

# **Whatcom County Council Public Works & Health Committee**

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



## **Committee Minutes - Final**

**Tuesday, October 24, 2023  
1:30 PM  
Hybrid Meeting**

**HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 2:30 P.M. (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE  
REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT [www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil), OR  
CALL 360.778.5010)**

### **COUNCILMEMBERS**

Carol Frazey  
Kaylee Galloway  
Kathy Kershner

### **CLERK OF THE COUNCIL**

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

## **Call To Order**

Committee Chair Kathy Kershner called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. in a hybrid meeting.

## **Roll Call**

**Present:** 3 - Carol Frazey, Kaylee Galloway, and Kathy Kershner

Also Present: Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, Todd Donovan, and Ben Elenbaas

## **Announcements**

### **Special Presentation**

1. [AB2023-568](#) Presentation from the Community and Organizational Development Division of Whatcom County Health and Community Services  
  
Lynnette Bennett, Health and Community Services Department, read from a presentation (on file) and answered whether this division was enacted by code or resolution or whether it was decided on internally.

Galloway referred to the Charter language on creating departments but Buchanan stated this is a division.

Kershner stated a year ago or so there was a concept about what the division's work would be looking like and now we get to see some of the details and all the puzzle pieces start to fit together.

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive, stated this has been an ongoing effort for almost two years.

**This agenda item was PRESENTED.**

### **Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council**

1. [AB2023-675](#) Resolution adopting Equipment Rental and Revolving (ER&R) Management Policy as required by the County Road Administration Board

***Galloway moved*** that the Resolution be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.

Brett Piepel, Public Works Department, stated he was available for questions.

***Galloway amended*** her motion ***and moved*** that the SUBSTITUTE Resolution be recommended for approval and she described the changes in

the substitute version.

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive, commended Elizabeth Kosa, Public Works Department Director, and Piepel and stated more revisions and reforms are coming.

Piepel answered what his title is and stated it is Assistant Superintendent of Equipment Services.

Kershner stated we did not have an internal resolution and the CRAB policy in place before, so Public Works put it in place and Galloway added an amendment. She asked if that is what they are considering today and Piepel stated it is.

Elenbaas stated he would love to see this type of internal policy all over, like in Planning and Development Services.

**Galloway's motion that the SUBSTITUTE Resolution be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 3 - Frazey, Galloway, and Kershner

**Nay:** 0

2. [AB2023-699](#) Resolution supporting the Lummi Indian Business Council's (LIBC) state of emergency declaration in response to the fentanyl crisis

***Galloway moved*** that the Resolution be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.

Councilmembers stated they appreciate Elenbaas putting this forward.

Elenbaas briefed the Councilmembers and stated he is not advocating that the Council do anything that is not in compliance with current State law in light of questions that the County's Prosecuting Attorney's Office has had with the bold actions the Lummi Indian Business Council (LIBC) is taking as outlined in the resolution. He wants to make sure this is written in such a way to say the Council wants to support and partner as much as they can within the bounds of the law. The steps they are taking are bold steps, but the crisis in front of all of us is dire enough that it is warranted.

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive, stated he and several other representatives from the County discussed the issue with members of the LIBC, and one legal question was whether they have the ability to put stops which are prohibited by State law. The other was whether the Sheriff's Office could

stand side by side with their police during these stops. It was decided the Sheriff's Office is not able to perform that function with them, but the County will provide them support. The County representatives encouraged the LIBC to have a member of their police force join the county's drug task force.

Elenbaas stated he understands the concerns, but part of his purpose with this resolution is that we can come together as a group, even if there are barriers, if we need to be advocating for change or flexibility. He understands the Prosecutor's concerns but he believes we should help them as much as we can.

**Galloway's motion that the Resolution be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 3 - Frazey, Galloway, and Kershner

**Nay:** 0

**Items Added by Revision**

There were no agenda items added by revision.

**Other Business**

There was no other business.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

**Kathy Kershner-via email 11/8/2023**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

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Kathy Kershner, Committee Chair

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Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

SIGNED COPY ON FILE