

Whatcom County Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee

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



Committee Minutes - Final

AGENDA REVISED 11.5.2019

Wednesday, November 6, 2019

11:30 AM

Council Chambers

COUNCILMEMBERS

Tyler Byrd
Carol Frazey
Satpal Sidhu

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

Call To Order

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

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Tyler Byrd, Carol Frazey and Satpal Sidhu

Absent: None

Barbara Brenner, Barry Buchanan, Todd Donovan

County Executive's Report

Jack Louws, County Executive, reported on the following items:

Recent Public Works projects including work on Graveline Road and the Badger Road bridge replacement.

The recent bid acceptance for the Birch Bay Berm project and acknowledgement of the work of project manager, Roland Middleton from the Public Works Department.

Special Presentation

2. [AB2019-578](#) Quarterly report from Whatcom County's Finance Department

This item was discussed before the quarterly report from Facilities.

The following people presented on the third quarter financial report and the biennial budget adjustments and answered questions:

Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office, submitted a handout (on file)

Brad Bennett, Finance and Administrative Services Department submitted gave a report (on file)

Jack Louws, County Executive

Doug Chadwick, Sheriff's Office

Wendy Jones, Sheriff's Office

Jon Hutchings, Public Works Director

Anne Deacon, Health Department

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

Concerning the third quarter financial report, they answered questions about general fund projections, whether the budget surplus from last year is projected to be spent or rolled back into the budget, whether interest income has to go back into specific funds, what data was used for projecting a possible future recession, getting data that would show the percentage of expenses and income per resident in Whatcom County as well as services, why there were fewer building permits and a decrease in new

construction projects this year, and why revenue projections are lower despite a rise in the economy the last several years.

Concerning the biennial budget adjustments they answered questions about the mental health and developmental disability fund; an increased amount of contracted dollars for jail space in other counties and how that affects the County's contracts with the smaller cities; how Initiative 976, which would put limits on motor vehicle taxes and fees, could impact Public Works and the County's funding sources for the road fund and also how that gap would be closed; why there has been a reduction in the recording fees that the Auditor collects and how that affects homeless housing supportive services; and finding a time to continue discussion on the biennial budget review.

This agenda item was REPORTED.

1. [AB2019-554](#) Report from Whatcom County's Facilities Management Department

Rob Ney, Administrative Services Department, submitted and gave a presentation (on file) about the progress of the courthouse exterior project, the next phase of the project including maintenance and repairs, other future projects including work on the Civic Center building, replacing the detention doors in the jail, and building the Crisis Stabilization Center.

He and Jack Louws, County Executive, answered questions about whether phase II of the courthouse exterior project is currently included in the budget and the replacement costs and life span for the detention doors in the jail.

This agenda item was REPORTED.

Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council

1. [AB2019-558](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to approve a Pass-Through Agreement between the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in the amount of \$216,815 and to execute a purchase and sale agreement that is consistent with the provisions and purchase price in the agreement (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

Byrd moved that the Contract (FCZDBS) be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey and Sidhu

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

2. [AB2019-559](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a grant amendment

between the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District and the Washington State Military Department to supplement the grant scope and budget in the amount of \$169,613 for a total amended grant amount of \$512,350 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

Paula Harris, Public Works Department, gave a staff report and answered questions about why the grant goes through the State Military Department, what happens if there is contamination in the tanks and whether investigation costs can be recouped, and when the project will be completed.

Frazezy moved that the Contract (FCZDBS) be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey and Sidhu

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

3. [AB2019-535](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and City of Bellingham for partial funding of maintenance and operations of the Crisis Triage Facility, in the amount of \$59,000

Byrd moved that the Interlocal be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey and Sidhu

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

4. [AB2019-563](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Washington State University for Master Gardener Program support at County Park Sites

Frazezy moved that the Interlocal be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey and Sidhu

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

5. [AB2019-548](#) Resolution approving the 2020 recommended Convention Center Fund allocations

Byrd moved that the Resolution be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey and Sidhu

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Council "Consent Agenda" Items

1. [AB2019-549](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Herrera Environmental Consultants to expand the scope of work and increase the contract amount by \$65,135 for a new amount not to exceed \$164,956

Frazezy moved that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey and Sidhu

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

2. [AB2019-561](#) Request authorization for the Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and SoftResources, LLC for consulting services to assist Whatcom County's plan to replace the current J.D. Edwards World enterprise resource planning (ERP) system in the amount of \$119,201.25

Byrd moved that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey and Sidhu

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

3. [AB2019-567](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Washington State Military Department to utilize Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) program funds to prepare for all hazards through sustainment and enhancement of Division of Emergency Management programs, in the amount of \$73,478

Frazezy moved that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey and Sidhu

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

4. [AB2019-570](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment with Daniel A. Swedlow, Summit Law Group, to serve as Professional Negotiator and provide legal services for collective bargaining, negotiations, mediation, binding interest arbitration, and other actions brought by a Union

Frazezy moved that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey and Sidhu

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

5. [AB2019-537](#) Request approval for the County Executive to authorize the purchase of vehicle body repair services, using the Washington State Contract #05015, in an annual amount not to exceed \$70,000

Byrd moved that the Bid Award be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey and Sidhu

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Other Business

Jon Hutchings, Public Works Department Director, answered a question about the cost of the gardening project contract in Point Roberts, why Public Works was involved in the project, what the process is for contracting this type of work, how all parties and the Council could know about the up front costs in advance next time there is a project like this, and how staff travel could be minimized.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:06 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Satpal Sidhu, Committee Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

SIGNED COPY ON FILE