

**Whatcom County  
Council Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee**

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



**Committee Minutes - Final**

**Tuesday, September 26, 2023**

**9:45 AM**

**Hybrid Meeting**

**HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 10:10 A.M. (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON,  
SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT [www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil),  
OR CALL 360.778.5010)**

**COUNCILMEMBERS**

Barry Buchanan  
Tyler Byrd  
Carol Frazey

**CLERK OF THE COUNCIL**

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

## **Call To Order**

Committee Chair Barry Buchanan called the meeting to order at 9:51 a.m. in a hybrid meeting.

## **Roll Call**

**Present:** 3 - Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, and Carol Frazey

Also Present: Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, Kaylee Galloway, and Kathy Kershner

## **Announcements**

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

1. [AB2023-561](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham to consolidate previous amendments and extend the term date for the WHAT-COMM Communications Center

Tyler Schroeder, Director of Administrative Services, briefed the Councilmembers on the Administrative Board. He stated if the Council has an interest in furthering the conversation of the Administrative Board composition, it should probably be a Council vote or motion that then goes to the What-Comm board itself for that board to consider.

He and Councilmembers discussed what the current makeup of the Administrative Board is, why the County Council's representative is from the County's Finance and Administrative Services Committee and the City's representative is from their Public Safety Committee, whether the ex-officio non-voting member should be made a voting member or whether the City's Police Chief and the Fire Chief chosen from the Whatcom County Fire Chief's Association should also be non-voting members, whether there is merit to bringing on someone with a mental health crisis lens, whether the membership is a carryover from the Ambulance Advisory Committee membership, whether the purpose of the agreement is to combine the Prospect Communications Center and What-Comm, and whether the purpose statement in the agreement has changed.

***Byrd moved*** to recommend that the Bellingham Police Chief and the Fire Chief chosen from the Whatcom County Fire Chief's Association are made ex-officio positions (along with the Bellingham Fire Chief).

Tyler Schroeder, Director of Administrative Services, clarified whether this motion is a recommendation that will then go back to What-Comm for their

consideration. He stated it could be that the Council does not approve this version of the interlocal and requests the parties to amend the board prior to approving it.

Byrd's motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** 0

*Frazey moved* to recommend that we add an alternative response member to the makeup of the board in a non-voting position.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** 0

Schroeder discussed with Councilmembers whether the request from Council is to take this conversation to the What-Comm board on September 28th and then bring it back for consideration of the interlocal and whatever decision they choose in two weeks.

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council, confirmed that they would bring the recommended motions to the Council this evening for a vote.

Byrd moved that the recommendations go to the other signers of the interlocal agreement for review first as opposed to the What-Comm board.

Councilmembers and staff concurred that they could start with the other parties and they did not vote on Byrd's motion.

Alysn Everbeck, What-Comm Deputy Director, stated the interlocal is between the City (of Bellingham) and the County and establishes the marching orders for the Administrative Board and the makeup of the board for the other cities to sign on to as contracted user agencies.

**This agenda item was FORWARDED TO COUNCIL WITH RECOMMENDED MOTION(S).**

### **Items Added by Revision**

There were no agenda items added by revision.

### **Other Business**

There was no other business.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:13 a.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

**Barry Buchanan-via email 10/2/2023**

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

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Barry Buchanan, Committee Chair

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Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

SIGNED COPY ON FILE