

BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

July 27, 2010

1. Call to Order – The Chairperson called the regular meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance – John Keates 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 The Bureau of Indian Affairs sent notice of determination on the Squaxin Island Tribe's application to acquire a 24.25 acre tract in Mason County.
 - 4.1.2 United States Customs and Border Protection is seeking input on environmental considerations for inclusion within their Programmatic Environmental Impact Statements for the Northern Border between the US and Canada.
 - 4.1.3 The Washington Finance Officers Association announced that Karen Dowling has earned the Professional Finance Officer Award.
 - 4.1.4 Comcast sent notice of price changes, effective August 1, 2010.
 - 4.1.5 Mont Jeffreys is seeking appointment to the Mason County Water Conservancy Board.
 - 4.1.6 James Sims, Dennis Pickard and Monica Harle are seeking appointment to the Planning Advisory Commission.
 - 4.1.7 Katherine Price and Buddy Ferris expressed concerns regarding the proposed Adage project.
 - 4.2 News Release – Mason County Housing Authority vacancy. Cmmr. Gallagher read a news release announcing that Mason County is seeking applicants to fill a vacancy on the Housing Authority of Mason County Board of Commissioners.
 - 4.3 Cmmr. Gallagher asked for round of applause for the people that pulled together to put on the Mason Area Fair.
5. Open Forum for Citizen Input –
 - 5.1 Jack Miles, Port of Shelton, commented that the reason that the Housing Authority has a vacancy is because Commissioner Michael Neher passed away in an unfortunate boating accident. He wanted to take a moment to publicly thank Mr. Neher for his many years of service to the low income housing community.
 - 5.2 Carol Fulcher Hepburn read portion of the SEPA document submitted by Adage. She believes that there is a conflict of interest in Adage's proposal to hire Pacific International Engineering because Michael Daniels sits on the Economic Development Council of Grays Harbor and Grays Harbor will feel most of the beneficial economic impact of this project. She submitted her written comments for the record.
 - 5.3 Connelly Watson noted that on July 13th there was a public hearing to consider a petition to establish a public cemetery district. He thinks biomass should have a petition for the Board's same consideration.
 - 5.4 Tom Davis stated that if the Commissioners will agree to hold an advisory ballot for the proposed biomass facility he will donate property and money totaling \$50,000 to Mason County. He believes the representatives have systematically denied the public the right to hearings, input and a vote on a matter that will impact their lives. He thinks some of the officials have been actively involved in efforts to bring a biomass facility to Mason County

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since 2004 or even as early as the early 1990's. Anyone looking for confirmation of this assertion just needs to look at the Commission's current position on an advisory ballot. The right to vote is not a matter to be trifled with. He would like to know how it got to this point and would like an advisory ballot on this issue.

Cmmr. Sheldon responded to Mr. Davis' comments. He believes a public vote on a potential company locating in Mason County is inadvisable and unprecedented. The county needs to maintain a good business climate. Job retention and new job recruitment is very important. There is a tremendous amount of taxes paid by the residential community and it is good to have new businesses that can pay taxes to help relieve residential property owners. Denying a business the ability to lawfully do business in the county because of a political vote or campaign is against what our forefathers would like to see. The best way to approach the situation is to uphold the permit process and have the public weigh in at the appropriate times.

5.5 Richard Curtis disagreed with Commissioner Sheldon's comments. He doesn't want to look at killing jobs. He is looking at public health. He believes his rights to a public forum are being taken away. A public vote on a type of business instead of a specific business is perfectly legal and okay. The public isn't allowed to express their opinion and that is an act of tyranny. He didn't fight in the war to live this way.

5.6 Patricia Vandehey asked several questions regarding the Adage permit and SEPA information. She submitted her written list of questions for the record.

Cmmr. Gallagher and Commissioner Sheldon attempted to answer some of Ms. Vandehey's questions.

6. Adoption of Agenda - **Cmmr. Sheldon/Ring Erickson moved and seconded to adopt the agenda as published. Motion carried unanimously. RE-aye; S-aye; G-aye.**
7. Approval of Minutes – June 28, 2010 briefing meeting minutes and July 20, 2010 regular meeting minutes.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Sheldon moved and seconded to approve the June 28, 2010 briefing meeting minutes and July 20, 2010 regular meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously. RE-aye; S-aye; G-aye.

8. Approval of Consent Agenda:

- 8.1 Approval of water reduction goals for the Rustlewood and Beards Cove water systems and authorize Mason County Utilities to implement summer water restrictions, as needed, to protect supplies and reduce peak demand. The water reduction goal is 5% less than what was consumed in 2009. This is in response to the Water Use Efficiency Rules instituted as part of the Municipal Water Regulations.
- 8.2 Approval to set a public hearing on Tuesday, August 17, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. to consider the 16 applications for the Current Use Timberland taxation program for the 2011 property taxes.
- 8.3 Approval to enter into a project agreement with the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to accept grant funds for the Oakland Bay County Park Improvement Project. Total project cost is \$503,500 with funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (\$251,750) and Mason County REET II Fund, Staff In-Kind Services, Donations, and Volunteer Hours (\$251,750).

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- 8.4 Approval of the agreement with Chris Gleason to serve as the Park Host for Mason Lake Park and Foothills Park. The Park Host lives on site in their personal recreation vehicle (RV) and the County provides the RV space, power, water and septic services.
- 8.5 Approval of the Veterans Assistance Fund application for: David C. Higgins – Utilities \$160.04; David J. Stucke – Food \$100.00; Danya L. Tallett – Housing \$405.00; and Francis J. Hoyt – Housing \$225.00 & Food \$100.00 for a total of \$990.04 as recommended by the Veterans Assistance Fund Screening Committee.
- 8.6 Approval of the statement of agreement between Mary M. Knight School and Mason County for use of facilities as mass distribution/vaccination/care centers in the event of an emergency or disaster.
- 8.7 Approval of Amendment No. 1 to Agreement No. G1000392 between the State of Washington Department of Ecology and Mason County Public Health for the solid waste program. The amendment covers language changes in the grant and the maximum eligible cost remains the same at \$75,945.
- 8.8 Approval of the resolution adopting the Hazard Mitigation Grant Plan to enable the plan's final approval in accordance with the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000.
Resolution No. 57-10 (Exhibit A)
- 8.9 Approval to extend to July 31, 2011 the agreement with Pettit Oil of Hoquiam for Gasoline, Diesel and Heating Fuel with the current terms and conditions.
- 8.10 Approval for the Equipment Rental & Revolving Fund Manager to call for bids to furnish Mason County with a new vibratory asphalt compactor for the Department of Public Works. Date and time of opening to be August 18, 2010 at 9:00 am.
- 8.11 Approval of the contractual agreement with Pacific International Engineering PLLC in the amount of \$12,300 to provide professional SEPA review services in connection with the ADAGE Biomass project. Costs associated with this agreement will be paid by the applicant.

An audience member asked that item 8.11 be removed for further consideration.

Item 8.11

Mr. Curtis objected to the hiring of Pacific International Engineering PLCC because the criteria used to review the applications was not made available to the public. He also believes there is a conflict of interest because Pacific International Engineering is a member of the Grays Harbor EDC and 70.5% of the biomass will come from Grays Harbor. He requested that the Board reject the approval of item 8.11. He submitted his written comments for the record.

Mr. Watson commented that the County could save this money by putting the issue to vote.

Cmmr. Sheldon clarified that Adage will be paying the costs for this agreement. He also noted that he wouldn't use a firm being a member of an Economic Development Council as a criteria to deny anyone from doing business in a neighboring county. An Economic Development Council is a nonprofit cooperation and is not an association that could be tied to a preference for certain jobs. Staff reviewed three proposals and the firm chosen has the most experience in industrial development.

Cmmr. Sheldon/Ring Erickson moved and seconded to approve Consent items 8.1 through 8.11. 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.

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10. Other Business (Department Heads and Elected Officials) –
 - 10.1 John Keates thanked the Mason County 4-H Forestry Program for the work they did in the County parks.
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 6:52 p.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MASON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Ross Gallagher, Chair

ATTEST:

Lynda Ring Erickson, Commissioner

Shannon Goudy, Clerk of the Board

Tim Sheldon, Commissioner