

BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

August 17, 2010

1. Call to Order – The Chairperson called the regular meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Andrew Graham 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 Washington State Liquor Control Board sent notice of a new liquor license application for Casper's Pizza in Belfair and notice of establishments in Mason County with liquor licenses due to expire on November 30, 2010.
 - 4.1.2 The Washington State Department of Transportation sent notice of disposition of surplus property.
 - 4.1.3 Belfair Water District #1 is seeking funding from the Fire District and Mason County for the replacement and maintenance of fire hydrants.
 - 4.1.4 The Puget Sound Partnership's Salmon Recovery Council expressed interest in assisting with the Shoreline Master Program update process.
 - 4.1.5 Neil Harmon expressed concerns regarding the locked fire hydrants in Belfair Water District #1.
 - 4.1.6 Richard Gray is seeking endorsement from local elected officials for a "Fight Washington DC Corruption Pledge".
 - 4.1.7 Chuck Nelson expressed appreciation of MCRA park.
 - 4.2 Mason Lake County Park Boat Launch Temporary Closure. Cmmr. Gallagher read a news release announcing that the boat launch will be closing temporarily on September 15, 2010 for renovation.
5. Open Forum for Citizen Input – There was no citizen input.
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 – July 26, 2010 preliminary 2011 budget briefing minutes and August 2, 2010 briefing minutes.
Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Sheldon moved and seconded to approve the July 26, 2010 preliminary 2011 budget briefing minutes and August 2, 2010 briefing minutes. Motion carried unanimously. RE-aye; S-aye; G-aye.
8. Approval of Action Agenda:
 - 8.1 Approval to award \$200,000 to the Mason County Public Health Department from the Rural County Sales & Use Tax Fund (.09) for 2011 funding for the Shellfish Protection Action Plan. The Shellfish Protection Action Plan is listed on the 2010-2011 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy List (CEDS).
 - 8.2 Approval of the resolution setting a budget hearing on September 14, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. to consider budget changes to the 2010 budget for the following:
Budget transfers:
 - \$2,500 Budget Transfer to Civil Service for a Correction Officer register from Current Expense Ending Fund Balance.

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- \$18,200 Budget Transfer to the Board of Equalization from Current Expense Ending Fund Balance to cover additional costs due to increased requests to re-evaluate property values.

Supplemental appropriations:

- \$40,000 Supplemental Appropriation to Public Health Administration from a Public Health Emergency Preparedness Pandemic Flu grant.
- \$60,000 Supplemental Appropriation to Community and Family Health from an Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response Pandemic Flu Alternate Care Facility grant.

Budget reductions to the following 2010 Current Expense budgets to fund potential labor contract costs:

- \$19,449 budget reduction to Assessor's Office
- \$31,335 budget reduction to Community Development
- \$16,208 budget reduction to Facilities & Grounds
- \$8,644 budget reduction to Parks & Trails
- \$28,093 budget reduction to Current Expense/Public Health

Resolution No. 60-10 (Exhibit A)

- 8.3 Approval to transfer \$30,000 from Superior Court Indigent Defense budget (#001-240-200) to Operating Transfers for the Legal Reserve #2 Fund (#130). The purpose of the Legal Reserve #2 Fund is to pay for the costs associated with murder cases and the minimum balance is \$50,000.
- 8.4 Approval of amendment 0963-65371-03 between Washington State Department of Social & Health Services and Mason County. This is for Workfirst evaluations and the funding has been increased by \$850 to make the maximum contract amount \$5,500.
- 8.5 Approval to authorize the Board of Equalization (BOE) to convene and to hear appeals to property tax assessments for 2010.
- 8.6 Approval of the resolution to cancel outstanding warrants that are at least one year old, as requested by the Mason County Treasurer. The total amount to be canceled is \$2,369.09.

Resolution No. 61-10 (Exhibit B)

- 8.7 Approval of the Veterans Assistance Fund application for: Mrs. Randolph Parker (Rena) - Utilities - \$400.00; Claude H. Elder – Housing \$400.00; James D. Graves, Jr. – Utilities \$200.63 and Robert A. Bacon – Food \$100.00 for a total of \$1,100.63 as recommended by the Veterans Assistance Screening Committee.
- 8.8 Approval of Modification No. 1 to Participating Agreement No. 10-PA-11060900-018 between USDA Forest Service and Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board. This allows for additional funding in an amount not to exceed \$14,771.
- 8.9 Approval for Public Works to select a consultant from the Professional Services Roster and enter into an agreement for cultural resource survey services for the Harstine Island Road Corridor Improvement Project (CRP 1921, County Road Number 31190). The consultant selected will be announced during a regular scheduled Commissioner meeting.
- 8.10 Approval of Warrants
- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Claims Clearing Fund | Warrant #s 176374-177434 | \$ 4,406,760.70 |
| Salary Clearing Fund | Warrant #s 3836-3871 | \$ 253,221.75 |
| Direct Deposit Fund | Deposit #s 22857-23229 | \$ 613,244.55 |

Cmmr. Ring Erickson asked that item 8.2 be removed for a separate vote.

Cmmr. Sheldon asked that item 8.1 be removed for a separate vote.

Annette McGee asked if the additional money in item 8.8 would be shown in the budget at a later time.

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Cmmr. Ring Erickson replied that it would ultimately be shown through a budget action.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Sheldon moved and seconded to approve Action items 8.3 through 8.10. Motion carried unanimously. RE-aye; S-aye; G-aye.

Item 8.1

Cmmr. Sheldon commented that he worked in Olympia to secure funding for rural counties for infrastructure projects. This money is a portion of the state taxes that is retained by the County for infrastructure projects. It has been used for upgrades to the sewer system in Allyn and a variety of road projects. Two years ago he suggested using some of this money for shellfish protection. Last year he stated it was the last time he would vote for this use of the funds. He will vote against it this year because it is time to use the money on an actual project. If this is approved, \$600,000 will have been spent on educating people. It is time to move on and use the funds for a brick and mortar project before using this money this way is challenged.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson agreed that this isn't a permanent arrangement, but no one thought times would be as tough as they are right now when this was originally looked at. She doesn't think adding a parcel fee or flush tax wouldn't be to the benefit of the county at this point. She believes the use of these funds has gone far beyond education. Infrastructure is in the eye of the beholder and clean water is an important part of this county's infrastructure.

Cmmr. Gallagher noted that Commissioner Sheldon did address this funding problem statewide through a bill in the Legislature, but no one knows what will happen in the upcoming session. This needs immediate attention and needs to be maintained. He commended the group that came together to make this happen.

Ms. McGee asked Commissioner Sheldon if the original legislation curtailed this to just infrastructure and if this is the original legislation that is being followed.

Cmmr. Sheldon replied that there have been small changes to the legislation but there is also some ambiguity. There was a question on whether there is job production and protection associated with a project.

Ms. Gee asked if the \$400,000 that was already spent was considered job creating.

Cmmr. Sheldon responded that it was a job retention effort but he doesn't think it should be ongoing. This is 1/3 of the money that is collected every year. \$600,000 could have gone to a very large stormwater project.

Ms. McGee appreciated Commissioner Sheldon's concern and thought he was correct. She urged the other Commissioners to look into the use of this money.

John Konovsky, Squaxin Island Tribe, supported using this money for the Oakland Bay Shellfish Protection District. He agrees that long-term funding strategies need to be looked at but those strategies aren't in place today and this can't go through a year without funding. Problems have started to creep up again in Oakland Bay in August. He urged the Board to support this.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson asked Mr. Konoskvy to talk about what has gone on with the project.

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Mr. Konovsky explained that there have been a lot of education activities but the core of the program has been water quality testing, identifying specific problems and working with property owners to alleviate those problems.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson asked if the Squaxin Tribe supplemented this money by supplying additional money for additional testing.

Mr. Konovsky replied that the EPA has been very generous through the Tribe with the funding of a number of special studies and research.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson asked what the next steps would be.

Mr. Konovsky answered that there is ongoing research through a model of Oakland Bay on a Seattle rooftop. They are hoping to develop management strategies to reduce the level of bacteria in the sediment so that it doesn't cause problems with shellfish harvest.

Bill Dewey, Taylor Shellfish, also spoke in support of using these funds for shellfish protection work for another year. He agreed that the County needs to transition away from using this funding and thought that there needs to be a comprehensive non-point pollution program that includes local dedicated funding for all non-point pollution sources. Non-point pollution is ongoing and it can't be fixed once. The education has brought progress but once the education wanes the progress declines. There needs to be a base program to fund this, but this is needed in the immediate.

Vicki Kirkpatrick, Public Health, noted that her department recognizes the need for an ongoing permanent funding source for water quality in Mason County. They have developed a proposal that would provide countywide water quality monitoring, identification and correction. The program has been developed in concert with the stormwater program work. In the interim the use of the .09 funds was a response to a shellfish downgrade and the requirement to take action to restore the shellfish growing areas. The utilization of the funding was in recognition that clean water is the infrastructure necessary to support the shellfish industry. It is important to the maintenance of the jobs in that industry. The work to identify and correct septic system problems is similar to maintaining sewers for those areas that don't have sewer.

Steve Bloomfield had concerns regarding the use of the .09 funding. He believes it is a bit of a stretch but it was well intentioned and necessary. Now is the opportune time to look at a larger view approach. \$400,000 has been spent in Oakland Bay and many of the other water bodies that have problems haven't been touched. A panel could be put together to discuss different methods for funding a long-term umbrella approach to the whole problem. It is hard to draw away money from something that is working but there needs to be a long-range solution. He thinks that awarding .09 money again is a delay of that and it needs to be addressed sooner than later.

Theresia Ehrich, Chief Accountant, reported what the .09 fund was used for in 2009. The report is also on the County's website.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson pointed out that planning was added as an option for the use of this money. The long-term use of this money to fund the Economic Development Council isn't a bricks and mortar activity, but it is also beneficial to the county.

Cmmr. Sheldon thought that the County should focus on what needs to be done. There are already a myriad of programs dealing with water quality and shellfish and there needs to be more focus as the recession continues. He appreciates the people who have given their viewpoint.

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Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Gallagher moved and seconded to approve Action item 8.1. Motion carried. RE-aye; S-nay; G-aye.

Item 8.2

Cmmr. Ring Erickson stated that she would like to bifurcate the hearing to have one action on the supplemental appropriations and a second hearing on the budget reductions because they are very different conversations.

Cmmr. Sheldon noted that the Board could divide the question at the public hearing to vote on the items separately.

Monty Cobb, Chief Deputy Prosecutor, explained that if the question is divided at the public hearing only one public notice will need to be published, which will save money. The question can be divided any number of ways at the hearing.

Dixie Smith, Assessor, commented that due to the PERC decision on the Teamsters contract she will have to reduce her staff to cover \$65,000 from her office. The only way she can do this is to cut her whole staff to 4 days per week for the rest of the year or lay off 4 appraisers. She also has to absorb another \$20,000 from another elected officials office. She wouldn't expect another elected official to take over her budget and she feels it should be the responsibility of each office. This will be an increased workload and financial hardship for her staff. The work is mandated by the State and has deadlines. She would appreciate it if the Board would look at the additional \$20,000 because it isn't something she can make work.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Sheldon moved and seconded to approve Action item 8.2. 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 applications for the Current Use Timber taxation program for the 2011 property taxes.

Terry Bow, Chief Appraiser, explained that these applications are for the 2010 assessment for the 2011 tax year. There were 16 applications for the Current Use timber programs. There were no applications for the Open Space/Current Use. The 16 applications entail 164.36 acres and are recommended for approval. All of the applicants have submitted appropriate management plans. All of the applications have been reviewed and do qualify based on the merits of the programs. The Assessor's office is recommending approval of all of the applications.

There were no questions for staff or public testimony.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson/Sheldon moved and seconded to approve the following Current Use Timber Program applications, as recommended by the Assessor's office: Kyle & Brittanie McDonnell, parcel #22222-44-03062; Mark & Kathleen Drain, parcel #'s 31906-33-00001, 00002, 00003, 00004, 00005, 31906-51-00037; Howard & Carol Jones, parcel #32011-43-90031; Dale & Rose Nye, parcel #'s 32033-32-00050, 32032-41-00010, 32033-23-00010; Marian & Glenn Richards, parcel #52028-12-00030; Mark Torbert, parcel #62024-22-00030; Steven & Anna Smith, parcel #52028-12-00000; Jamie Larson, parcel #42317-41-00000; Roland Hutson, parcel #42018-22-00000. Motion carried unanimously. RE-aye; S-aye; G-aye.

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

- 10.1 Cmmr. Sheldon presented Bob Simmons, WSU Extension Director, with an auction item for his fundraiser. Mr. Simmons reminded everyone of the 4-H fundraiser on September 2nd.
- 10.2 Courthouse Security Discussion. Mike Rutter, Facilities Manager, reported that the committee has been busy coming up with an action plan. The proposal is to go forth to purchase equipment for screening to enter the courtroom. The 5th street side would be closed making one entrance to the courthouse. The judges are meeting today to recommend staffing and costs for staffing. The jail is currently down about 8 people and they are having trouble managing the jail, let alone providing security for the court. A plan and cost for staffing will be provided at the next meeting. There are multiple sites where court is held. Screening equipment will cost about \$40,000 to \$45,000 per site, not including staff. The ownership of the equipment would fall to the facilities department. There is also the possibility of maintenance fees for this equipment.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson wanted to know if the jail would be able to cover this if they were up to staffing levels or if it would need to be two separate staffing budgets. She also thanked Mr. Rutter for his good work. Her only concern isn't the domestic calendar she believes that sentencing and jury trials can be just as dangerous. She would like to see an Action item for this next week.

Cmmr. Sheldon thanked Mr. Rutter and thought the domestic calendar should be the first focus. Judge Sheldon's recording was very powerful. Weapons screening is very effective and he believes the Board should rely on the court system's expertise.

Mr. Rutter appreciated the elected officials working together to solve an important issue.

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 10:14 a.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