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WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
Finance and Administrative Services Committee

February 9, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Ken Mann called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, Washington.

ROLL CALL

Present: Kathy Kershner, Ken Mann and Carl Weimer.
Absent: None.
Also Present: Sam Crawford, Barbara Brenner, Bill Knutzen and L. Ward Nelson

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

1. ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2010 WHATCOM COUNTY BUDGET, SIXTH REQUEST, IN THE MOUNT OF \$25,000 (AB2010-077)

Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, gave a staff report.

Weimer moved to recommend approval to the full Council.

Discussion included a provision for change orders in the contract.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Kershner, Mann and Weimer (3)
Nays: None (0)

COUNCIL "CONSENT AGENDA" ITEMS

1. REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND PACIFIC SURVEYING & ENGINEERING, INC. TO PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS AND DESIGN OF LEVEE IMPROVEMENTS TO REDUCE THE RISK ASSOCIATED WITH SWIFT CREEK DUE TO FLOODING, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$160,000 (AB2010-086)

(Clerk's Note: Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

Weimer moved to recommend approval to the full Council.

Jon Hutchings, Public Works Department, gave a staff report.

Discussion included how long the interim design will last and a misunderstanding about the purpose of this money.

1 The motion carried by the following vote:

2 **Ayes:** Kershner, Mann and Weimer (3)

3 **Nays:** None (0)

4
5 **2. REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
6 **CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND NORTHWEST REGIONAL**
7 **COUNCIL TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE LONELINESS AND ISOLATION**
8 **PROGRAM, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,000 (AB2010-087)**
9

10 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, gave a staff report.

11 The following people spoke:

- 12 • Janie Pemble, Northwest Regional Council Program Coordinator, described the
- 13 history, purpose, and benefits of the program.
- 14 • Elizabeth Kilanowski, Bellingham, stated she is a citizen who strongly
- 15 supports this program. If the Council can pay hundreds of thousands of
- 16 dollars on a water resources inventory area (WRIA) model that doesn't work,
- 17 it can spend money on this program that does work. Find a creative way to
- 18 fund this program.
- 19

20
21 ***Kershner moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.

22
23 Discussion included the number of people served; other sources of funding; how
24 much time the volunteers spend with each client, and; the positive effects to the community
25 of this program.

26
27 The motion carried by the following vote:

28 **Ayes:** Kershner, Mann and Weimer (3)

29 **Nays:** None (0)

30
31 **3. REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
32 **CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND NORTHWEST REGIONAL**
33 **COUNCIL TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE BOUNDARY REVIEW BOARD, IN**
34 **THE AMOUNT OF \$18,000 (AB2010-088)**
35

36 ***Kershner moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.

37
38 Discussion included having a presentation on this group's function and
39 accomplishments.

40
41 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, gave a staff report.

42
43 The motion carried by the following vote:

44 **Ayes:** Kershner, Mann and Weimer (3)

45 **Nays:** None (0)

46
47 **4. REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
48 **CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND WHATCOM COUNSELING AND**
49 **PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC FOR MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT SERVICES, IN AN**
50 **AMOUNT THAT IS VARIABLE DEPENDING ON NUMBER OF SERVICES**
51 **PROVIDED AND AUTHORIZATION BY THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT (AB2010-**
52 **089)**
53

1 **Weimer moved** to recommend approval to the full Council.

2
3 Ann Deacon, Health Department, gave a staff report and answered questions.

4
5 Discussion included the variable amount of funding and funding from the mental
6 health tax.

7
8 The motion carried by the following vote:

9 **Ayes:** Kershner, Mann and Weimer (3)

10 **Nays:** None (0)

11
12 5. **REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A GRANT**
13 **AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND WASHINGTON STATE**
14 **DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR SOLID WASTE**
15 **COMPLIANCE MANAGEMENT AND LITTERING AND ILLEGAL DUMPING**
16 **ENFORCEMENT SERVICES, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$75,994 PER**
17 **YEAR FOR A TWO YEAR TERM (AB2010-090)**

18
19 **Weimer moved** to recommend approval to the full Council.

20
21 The following people answered questions.

- 22 • Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator
- 23 • Jeff Hegedus, Health Department

24
25 Discussion included interlocal costs used as a match, and whether they can use costs
26 from Swift Creek; the classification of the waste at Swift Creek, and; the source of the local
27 funding amount.

28
29 The motion carried by the following vote:

30 **Ayes:** Kershner, Mann and Weimer (3)

31 **Nays:** None (0)

32
33 6. **REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE WHATCOM COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION**
34 **DEPARTMENT TO DEMOLISH A DERELICT BARN AT DITTRICH PARK**
35 **(AB2010-091)**

36
37 **Weimer moved** to recommend approval to the full Council.

38
39 The following person answered questions.

- 40 • Lynn Givler, Parks and Recreation Department

41
42
43 Discussion included whether or not they should tear down the barn; the location of
44 Dittrich Park; the possibility of restoring the barn; other needs for the real estate excise tax
45 (REET) II money; the cost of disposing of or saving the barn, and; potential liability
46 concerns.

47
48 The motion carried by the following vote:

49 **Ayes:** Kershner, Mann and Weimer (3)

50 **Nays:** None (0)

51
52 7. **RESOLUTION ORDERING THE CANCELLATION OF CHECKS MORE THAN TWO**
53 **YEARS OLD (AB2010-092)**

1
2 **Weimer moved** to recommend approval to the full Council.
3

4 The motion carried by the following vote:

5 **Ayes:** Kershner, Mann and Weimer (3)

6 **Nays:** None (0)
7

8 **8. REQUEST RATIFICATION OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO**
9 **ADDRESS THE 2011 QUICK SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT – EXTENSION AND**
10 **AMENDMENT OF THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT FOR THE**
11 **SHERIFF’S CORRECTIONS DEPUTIES (AB2010-093)**
12

13 **Weimer moved** to recommend approval to the full Council.
14

15 The motion carried by the following vote:

16 **Ayes:** Kershner, Mann and Weimer (3)

17 **Nays:** None (0)
18
19

20 **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**
21

22 **1. CONTINUED DISCUSSION RELATED TO EMS PARAMEDIC TRAINING COSTS**
23 **PROPOSED FOR 2010 (AB2010-100)**
24

25 The following people spoke:

- 26 • Randy VanderHeiden, City of Bellingham Fire Department Medical Services
27 Officer, described the history of the paramedic training program.
- 28 • Frank Chmelik, Fire District 7 attorney, answered questions.
- 29 • Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, answered questions.
- 30 • Dr. Marvin Wayne, City of Bellingham Fire Department Medical Director,
31 described his background and his responsibilities as medical program director
32 and supervising physician. He will provide authorization for certification once
33 the Fire District 7 paramedics-in-training complete their training in
34 Wenatchee.
- 35 • Patty McKeown, Bellingham Technical College (BTC) Vice-President of
36 Instruction, described the reasons for the cost increase of the program at
37 BTC.
- 38 • Gary Russell, Fire District 7 Chief, answered questions and stated they don't
39 know how long it will take for the paramedics-in-training to complete their
40 training in Wenatchee, due to the low call volume.
41

42 Discussion included why they need to train more staff when there are nearly-trained
43 paramedics in Fire District 7; why the training was moved from Bellingham Technical
44 College (BTC) to Western Washington University (WWU) and became a closed program;
45 how the program was moved from BTC to WWU to lower cost; how the program closed
46 because the students must be affiliated with a working unit to train; everyone agreeing to
47 the EMS Plan; someone in Medic One preventing the certification of the Fire District 7
48 paramedics because of a labor dispute; whether the Bellingham Fire Department staff have
49 given anything up due to the recession; how much additional money the County taxpayers
50 spent to send the five paramedics to Seattle and Wenatchee to get their evaluation rides;
51 State training requirements and designated supervising physicians for the training program
52 and medical units; Whatcom County's protocols for becoming a paramedic; why the
53 paramedics can't get their evaluation rides in Skagit County; whether Dr. Wayne will certify

1 the five paramedics after their evaluation rides in Wenatchee; whether the County can
2 request from the State of Washington another person to authorize certification; how the Fire
3 Department achieved cost savings in moving the training from BTC to WWU; how
4 individuals trained in other counties become authorized to work in Whatcom County;
5 whether Dr. Wayne could have informed the County that there may be issues with between
6 the Union and Fire District 7 when everyone agreed to the EMS plan; authorizing volunteers
7 at Mt. Baker Ski Area to perform paramedic functions; how the fire districts have reduced
8 the Medic One workload by taking the basic life support (BLS) calls, as was planned for in
9 the EMS plan; whether or not they need a fifth medic unit right now; whether there is a
10 pending solution to the labor issue; policies and procedures for attrition; whether paramedic
11 training is necessary at this time; forcing the issue through a resolution with five conditions;
12 the County being held hostage by one union group; how the union can refuse to work with
13 the Fire District 7 staff; whether the situation creates a hostile work environment, and;
14 whether the City has repaid the County for the money taken to provide salaries for Mayor
15 and City Council staff.

16
17 Mann stated there isn't interest on the Council to approve this item any time soon.

18
19 Crawford stated he would like to talk to the various parties about formalizing
20 something in a resolution. He doesn't know how long that will take.

21
22 Mann stated this will not go forward to the next meeting.

23
24
25 **OTHER BUSINESS**

26
27 There was no other business.

28
29
30 **ADJOURN**

31
32 The meeting adjourned at 12:54 p.m.

33
34 Please contact the Council Office to obtain an
35 official, signed copy:
36
37 360-676-6690 or council@co.whatcom.wa.us
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45 _____
Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Ken Mann, Committee Chair