

BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

September 22, 2009

1. Call to Order – The Chairperson called the regular meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Jerry Swartos led the flag salute.
3. Roll Call – Present: Commissioner District 1 - Lynda Ring Erickson; Commissioner District 2 – Tim Sheldon; Commissioner District 3 – Ross Gallagher.
4. Correspondence and Organizational Business
 - 4.1 Correspondence
 - 4.1.1 Southside School District Superintendent Tim Garchow expressed his appreciation of the Mason County Sheriff's response to a situation with a student at his school.
 - 4.1.2 A letter was received from the Seattle Catholic Archdiocese legal council regarding their purchase and sale agreement with the County.
 - 4.1.3 The Mason County League of Women Voters submitted suggestions for citizen involvement in the 2010 budget process.
 - 4.1.4 The Columbia Pacific Resource Conservation & Economic Development District encouraged its members to renew their memberships.
 - 4.1.5 The Washington State Auditor's office sent their report on Mason County's financial statements and federal single audit.
 - 4.2 News Release – Lodging Tax Grant Application Deadline. TJ Martin presented the news release announcing that Lodging Tax Grant applications will be accepted until October 30, 2009.
5. Open Forum for Citizen Input –
 - 5.1 Bob Burbidge spoke on behalf of the Mason County Fire Chiefs Association. He congratulated Jerry Swartos on his retirement from fire service after 27 years. He also commented that the Fire Chiefs are opposed to the potential termination of the Fire Marshal's position. The fire service is willing to discuss the issue and they are concerned about the Board's quiet response. The government is to provide essential and mandated services to preserve the health, safety and welfare of the general public. Fire falls within that category. Two important positions in the County are the Emergency Manager and Fire Marshal and he believes they should be directors. Cutting funds is a hard job but that narrow site should not affect the future.
 - 5.2 Daniel Griffey, Vice President of the Mason County Professional Firefighters Local 2394, read a statement in support of the Fire Marshal's position. In the last three years 8 Mason County residents have lost their lives in residential structure fires. The person responsible for investigating the cause of these fires in Mason County is the Fire Marshal. Currently, the County's Fire Marshal position has been reduced to half time and there has been an interest in eliminating the position to make up for budget shortfalls. They feel this decision would put the public at risk and would lead to a higher number of civilian fire fatalities in Mason County. The Fire Marshal is also responsible for the enforcement of the uniform fire code. The uniform fire code is a regulation that mandates the use of fire protection systems such sprinklers, fire hydrants and commercial occupancy in schools. These fire protection systems save lives. Without a Fire Marshal, Mason County would lack the ability to ensure these systems work properly, are set up and maintained well. The professional firefighters in Mason County see the need for a full time dedicated Fire Marshal. They expect the Commissioners to honor the legislative mandate to ensure the life safety needs of the citizens of the county. With 8 lives lost and 11 million dollars in property damage in the last three years, the need for a full time Fire Marshal is

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obvious. They encourage the Commissioners to leave in place funding for the Fire Marshal and to restore the position to full time status.

- 5.3 Jerry Swartos stated it is the County's responsibility to investigate fires and administer fire codes. The Fire Districts need to know who they will call to investigate fires, who will do fire code enforcement and enforce burning regulations, who will perform fire inspections and who from the County will coordinate fire prevention. The position of Fire Marshal is premier to the Fire Districts. The Fire Districts represent the taxpayers of the county and they want to be proactive in ensuring this position is funded 100%.
- 5.4 Mark Core clarified that the Department of Community Development enforces the international fire code not the uniform fire code. The department currently does all of the burn permits and all inspections without the assistance of the Fire Marshal. The Fire Marshal's services are only being used for fire investigation.
- 5.5 Dave Salzer stated he served as Mason County Fire Marshal from 1992-2002 and he would like to provide some history into the position. The roots of fire code enforcement in Washington emerged in the mid 70's when the Washington State Legislature created the State Building Code. That action resulted in the adoption of a variety of model codes, including the Fire Code. The County is legislatively mandated to administer and enforce the Fire Code.

Fire code enforcement and Fire Marshal services were initially provided by the Mason County Building Department. Building inspectors provided basic plan review services and cursory fire investigation. In 1992 the Mason County Board of Commissioners, the Mason County Building Department, the Mason County Fire Chiefs Association and the Mason County Fire Commissioners Association worked collaboratively to hire the first Mason County Fire Marshal. That position was separate from the Building Department and reported directly to the Board.

Over the past 17 years the Mason County Fire Marshal position has matured to play a leadership role in fire protection planning, fire code enforcement, fire investigation and public fire education. The Fire Marshal's office is often the only voice representing the needs of the 14 Mason County Districts as they struggle to meet the challenges of tight budgets and a growing number of calls for service. The three individuals that have served in the position represent a combined 61 years of fire service knowledge and experience. That knowledge and experience has provided a pragmatic performance based approach to fire protection planning, resulting in the development of rules and regulations that complement the resources of the fire service and provide compliance alternatives to builders, developers and property owners.

Until recently, the level of Fire Marshal service has met the needs of the fire service. Since the position has been cut to half time the quality of service has deteriorated. They are concerned that the rumors that are circulating may be true and the Fire Marshal position will be eliminated. If that is the Board's intent the Mason County Fire Service will not support that decision. They expect Mason County elected officials to follow the legislative mandate to administer and enforce the international fire code through the service of an experienced and qualified fire marshal.

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Cmmr. Sheldon assured Mr. Salzer that he has not met on this issue. The Board has an executive session scheduled for Monday, but he has not been briefed on the issue. He would not make any decision without public comment. No decision has been made by this Commission

Cmmr. Ring Erickson added that she appreciates everyone showing up but this is a rumor that she has not heard.

6. Adoption of Agenda - **Cmmr. Gallagher/Ring Erickson moved and seconded to adopt the agenda as published. Motion carried unanimously. RE-aye; S-aye; G-aye.**

7. Approval of Minutes – September 7, 2009 briefing minutes.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Gallagher moved and seconded to approve the September 7, 2009 briefing minutes. Motion carried unanimously. RE-aye; S-aye; G-aye.

8. Approval of Consent Agenda:

8.1 Approval of the Veterans Assistance Fund application for Gil Ruiz (Mariana) - Utilities \$300.12 as recommended by the Veterans Assistance Fund Screening Committee.

8.2 Approval of the resolution setting a budget hearing on October 13, ~~2009~~ 2009 at 9:30 a.m. to consider supplemental appropriations to the 2009 budget for the Abatement Repair and Demolition Fund in the estimated amount of \$81,500 to incorporate revenues received in 2009 and to the WSU Extension/Noxious Weed Program Fund in the estimated amount of \$17,500 for US Forest Service funds and to WSU Extension office, in the estimated amount of \$20,000 for WA State Department of Ecology funds.

Resolution 83-09 (Exhibit A)

8.3 Approval for the Chair to sign a contract with the Washington State Department of Corrections to provide inmate labor for Mason County Parks and Trails Department through July 31, 2015. Cost to Mason County is \$1.50 per offender/per hour and \$.55 cents per mile/per day or the current state of Washington mileage reimbursement rate for transporting offenders to and from the work site.

8.4 Approval for the Chair to sign all documents related to the purchase of a utility easement for the development of a pump station to serve Belfair Wastewater Treatment Project conveyance system. The price of the easement is \$45,000. Proceeds for the purchase will come from a Department of Ecology Centennial Grant.

8.5 Approval for the Chair to sign the acceptance form for the Office of Justice Programs Recovery Act Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of \$77,445 to obtain and install computers in patrol cars for the Sheriff's Office. There is no match requirement.

8.6 Approval of the Nurse Family Partnership Implementation Agreement between Mason and Jefferson counties. This is a continuation of a current partnership. Mason County's obligation is \$6,278 and it is budgeted.

8.7 Approval for the professional services contract between Mason County Health and Eunice Santiago for interpreter services for Mason County Health staff. The cost is \$12,000 for the period of July 20, 2009 through June 30, 2010 and is budgeted.

8.8 Approval of the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services Amendment #0963-66541-01 which reduces the Early Intervention Program funding by \$690 to a total amount of \$39,310.

8.9 Approval of the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services Amendment #0963-66854-01 which reduces the Early Family Support Services by \$348 to a total amount of \$19,826.

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- 8.10 Approval of the resolution authorizing a road closure on Pickering Road (County Road No. 28850), at approximate milepost 5.390 for work associated with culvert installation. The road will be closed one day to all through traffic from 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 6, 2009. **Resolution 84-09 (Exhibit B)**
- 8.11 Approval for the Deputy Director/County Engineer to execute each Haul Road Agreement with the contractors hauling on Shelton Matlock Brady Road, Boundary Cut-Off Road West, and Boundary Road West for the Grays Harbor Grisdale Road Project.
- 8.12 Approval for the Public Works Director to hire an internal County employee/applicant for the grant funded Stormwater Coordinator position. This is temporary position that will end June 30, 2011 or sooner, depending on the funding status.
- 8.13 Approval to authorize the Public Works Director to sign the contract between Mason County and Mason County Fire District 11 for services to the Mason County Public Works Department for fire protection service and emergency medical services to the new Public Works complex. These services will cost ~~\$6,200~~ \$6,400 annually.
- 8.14 Approval of the resolution amending the road closure for the improvement and culvert installation project on Grapeview Loop Road (County Road Number 96140) at approximate milepost 2.55 to milepost 2.60. The reopening date changes to 5:00 p.m. Friday, October 16, 2009. **Resolution 85-09 (Exhibit C)**
- 8.15 Approval of Warrants
- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Claims Clearing Fund | Warrant #s 162705-163231 | \$2,078,119.17 |
| Salary Clearing Fund | Warrant #s 2767-2871 | \$ 729,595.27 |
| Direct Deposit Fund | Deposit #s 15434-15817 | \$ 568,131.80 |
- 8.16 Approval for Public Works to select consultants from the Professional Services Roster and enter into agreements for stormwater design services.
- 8.17 Approval of the contract to construct the Belfair Water Reclamation Facility to Boss Construction Inc. of Bellingham, WA for the amount of \$10,917,642.09 including sales tax. Award the bid for the construction of the wastewater Conveyance system to Ceccanti Inc. of Puyallup, WA for an amount of \$11,527,792.58 including sales tax and authorize the Chairperson to sign all contracts and pertinent documents relevant to this award.
- 8.18 Approval of the 2009 billing rates for the Mason County Jail Facilities for the City of Shelton. The 2009 billing is a flat monthly rate of \$16,132. Booking fees are \$37.27 per booking for persons booked, but not confined to the jail.
- 8.19 Approval for the Chair to sign the acceptance form for a Department of Justice Recovery Act Rural Law Enforcement Assistance Grant in the amount of \$611,610. This will be used to fund five positions for two years in the Sheriff's Office and there are no matching funds required.

Cmmr. Sheldon noted there is a correction on item 8.17 so it should be considered separately.

Cmmr. Gallagher asked that item 8.3 be removed for further discussion.

Cmmr. Sheldon congratulated the Sheriff's office on item 8.19. A lot of hard work was put into this and a grant of \$611,610 is quite an accomplishment.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Gallagher moved and seconded to approve Consent items 8.1, 8.2 and 8.4 through 8.19, with a correction to item 8.17 to remove the sentence "Award the bid for the construction of the wastewater Conveyance system to Ceccanti Inc. of Puyallup, WA for an amount of \$11,527,792.58 including sales tax". Motion carried unanimously. RE-aye; S-aye; G-aye.

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Cmmr. Gallagher commented on item 8.3. He stated this brings up several questions and possible labor issues with bargaining units.

Cmmr. Gallagher/Ring Erickson moved and second to lay item 8.3 on the table until the next regular Commission meeting. Motion carried unanimously. RE-aye; S-aye; G-aye.

9. 6:30 p.m. Public Hearings and Items Set for a Certain Time. – There were no public hearings scheduled.

10. Other Business (Department Heads and Elected Officials) –

10.1 Charlie Butros announced an emergency road closure on Dewatto Holly Road due to a failing culvert. He anticipates this will require a two day closure. He also announced that Finch Creek Road was reopened on Friday at 4pm. That work was completed on schedule.

10.2 Emmett Dobby read a new release announcing a ground breaking event for the Belfair Wasterwater and Water Reclamation Facility. The groundbreaking will take place on Monday, October 12, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

Cmmr. Sheldon congratulated the Utilities and Waste department on this project and thanked them for all of their hard work.

11. Board's Reports and Calendar - The Commissioners reported on meetings attended the past week and announced their upcoming weekly meetings.

12. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MASON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Tim Sheldon, Chair

ATTEST:

Lynda Ring Erickson, Commissioner

Shannon Goudy, Clerk of the Board

Ross Gallagher, Commissioner