

## BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

August 3, 2010

1. Call to Order – The acting Chairperson called the regular meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Bob Simmons led the flag salute.
3. Roll Call – Present: Commissioner District 1 - Lynda Ring Erickson; Commissioner District 2 – Tim Sheldon. Absent: Commissioner District 3 – Ross Gallagher.
4. Correspondence and Organizational Business
  - 4.1 Correspondence
    - 4.1.1 Sam Tweeder expressed concerns regarding parking at the Courthouse.
    - 4.1.2 Bob and Penny Cory expressed support of the proposed Adage project.
  - 4.2 Staff Recognition – Department of Community Development. Cmmr. Ring Erickson recognized Tricia Woolet, Genie McFarland, Larry Kelly and Mark Core for their outstanding work at the Permit Center. She presented each employee with a green star award.
  - 4.3 News Release Noxious Weed Control Board vacancies. Pat Grover read a news release announcing that the Noxious Weed Control Board is seeking to fill vacancies from Weed Control Districts 2 and 3.
  - 4.4 Cmmr. Sheldon commented that there was a serious incident at the courthouse last week. The County has been working on courthouse security for several years but it is very difficult in a rural county with declining revenues. He proposed that an action item be added under item 10. He would like a report from staff on things the Board designates as action items, which are things that need to be dealt with expeditiously. The threat of violence to citizens and victims who attend trials is a serious matter and he would like weekly updates on courthouse security beginning next week.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson agreed that it is a serious issue that has been in discussion for at least three years. The Criminal Justice Working Team did an extensive report on the issue. She is thankful corrections staff were available in the courtroom last week. She would be glad to engage in this conversation again.
5. Open Forum for Citizen Input –
  - 5.1 Beth McBain read a letter from the residents of Hiawatha Park who are concerned about the proximity of the proposed biomass plant to their neighborhood. She submitted a copy of the letter for the record. She also submitted a petition containing approximately 3,000 signatures from registered voters who would like an advisory ballot on the proposed project and asked the Commissioners to state their position on the issue.

Cmmr. Sheldon replied that he is not in favor of an advisory vote. He doesn't believe it is proper or appropriate to have a public vote on an application for business. The company has applied to do business at the Port of Shelton through the proper means. They have applied for an air quality permit with ORCAA. They have submitted a SEPA checklist that is being reviewed by staff. There will be public meetings for the ORCAA permit and the SEPA checklist. There will be a public process. The issue of property values is all about perception and he thinks that the flyers that are being handed out that state that the project will kill children and cause acid rain have done more to harm the perception of property values than anything else.

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Cmmr. Ring Erickson added that the air pollution control permit is issued by ORCAA. The activity in the building will be monitored by ORCAA. That is not something the County government has the authority to overrule. The Legislature has voted to permit and encourage these kinds of activities. There has been consistent support of biomass in this state and the air quality control rests with the State.

- 5.2 Andrea Fontenat commented that her neighbor was a very sick man and has left a legacy of a wood waste landfill on his property. It was brought to the attention of the County and he was ordered to remove it. The waste has not been removed and it is drawing predators to the area. She would like the issue to be addressed because they are losing pets at an extraordinary rate. She wrote a letter to the County months ago and she would like to know when the issue will be addressed.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson suggested that Ms. Fontenat speak with the Health Director, Vicki Kirkpatrick to get the issue resolved.

- 5.3 Dr. Christopher Penoyar submitted a petition from the active medical staff physicians of Mason County who are in opposition to the proposed biomass plant based on the grounds that these facilities pose unacceptable health risks.

- 5.4 Paul Lewis stated that he was made aware that height restrictions were lifted at the Port to allow for smokestacks. He would like to know if there would be an effect on the proposed biomass project if those restrictions were brought back down.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson noted that height restriction issue went through the Commission about three years ago and nothing to do with the project.

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 – July 16, 2010 special meeting minutes and July 20, 2010 preliminary budget briefing minutes.

**Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Sheldon moved and seconded to approve the July 16, 2010 special meeting minutes and July 20, 2010 preliminary budget briefing minutes. Motion carried unanimously. RE-aye; S-aye; G-absent.**

8. Approval of Consent Agenda:

8.1 Approval for the Equipment Rental & Revolving Fund Manager to request proposals to purchase a replacement financial system for Mason County. Proposals are required by August 31, 2010 at 9:00 am.

8.2 Approval of the Veterans Assistance Fund application for: Mrs. Randolph P. Parker – Food \$200.00 and Mrs. Gil Ruiz – Utilities - \$367.52 & Food \$200.00 for a total of \$767.52 as recommended by the Veterans Assistance Fund Screening Committee.

8.3 Approval of the resolution deleting the Capital Facilities Fairgrounds Fund #370 and transfer the residual funds of \$10,367.63 to the Lodging Tax Fund #163 and delete the Fairgrounds Fund #100 and transfer the residual funds of \$75,737.42 to Current Expense.

**Resolution No. 58-10 (Exhibit A)**

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8.4 Approval to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Examiner to grant the vacation of the right-of-way as petitioned for a portion of Johns Drive SE platted right of way, Vacation File No. 373, subject to the conditions contained in the Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations of the Hearing Examiner.

Rachel Hansen asked that item 8.3 be removed for further consideration.

Brenda Hirschi asked that item 8.1 be removed for further consideration.

**Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Sheldon moved and seconded to approve Consent items 8.2 and 8.4. Motion carried unanimously. RE-aye; S-aye; G-absent.**

Item 8.1

Mr. Hirschi asked the estimated cost and the funding plan.

Dave Loser, ER&R Manager, replied that the expected cost is between \$300,000 and \$400,000. The funding plan is to use the technology fund as the initial down payment, which is approximately \$112,000. Money will then be borrowed from ER&R for three years to pay the balance off.

Mr. Hirschi asked how the maintenance costs will be paid.

Mr. Loser responded that maintenance cost will be distributed per FTE for 2011.

Ms. Hirschi asked when the system will be operational.

Mr. Loser expected it to be installed by the end of 2010. The system will be completely switched over by the end of 2011.

Andrew Graham asked how the costs compare to the current financial system.

Mr. Loser explained that the current system was purchased in the 80's for about \$180,000. It was unique because there were no support charges. There were only charges for changes to the system. The system was never supported so now it is very archaic.

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

Item 8.3

Ms. Hansen asked if the fair will no longer be supported if the line item is removed. She also asked if some of the money is from the future fair fund.

Cmmr. Sheldon answered that the fair will still be eligible for Lodging Tax consideration.

Dawn Twiddy, Budget Analyst, clarified that the future fair fund was spent on the design plan from Helix for the future fairgrounds. The remaining balance is going back to Lodging Tax because Lodging Tax supported 85% of the fund. The State Auditor recommended that the money go back into Lodging Tax because that is where it came from. The residual funds are from Current Expense and those funds cannot be given to the fair because it would be considered a gift of public funds.

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Ms. Hansen was more concerned about establishing a future fairgrounds for the community and thought that is what any extra money should go towards.

Cmmr. Sheldon agreed that it would be nice but right now there are real issues with the 2011 budget and keeping deputies out on the street and maintaining the court system is the priority.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson added that the return of the \$10,000 to Lodging Tax is routine. In regards to a future fair, the County's status will not allow it to move forward at this time. There is nothing that would prohibit this Commission or a future Commission from reestablishing the Fairgrounds Fund or committing a portion of Lodging Tax each year to this in the future.

An audience member asked if the line item could be kept with a zero balance instead of removing it.

Theresa Ehrich, Chief Accountant, replied that the general fund did support the fairgrounds with \$200,000 to \$300,000 per year. There was a \$100,000 transfer from Lodging Tax and there were some donations. The money that is left over is from the general fund and from Lodging Tax, not donations. This was put in as a separate fund so the implications could be clearly seen.

Ms. Hirschi asked how the money was moved into account #370.

Ms. Twiddy explained that \$1,300 was from the Friends of the Future Fair, \$50,000 was from Lodging Tax, and \$7,500 was from REET I. After the Helix design was paid for the residual of \$10,367.63 was left. The State Auditor thought that the \$1,300 and \$7,500 were clearly expensed out and the remaining balance should go back to Lodging Tax.

Ms. Hirschi noted that the \$50,000 from Lodging Tax should have come in as a grant reimbursement and there shouldn't be any residual. She isn't sure this is well thought out. It is important to have a fair and decisions on these small amounts of money should be well thought out. There shouldn't have been anything left from the \$50,000.

Ms. Ehrich clarified that the money was awarded to do a study and the study didn't cost as much as they thought it would.

Ms. Hirschi still thought that the tracking of this wasn't well thought out.

Cmmr. Sheldon reminded Ms. Hirschi to ask specific questions.

Ms. Hirschi stated that last year she had asked why money needed to be set aside in the Fairgrounds Fund and she was told it was needed to pay residual bills. She asked what happened to those bills.

Ms. Twiddy replied that all of the bills have now been paid and the money in the account is residual. In 2010 expenses were \$26,100. 2010 revenue was \$57,633, which was residual revenue received through final 2009 billing at the end of the year.

**Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Sheldon moved and seconded to approve Consent item 8.3. Motion carried unanimously. RE-aye; S-aye; G-absent**

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

- 9.1 Public hearing for the establishment of Mason County Cemetery District 2. This is to amend the resolution to include the language that the creation of the cemetery district is found to be conducive to the public welfare and convenience.

Cmmr. Sheldon explained that the recommended action is to add a sentence that was inadvertently deleted.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson stated that she took out the sentence because she thought it sounded like a political statement endorsing the proposal. She is still uncomfortable with it but the Prosecutor recommended that this be added back in. She would like it to be clear that this is going on the ballot for the public to decide and she does not endorse or resist the proposal in any way.

There were no questions for staff or public testimony.

**Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Sheldon moved and seconded to amend the resolution to include the language that the creation of the Mason County Cemetery District 2 is found to be conducive to the public welfare and convenience. Motion carried unanimously. RE-aye; S-aye; G-absent. Resolution No. 54-10R (Exhibit B)**

- 9.2 Public hearing to consider no parking on Beck Road from milepost 0.293 to milepost 0.439.

Charlie Butros, Public Works, explained that the proposal is to authorize the designation of the described area of Beck Road as a no parking area. The problem is that vehicles are parking along both sides of the road during low tide to access the beach close to the State Park. It is congesting the road way and creating safety hazards. He has discussed this with the Sheriff's department and the recommendation is to post no parking signs along both sides of Beck Road and to encourage users of the beach to find safer places to park.

Cmmr. Sheldon asked if there are safer places to park.

Mr. Butros replied that the State Park has parking areas.

Cmmr. Sheldon noted that the State Park doesn't charge admission.

There were no further questions for staff or public testimony.

**Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Sheldon moved and seconded to approve the resolution authorizing "No Parking" signs on Beck Road from milepost 0.293 to milepost 0.439. Motion carried unanimously. RE-aye; S-aye; G-absent. Resolution 59-10 (Exhibit C)**

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

- 10.1 Bob Simmons, WSU Mason County Extension, announced that the Fresh Bite Beach Night fundraiser will take place on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. He also announced that the Youth Forestry Program graduation will take place on Friday.

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

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12. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MASON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Absent 8/3/10

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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