

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
**Finance and Administrative Services Committee**

March 12, 2019

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Tyler Byrd, Carol Frazey, and Satpal Sidhu  
**Absent:** None  
**Also Present:** Barbara Brenner, Barry Buchanan, and Todd Donovan

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**

Jack Louws, County Executive, reported on the following items and answered questions:

- Jail door replacement project bids and remodeling requirements
- Housing Advisory Committee subcommittee on homeless shelter issues
- Cascadia Law Group contract to finalize the code amendments

Councilmembers and the Executive discussed the cost of replacing the jail doors and other necessary jail repairs and how the Council can work to not need another Cascadia Law Group contract extension.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

**1. AB2019-146 QUARTERLY REPORT FROM WHATCOM COUNTY'S FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

Brad Bennett, Administrative Services Department, submitted the report and gave a staff report. They have collected 100 percent of estimated revenue, and anticipate more will come in. The sales tax collected is above normal. Property taxes were up as anticipated. Building permit revenue was down a small amount. Payment in lieu of taxes from the federal government was more than anticipated. Investment earnings are increasing. Expenditures were 92 to 94 percent of budget. The projected ending fund balance is \$16.9 million, up from \$14 million.

Councilmembers and Mr. Bennett discussed expenditures versus revenues, requirements for an ending fund balance, expenses for the Sheriff's Office and jail, a \$7.5 million budget transfer for jail repairs and the new financial software, and the Administrative Services Department serving under the Executive.

1  
2 **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**  
3

4 **1. AB2019-155 DISCUSSION ON THE REPAIR OF THE LIGHTHOUSE MARINE**  
5 **PARK BOAT DOCK**  
6

7 The following staff reported on repurposing the launch ramp that is at Point Roberts  
8 and the tree harvest project at Silver Lake Park. They answered questions.

- 9
  - 10 • Mike McFarlane, Parks and Recreation Department Director
  - 11 • Rod Lamb, Parks and Recreation Department
  - 12 • Christ Thomsen, Parks and Recreation Department

13 Councilmembers and staff discussed feedback from the Point Roberts community  
14 about the dock and boat launch project; other potential boat launch sites; how many trees  
15 would have to come down to deal with the electrical, water, and road issues; revenue from  
16 park and campground use at Silver Lake Park; the types of trees that will be removed;  
17 volume of campground use; revenue from the tree sale; the number of hazard trees; and  
18 campers' experiences using the park.  
19

20  
21 **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL**  
22

23 **1. AB2019-147 ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2019-2020 WHATCOM COUNTY**  
24 **BUDGET, THIRD REQUEST, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$95,521**  
25

26 ***Byrd moved*** to recommend adoption to the full Council.  
27

28 The motion carried by the following vote:

29 **Ayes:** Byrd, Frazey, and Sidhu (3)  
30 **Nays:** None (0)  
31

32 **2. AB2019-140 REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO**  
33 **ENTER INTO AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY**  
34 **AND WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT TO PROVIDE LAKE WHATCOM**  
35 **HOMEOWNER INCENTIVE PROGRAM ASSISTANCE, IN THE AMOUNT OF**  
36 **\$216,883**  
37

38 ***Frazey moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.  
39

40 Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office, answered questions on the regular amounts  
41 allocated to the program.  
42

43 The motion carried by the following vote:

44 **Ayes:** Byrd, Frazey, and Sidhu (3)  
45 **Nays:** None (0)  
46

47 *(Clerk's Note: Discussion continued at the end of the meeting.)*  
48  
49

1 **3. AB2019-152 REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO**  
2 **ENTER INTO AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY**  
3 **AND CITY OF BELLINGHAM FOR GRACE PROGRAM FUNDING, IN THE**  
4 **AMOUNT OF \$140,000**

5  
6 *Frazey moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.

7  
8 The motion carried by the following vote:

9 **Ayes:** Byrd, Frazey, and Sidhu (3)

10 **Nays:** None (0)

11  
12 **4. AB2019-157 REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO**  
13 **AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF RADIOS AND RELATED ACCESSORIES FROM**  
14 **RACOM CORPORATION, AN AUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTOR FOR HARRIS RFCD,**  
15 **USING THE WASHINGTON STATE CONTRACT #02315, IN AN AMOUNT NOT**  
16 **TO EXCEED \$59,091.90**

17  
18 *Frazey moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.

19  
20 The motion carried by the following vote:

21 **Ayes:** Byrd, Frazey, and Sidhu (3)

22 **Nays:** None (0)

23  
24 **5. AB2019-161 RESOLUTION CELEBRATING APRIL AS A MONTH OF SIKH**  
25 **AWARENESS AND APPRECIATION IN WHATCOM COUNTY**

26  
27 *Frazey moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.

28  
29 Councilmembers discussed the nationwide effort to make people aware of who Sikh  
30 people are; and whether Sikh awareness promotes religion.

31  
32 *Sidhu moved* to hold in committee to the next meeting.

33  
34 The motion carried by the following vote:

35 **Ayes:** Byrd, Frazey, and Sidhu (3)

36 **Nays:** None (0)

37  
38 **2. AB2019-140 REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO**  
39 **ENTER INTO AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY**  
40 **AND WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT TO PROVIDE LAKE WHATCOM**  
41 **HOMEOWNER INCENTIVE PROGRAM ASSISTANCE, IN THE AMOUNT OF**  
42 **\$216,883**

43  
44 *(Clerk's Note: Discussion continued from earlier in the meeting.)*

45  
46 Councilmembers discussed what work will be carried out in this agreement.

47  
48  
49 **OTHER BUSINESS**

50  
51 There was no other business.

1 **ADJOURN**

2  
3 The meeting adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

4  
5  
6 ATTEST

7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12 Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

13  
14  
15  
16  
17 Jill Nixon, Minutes Transcription

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Satpal Sidhu, Committee Chair