

Whatcom County Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee

**COUNTY COURTHOUSE
311 Grand Avenue, Ste #105
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038
(360) 778-5010**



Action Summary

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

10:15 AM

Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers

**HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 12:15 P.M. (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE
REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil, OR
CALL 360.778.5010)**

COUNCILMEMBERS

Elizabeth Boyle
Barry Buchanan
Ben Elenbaas
Kaylee Galloway
Jessica Rienstra
Jon Scanlon
Mark Stremmler

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

Call To Order

Roll Call

Present: 7 - Elizabeth Boyle, Barry Buchanan, Ben Elenbaas, Kaylee Galloway, Jessica Rienstra, Jon Scanlon, and Mark Stremler

Announcements

Council "Consent Agenda" Items

1. [AB2026-438](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and City of Bellingham Police Department to maintain munitions inventory at the Whatcom County Central Shop, in the amount of \$0

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

2. [AB2026-496](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Status Electrical Corporation to provide technical support for the security electronics at the juvenile detention facility, main jail, jail work center, and facilities management, in the amount of \$69,442 for a total amended contract amount of \$253,615

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

3. [AB2026-500](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Military Department for reimbursement of expenses resulting from the winter weather in December 2025, in an amount to be determined

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

4. [AB2026-503](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a grant agreement between Whatcom County and WA Department of Ecology to restore Olympia oysters in North Chuckanut Bay, in the amount of \$50,000 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

5. [AB2026-505](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal cooperative purchasing agreement with the Whatcom County Rural Library District (WCLS) to allow reciprocal utilization of competitively bid contracts, pursuant to RCW Chapter 39.34 Interlocal Cooperation Act

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremmer

Nay: 0

6. [AB2026-511](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a grant agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Commerce to increase funding for flood mitigation planning in Sumas, Nooksack, and Everson, in the amount of \$207,400 for a total amended amount of \$1,517,400 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremmer

Nay: 0

7. [AB2026-527](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal grant agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Ecology to provide Floodplains by Design funding to build upon existing Floodplain Integrated Planning efforts to reduce flood hazard, increase flood resiliency, and improve habitat, in the amount of \$10,000,000 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremmer

Nay: 0

8. [AB2026-528](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the University of Washington for completion of Phase 2 sediment work near Everson and evaluating alternatives proposed as part of the Widen the Corridor project, in the amount of \$209,814 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremmer

Nay: 0

9. [AB2026-529](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and United States Geological Survey (USGS)

for the continued purpose of sediment modeling on the lower Nooksack River, in the amount of \$60,000 for a total agreement amount of \$295,050 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

10. [AB2026-533](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and the Washington State Office of Public Defense regarding Chapter 10.101 RCW, Indigent Defense Services, in the amount of \$435,995

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

11. [AB2026-536](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an agreement between Whatcom County and the Administrative Office of the Courts for reimbursements of costs related to the Uniform Guardianship Act, in the amount of \$89,144

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

12. [AB2026-537](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an agreement between Whatcom County and the Administrative Office of the Courts for reimbursements of costs related to the Family and Juvenile Court Improvement Program, in the amount of \$122,250

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

13. [AB2026-538](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service for funding for a deputy to patrol Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest lands in the amount of \$56,760

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

14. [AB2026-539](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an agreement between Whatcom County and the Administrative Office of the Courts for reimbursement of

costs related to BECCA programs, in the amount of \$232,776

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

15. [AB2026-540](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Mobile Mama Strategies Inc. to provide perinatal mental health services to vulnerable families through continuation of a mental health workforce pilot project, in the amount of \$199,000 for a total amended contract amount of \$496,335

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

16. [AB2026-541](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Health (DOH) to increase funding for the 2025-2027 Consolidated Contract Grant, which supports the delivery and funding of various public health services in Whatcom County, in the amount of \$3,521,984 for a total amended agreement amount of \$14,856,181

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

17. [AB2026-542](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center to provide conflict resolution workshops for youth, in the amount of \$35,000

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

18. [AB2026-543](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Washington State Military for Operation Stonegarden FY25, in the amount of \$170,625

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Committee Discussion (Other)

1. [AB2026-507](#) Discussion of a resolution amending the 2026 Flood Control Zone District and Subzones Budget, request no. 4, in the amount of \$34,830 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

DISCUSSED
2. [AB2026-535](#) Discussion of an ordinance amending the 2026 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 10, in the amount of \$252,250

DISCUSSED

Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council (Other)

1. [AB2026-480](#) Resolution requiring additional public notice of proposed Whatcom County Council action to increase taxes

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT(S)

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremmer

Nay: 0

Motion approved to amend to add "or fee" to item number one under NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED so that it reads:

1. A proposed ordinance, resolution, or other legislative action that would levy, modify, repeal, or submit to the voters a tax OR FEE is first included on a publicly posted Council agenda; or

2. [AB2026-544](#) Resolution designating the revenue distribution from forest service payments

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

Aye: 6 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremmer

Nay: 1 - Galloway

Committee Discussion (Ferry District)

1. [AB2026-509](#) Work session on the Whatcom County Ferry District 2027 funding level options

DISCUSSED

The following five agenda items were also discussed under this item.

2. [AB2026-510](#) Discussion of a resolution establishing a new Whatcom County Ferry District Fund (Council acting as the Whatcom County Ferry District Board of Supervisors)

DISCUSSED

SEE DISCUSSION NOTES UNDER AB2026-509

3. [AB2026-512](#) Discussion of a resolution establishing an initial budget level for the Whatcom County Ferry District in the amount of \$5.2 million (Council acting as the Whatcom County Ferry District Board of Supervisors)

DISCUSSED

SEE DISCUSSION NOTES UNDER AB2026-509

4. [AB2026-513](#) Discussion of a resolution establishing an initial budget level for the Whatcom County Ferry District in the amount of \$4.2 million (Council acting as the Whatcom County Ferry District Board of Supervisors)

DISCUSSED

SEE DISCUSSION NOTES UNDER AB2026-509

5. [AB2026-515](#) Discussion of an ordinance adding the Ferry District Funds and Board of Supervisors to Whatcom County Code 10.34 Ferry Rates

DISCUSSED

SEE DISCUSSION NOTES UNDER AB2026-509

6. [AB2026-516](#) Discussion of an ordinance adding the Ferry District Funds and Board of Supervisors to Whatcom County Code Section 10.36.060, Ferry Multi-ride Cards and Quarterly Passes, Replacement Appeal Procedure

DISCUSSED

SEE DISCUSSION NOTES UNDER AB2026-509

Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council (Ferry District)

1. [AB2026-514](#) Resolution regarding authorization for application to Public Works Board funding for the Lummi Island Ferry Replacement and System Modernization Project

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremmer

Nay: 0

ALSO SEE DISCUSSION NOTES UNDER AB2026-509

Items Added by Revision

Other Business

Adjournment