Seven are of concern right now. They are doing monitoring work and upland surveying. The water quality did improve after the sewer system was installed. They are trying to isolate where the pollution is coming from for the two stations of concern and they don't think it has anything to do with the sewer. It is potentially from upland properties and/or animals that roost along the dock.

Mr. Ohail again referred to Resolution 11-02 with regard to the ad valorem tax clause.

Cmmr. Sheldon replied that is standard language that the County would adopt. He gave the example of when the Port of Tahuya dissolved and if they did not have enough money to pay off outstanding obligations, the County would have had to issue a tax to take care of that. If the bond was in default, as a last resort, the citizens would be taxed but that is not the case here.

Mr. Ohail interjected the resolution doesn't have default language. He believes as long as the debt is unpaid, the County can levy an ad valorem tax to pay it.

Cmmr. Sheldon believes the burden is on the rate payers. He believes the document is being misread.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson stated they have discussed this with legal staff.

Cmmr. Sheldon doesn't support taxing the other taxpayers for the North Bay sewer system.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson noted the hearing notice was mailed out and comments were heard at the December 16th Allyn meeting. She has received a couple of comments that talk about basing the sewer rate on the water use rate but the County does not have the water system and many are on wells, so that is not an option. She would consider that if it became an option.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Gallagher moved and seconded to approve the amended North Bay Sewer Rate resolution increasing the rates. Motion carried unanimously. RE-aye; S-aye; G-aye. Resolution No. 146-08 (Exhibit M)

**BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
DECEMBER 23, 2008 - PAGE 8**

Cmmr. Ring Erickson pointed out this Board inherited this system and she has been on the record that she believes counties should not be in the utility business. She stated that having adequate sewer systems to keep the Puget Sound and Hood Canal clean are part of the responsibility of living in this area. We are moving towards a county-wide clean water district to address some of the broader needs and there has been a lot of work on stormwater. She recognized that this is a dense urban-type community in a fragile area and it must be on sewer. She noted that Rustlewood is paying about the same rate and their per capita family income is about \$34,000 per year so she believes this rate is in line with the provision of the system we have to offer. She agrees with Cmmr. Sheldon that maybe this system would like to form its own district.

Cmmr. Gallagher stated this is in an Urban Growth Area (UGA) so a sewer system is necessary and they are trying to make the best of the situation. When the economy improves, that will help this system.

Cmmr. Sheldon feels there is a need to increase the rate, obviously the economic recession has retarded the growth in that area and without a sewer system in Allyn, people would not be able to sell their houses and the market values would be stagnant. He believes it would be almost impossible, even in a good economic time, if there wasn't a sewer system. He stated the benefits are clear, this has been a great benefit to the water quality.

The Board recessed for 5 minutes.

9.6 Public hearing to consider a Mason County Recycling Ordinance.

David Baker, Solid Waste Program, presented information on garbage service and recycling in Mason County. Mason County currently has voluntary self-haul recycling where people take their recycling materials to recycling locations. The voluntary self-haul program reduces the individual garbage bill but the cost of the program is paid by the utility. One of the challenges is keeping the recycling sites clean. In 2009 they are looking at reducing the recycling sites available and reducing what materials will be accepted. Mason County will be implementing a curbside recycling program and it is estimated that the curbside recycling fee will be \$5 per month. If you are currently not recycling, your amount of garbage should be reduced, lowering your garbage bill. The materials accepted will be tin and aluminum cans, plastic bottles, newspaper, corrugated cardboard, and mixed waste paper. The container will be a single wheeled 96 gallon cart with a lid, and the service will be offered on an every-other-week basis. The goal is to have at least 50% of the county have availability of the service by mid 2009 with 70% of the county having the service available by the close of 2009. In 2010, 90% of the county would have the service available and 100% of Mason County residents would have access to curbside recycling by end of 2011. Due to the weather, the North Bay Recyclers have requested the opportunity to testify at a later date. The North Bay Recyclers include the Lakeland Village Group, formerly known as the Save Our Bins, Victor Improvement Club, the Grapeview vicinity west of Nelson Road and the Benson Lake, Mason Lake and Belwood groups.

Cmmr. Sheldon clarified that for those citizens who currently take their garbage and recycling to the landfill, this ordinance does not affect them.

Mr. Baker replied this applies to only those that currently have curbside garbage service. If you are self-hauling your garbage and recycling, there is no impact.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson pointed out there is no requirement for residents who currently do not have curbside service, to sign up for service.

Mr. Baker talked about glass recycling which will not be offered curbside. This is a single cart recycling collection and the paper product value is drastically reduced if mixed with glass. Glass recycling has it's own set of challenges with different equipment needs and compared to other materials, it isn't as detrimental to the environment if it's landfilled.

Port of Allyn Commissioner Judy Scott expressed support of this ordinance. The Port hosts a blue box recycling box and it can be a challenge to keep the area clean.

**BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
DECEMBER 23, 2008 - PAGE 9**

Cmmr. Sheldon thanked the Port of Allyn for their support of the recycling program.

Michael Siptroth stated he lived in Seattle prior to moving to Mason County and noted that Seattle is a leader in recycling. This has been a long time coming for Mason County and he is disappointed that glass isn't included in the recycling program. With the new federal administration he believes they will be looking towards industries that are green and he hopes we can establish industries in Mason County that support green job growth. He hopes that not allowing glass is short-term, he knows it is possible, his goal is to reduce, reuse and recycle 100%.

Rik Fredrickson, Mason County Garbage, stated this ordinance was developed as a cooperative effort with the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC), Mason County Garbage and Mason County. Mason County Garbage has taken a leadership role in providing curbside recycling to residents. They currently have a small curbside recycling and unfortunately have been unable to expand that program due to the cost of trucks and equipment. Now they will be able to have enough customers to provide the service.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson stated she realizes additional people wanted to testify but the Board did receive comment in Allyn and they also have written comments. She welcomes any other written suggestions for the program.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Gallagher moved and seconded to adopt an ordinance providing curbside recycling to residents in unincorporated Mason County area. Motion carried unanimously. RE-aye; S-aye; G-aye. Ordinance No. 147-08 (Exhibit N)

10. Other Business (Department Heads and Elected Officials)

Charlie Butros, Public Works Director, gave an update on county roads due to the recent snow storms. He implored residents to use extreme caution when traveling on all roads. The road crews have been working around the clock to clear roads. He cautioned the effects of the cold weather will be with us for some time and as the roads start to thaw, there will be road restrictions.

The Board thanked the Public Works Department for all their great work.

Mr. Butros noted that the new facility has been very beneficial in dealing with the extreme weather.

11. Board's Reports and Calendar -The Board individually shared reports from meetings attended the past week, December 15 – 22 and also announced their calendars for the upcoming week of December 23 – 30, 2008.

12. Adjournment - the meeting adjourned at 12:28 p.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MASON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Tim Sheldon, Chair

Lynda Ring Erickson, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Rebecca S. Rogers, Clerk of the Board

Ross Gallagher, Commissioner