

**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**

**Tuesday, October 22, 2019**

**11 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 11:00 am in the Council Chambers, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, Washington.

## **Roll Call**

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

**Absent:** None

Also Present: Barry Buchanan, Todd Donovan, Barbara Brenner, and Rud Browne

## **County Executive's Report**

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

Whatcom County Library's 75th anniversary  
Proposed budget changes for next year and the budget biennial schedule

## **Special Presentation**

1. [AB2019-434](#) Presentation from the Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center  
Moonwater, Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center (WDRC) Executive Director, submitted and gave a presentation (on file). She spoke about the work, history, strategic plan, community impact, and financial overview of the Dispute Resolution Center, and summarized the scope of their services including conflict intervention and prevention. She answered questions about how the resolution center is working with the issue of homelessness, how fees for services are determined and charged to clients, how the center is partnering with the United Way, and where the WDRC community trainings are held.

**This agenda item was PRESENTED.**

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

1. [AB2019-520](#) Request Council approval of the Criminal Justice Treatment Account (CJTA) Plan Update 2019-2020  
Jackie Mitchell, Health Department, described the Criminal Justice Treatment Account (CJTA) Plan and answered questions about the process for determining how to use the funds, how this plan differs from a similar plan last year including no funding for outpatient treatment and the Health Department's recommendation that whatever unused funds exist at the end of a quarter would be used to support and pay for medications for the new medication-assisted treatment program in the jail, and how

many people have been served in the rental assistance, jail assessments, and residential treatment programs this year.

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

**Aye:** 3 - Byrd, Frazey and Sidhu

**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** 0

2. [AB2019-512](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Whatcom Conservation District to develop a water use efficiency program for agricultural water users, in the amount of \$20,000 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

The following people answered questions:

Gary Stoyka, Public Works Department, answered questions and reported about how many people will be served by the program, assessing what kind of irrigation is being used and how it can be improved, addressing concerns that switching irrigation methods would lead to a relinquishment of water rights, using the funds to create an assesment and outreach program to farmers, whether this went formally to the Planning Unit, working with the Ag Water Board of Whatcom County or other entity to set up a water bank, the role of target partners in designing and implementing the plan, how the plan and partners for this program differ from the proposed water use efficiency program for domestic and municipal water users, the timeline for getting both of the plans back, and whether the plan will be implemented by the Whatcom Conservation District or the Council.

Aneka Sweeney, Whatcom Conservation District, answered questions about the other partners participating in the proposed water use efficiency program for domestic and municipal water users, and what funding mechanism will be used to fund rebate programs.

**Frazey moved that the Contract (WCFCZDBS) be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 3 - Byrd, Frazey and Sidhu

**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** 0

3. [AB2019-513](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Whatcom Conservation District to develop a water use efficiency program for domestic and municipal water users, in the amount of

\$14,250 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

The following people spoke and answered questions:

Gary Stoyka, Public Works Department

Aneka Sweeney, Whatcom Conservation District

Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office

Councilmembers and the aforementioned speakers discussed whether the scope of work went through the Planning Unit, what water users are included in the Whatcom Water Alliance, and getting input from well owners, non-public associations, and other organizations that are not part of the alliance.

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

**Aye:** 3 - Byrd, Frazey and Sidhu

**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** 0

4. [AB2019-522](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into Amendment No. 2 of the Herrera Environmental Consultants Contract for Services to support Lower Nooksack River Floodplain Integrated Planning (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

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

**Aye:** 3 - Byrd, Frazey and Sidhu

**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** 0

5. [AB2019-508](#) Ordinance amending the 2019 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 13, in the amount of \$375,570

Jack Louws, County Executive, answered questions about the requested amount to fund the Housing Affordable Impact fee Loan program, when it was originally approved, what the money is being used for, and how the program loans are managed. He stated the Economic Development Investment (EDI) Board is going to meet in November and the request will be to add another \$500,000 into the program for next year and also establish that when the money is getting paid back to the County the principal amount would be kept in the loan fund to be used again.

**Frazey moved that the Ordinance be RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 3 - Byrd, Frazey and Sidhu

**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** 0

6. [AB2019-534](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an Interlocal Agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Office of Financial Management, in an amount not to exceed \$60,000, for the purposes of expanding outreach in our community for the 2020 Census

Jack Louws, County Executive, answered questions about using other modes of communication such as social media and non-English speaking groups to reach more people and get them involved in the 2020 census as opposed to just using the radio for outreach.

**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

### **Council "Consent Agenda" Items**

1. [AB2019-515](#) Resolution ordering the cancellation of unclaimed checks more than two years old for Whatcom County Jail Inmate Trust Fund prior to June 30, 2017

Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office, answered questions about making a person's criminal involvement public by listing inmates online.

**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

2. [AB2019-516](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Whatcom Family & Community Network to provide youth prevention programs designed to reduce risk for substance use and poor mental health, in the amount of \$65,000

**Frazey 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. [AB2019-526](#) Resolution in the matter of the sale of surplus personal property and the setting of a date for a public hearing thereon pursuant to WCC 1.10

**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

4. [AB2019-527](#) Resolution in the matter of the sale of surplus real property (building only) and setting a date for a public hearing thereon, pursuant to WCC 1.10

Christ Thomsen, Parks Department, answered questions about what will happen to the house in question at Silver Lake, whether a notice can be added to the County's Facebook page, whether the lot is owned by the County, and whether the house has to be removed from the property.

**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

5. [AB2019-523](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to accept Sun Life Stop Loss Policy renewal for insurance protection for the self-insured medical program for 2020

**Frazey 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

### **Other Business**

There was no other business.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:16 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