

## BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

April 20, 2010

1. Call to Order – The acting Chairperson called the regular meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Tom Moore led the flag salute.
3. Roll Call – Present: Commissioner District 1 - Lynda Ring Erickson; Commissioner District 2 – Tim Sheldon. Commissioner District 3 – Ross Gallagher was absent.
4. Correspondence and Organizational Business
  - 4.1 Correspondence
    - 4.1.1 The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife sent an emergency declaration Goldsborough Creek.
    - 4.1.2 The Washington State Department of Natural Resources sent their 2009 annual report.
    - 4.1.3 Barbara Parsloe expressed concerns regarding the proposed ADAGE project.
    - 4.1.4 The Thurston/Mason Chemical Dependency staff is recommending Sue LaMont for reappointment to the Thurston/Mason Chemical Dependency Action Committee.
  - 4.2 Recognition of Medical Reserve Corps. Vicki Kirkpatrick, Health Director, recognized the volunteer members of the Mason County Medical Reserve Corps and presented the members who participated in the H1N1 response with a certificate of appreciation.
  - 4.3 Emergency Preparedness Information. Marty Best, Emergency Management Manager, gave a presentation on emergency preparedness.
  - 4.4 News Release - Mason County Water Conservancy Board. Tom Moore, Utilities and Waste Management, read a news release regarding a vacancy on the Mason County Water Conservancy Board.
5. Open Forum for Citizen Input –
  - 5.1 Antoinette Butler expressed her deep concerns regarding the proposed biomass incinerator.
  - 5.2 John Cox also commented on the proposed biomass incinerator. He stated that he has just recently heard about the ADAGE biomass incinerator and the project was presented as a done deal. He did research and has found that he should stand in strong opposition to the project. The most recent research shows clear evidence that there are harmful effects from the emissions from this type of incinerator even if they do not exceed the allowed levels. He is concerned about the contradiction that the measure used to reduce pollution, the burn ban, would be waived for the incinerator. He has too many unanswered questions about how the taxpayers will have to support the project. He believes there is an intent to not make information available. The citizens don't want any more closed door meetings, under the table agreements or secret understandings. If the Commissioners already have the answers they should share them with the citizens.

Cmmr. Sheldon explained that ADAGE is looking for a site in the Northwest and has come to Mason County. They have not applied for any permits with Mason County. They have only had one meeting with the Planning staff. They have applied for an air quality permit. He has asked staff to put together a news release for the public to explain the process, should ADAGE apply for a building permit. ADAGE has been speaking to the Port of Shelton about a potential lease of a site at the John's Prairie Industrial Park. There have been no secret meetings or under the table dealings. The company has held two open

**BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS**  
**April 20, 2010 - PAGE 2**

houses. He noted that there are a lot of rumors and things circulating on the Internet that are grossly inaccurate.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson agreed with Commissioner Sheldon's statements. She stated that she has not taken a position of support on this issue. It is her job to ask questions and know as much as she can. The process is just being started and there is no permit application in Mason County yet. That will be incumbent on signing a lease for property with the Port. She has also been told they haven't signed a contract for fuel materials. She has asked people to send her their questions. She sent these questions along and got answers from the company. The County will do its due diligence. The permit application would be subject to the same rigorous professional standards as any permit in the county.

- 5.3 Laura Lewis also spoke about ADAGE. She has lived in Mason County for 20 years and she is raising two young boys here. She is concerned about her family being exposed to toxic chemicals. She also has a lot of concerns about what this plant will do to the environment. She asked the Board to allow the community a forum to voice their concerns. The taxpayers will never see any energy or monetary compensation from the plant that will outweigh what they have invested in it. ITT Rainier also provided jobs and boosted the economy while dumping into Oakland Bay for 30 years. Those toxic effects still haunt the area. The voting taxpayers do not want ADAGE in their town.
- 5.4 Arline Fullerton stated that she has been a voter in Mason County since 1975 and she has received the Hood Canal Environmental achievement award from the Hood Canal Coordinating Council. She is an aquatic plant biologist. She understands that ORCAA is mandated to follow legally set air standards when processing permits, but the Board is not subject to those requirements. She believes there is hard science that clearly holds that wood burning is not carbon neutral. She expressed that the citizens are concerned about this health hazard and the elected officials should make sound decisions that reflect the needs and safety of the people that live in Mason county. She believes there are backroom deals and secret meetings going on and the voters are discussing a recall.
- 5.5 Louis Cofoni spoke regarding immigration. His grandparents were Italian immigrants. They had to go through several obstacles to enter the country including passing a physical. If there were something wrong with an immigrant they were sent back. It is his opinion that people are coming into this country without going through the proper procedures and they are being given a lot of things. He believes that if you aid someone in illegal immigration you are part of the problem.
- 5.6 Annette McGee stated that she was at a meeting the other day with a group of people who were concerned about their tax dollars. She explained to them where the tax dollars go. She did not know the answer to the question that was asked regarding how many department heads live outside of the county. She would like the Board to find out and let her know. The second question was how many of these department heads outside of the county drive cars home.
- 5.7 Brenda Hirschi commented that Commissioner Sheldon was reported to have said that ADAGE is a super corporate company and that he is an unabashed 100% supporter of the company and what they want to do locally. She believes that Commissioner Sheldon must have information that will help ease the citizens concerns regarding this project. She asked the Board to hold a forum where the citizens can ask questions and hear why Commissioner Sheldon is a supporter of this effort.

**BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS**  
**April 20, 2010 - PAGE 3**

Cmmr. Sheldon responded that if an application is received there will be meetings and information dissemination. He made it clear that ADAGE is part of a series of companies that intends to produce green power that meets a federal definition of green power. Many in elected positions are looking for sources of renewable power that meets the Initiative 937 requirements that was passed by the people. He is a very large supporter of renewable power. He will see if this company meets all of the requirements of Federal, State and local laws. Everyone may have an opinion, but there needs to be a permit application that shows how big the site will be, what the fuel source will be and all of the other issues that go into a building permit and air quality permit. These things will need to be evaluated by the staff and elected officials with a public seat at the table. He believes in the concept of green power.

- 5.8 Scott Grout asked the Board to ask the Planning department to do another review of the Skokomish River prior to the summer Chinook fishing season. He believes that the Santi-Cans placed by Fish and Wildlife last year were a good step in the right direction, but there are no controls in place to address the number of people that recreate in the area. It is crucial that there is a meeting of the agencies prior to the fishing season.

Cmmr. Sheldon asked Mr. Grout to contact him in Olympia to see if he can arrange a meeting with the Fish and Wildlife Commission.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson added that the Board might be able to write a letter to the Commission regarding the situation.

- 5.9 Linda Links asked if there would be a public hearing process after ADGAE presents their permits.

Cmmr. Sheldon clarified that staff will put together information that shows the process when a company like this applies for a permit. There are specific processes to go through for permits.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson noted that the Board doesn't generally vote on permits, but there could be a forum that allows for questions.

Cmmr. Sheldon added that the Belfair Sewer project has a hotline where people can call to ask questions. This might be something that the company could do if they submit a permit.

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

7. Approval of Minutes – April 13, 2010 regular meeting minutes.

Cmmr. Sheldon noted a correction to page 5. The word "if" should be added after "Cmmr. Sheldon asked".

**Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Sheldon moved and seconded to approve the April 13, 2010 regular meeting minutes with the noted correction. Motion carried unanimously. RE-aye; S-aye; G-absent.**

**BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS**  
**April 20, 2010 - PAGE 4**

8. Approval of Consent Agenda:

- 8.1 Approval of the "Notification of Final Cost" of County Road Construction completed in 2009 that was performed by county force pursuant to RCW 36.77.070. The total day labor expenditures were \$95,752.
- 8.2 Approval to authorize the Equipment Rental & Revolving Fund Manager to call for bids to furnish Mason County with Maintenance Rock Materials for the year 2010. Date and time of bid opening to be May 12, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. Bid award is anticipated at the May 18, 2010 regular Board of Commissioners meeting.
- 8.3 Approval of the Veterans Assistance Fund applications for: Emyriss Roherynath – Food \$200.00; Gary Probert – Utilities \$94.04; Charles W. Belander – Utilities \$352.92 for a total of \$646.96 as recommended by the Veterans Assistance Fund Screening Committee.
- 8.4 Approval to call for bids for fencing at the 3<sup>rd</sup> and Pine property to provide security for the Sheriff's office vehicles and facility. The estimated bid range is \$25,000 to \$35,000 and is budgeted in the Sheriff's budget. The bid opening will be May 12, 2010 at 3 p.m.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson asked for a definition of day labor in item 8.1.

Judge Toni Sheldon asked that item 8.4 be removed for further discussion.

Item 8.1

Charlie Butros explained that regulations require that only a certain portion of work preformed by county agencies can be preformed with internal staff members. The terminology was changed in the last legislative session from day labor to county force labor. The action today is required by CRAB for counties to report the resource used for project work approved by the Board.

Item 8.2

Judge Sheldon stated that she wanted to discuss this item as an educational moment. The project isn't very adequately described in the agenda. The fence is also for evidence protection. She doesn't have any issue with the project. She also understands that the money coming in is for this specific purpose. She wanted to point out that the Courts do not have security for people in the courthouse. They had the perception of security before when the sheriff was in their building. Now there isn't even the perception of security. They have one dedicated time that they have a jail officer for security. She gave a description of how the domestic violence calendar runs. The calendar has the potential for violence and the jailer can only stay from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The citizens aren't being properly protected. She has no doubt that the Board will fund security after there is a disaster. The Sheriff has put together a plan but there is no funding from the Board. She requests again that the question of funding courthouse security is looked into.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson suggested that the courthouse security issue should be scheduled to be discussed at a different time.

Sheriff Salisbury noted that these are two very separate issues. His department went out for many grants and this is part of their accreditation process to have their evidence area secure. The USDA grant is specific to these needs.

**Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Sheldon moved and seconded to approve Consent items 8.1 through 8.4. Motion carried unanimously. RE-aye; S-aye; G-aye.**

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

**BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS**  
**April 20, 2010 - PAGE 5**

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

10.1 Bob Simmons, WSU Extension Office, announced that his department is having an open house in their new building tomorrow from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. He also noted that the Master Gardener's will be holding a plant sale on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

10.2 Sheriff Salisbury announced that this month's law enforcement breakfast will be unique because they will be recognizing combat veterans. He extended an invitation for veteran's to attend the breakfast.

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 10:25 a.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MASON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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Ross Gallagher, Chair

ATTEST:

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Lynda Ring Erickson, Commissioner

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Shannon Goudy, Clerk of the Board

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Tim Sheldon, Commissioner