

**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, January 14, 2025

10:45 AM

Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers

HYBRID MEETING (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil, OR CALL 360.778.5010)

COUNCILMEMBERS

Barry Buchanan
Tyler Byrd
Todd Donovan

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

Call To Order

Committee member Todd Donovan called the meeting to order at 11 a.m. in a hybrid meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Tyler Byrd, Todd Donovan, and Barry Buchanan

Also Present: Ben Elenbaas, Kaylee Galloway, Jon Scanlon, and Mark Stremler

Announcements

Special Order of Business

1. [AB2025-006](#) Nomination and appointment of Committee Chair

Buchanan moved that Donovan be nominated to chair the committee.

Byrd moved to nominate himself.

Donovan was appointed by the following vote:

Donovan: 2 - Buchanan and Donovan

Byrd: 1 - Byrd

Donovan was APPOINTED.

Appointed Donovan as Chair

Council "Consent Agenda" Items

Buchanan moved to recommend approval of Consent Agenda items one through twenty.

Councilmembers asked questions about the following Consent Agenda items:

Consent Agenda Item # 14 (AB2025-035)

Gary Stoyka, Public Works Department, answered how this study compares to what has been done in the past for these particular items. He spoke about the funding, that these were the two water storage projects that the Watershed Management Board could agree on for further study, the estimates for how much the projects would cost, and whether any of these properties would require property acquisitions if they are talking about building reservoirs. He stated they could possibly require acquisition or maybe just easements.

Consent Agenda Item # 18 (AB2025-046)

Steve Harris, Undersheriff, answered questions about the gun buyback program, what its goal is, and what the boundaries are for how the funds from the Attorney General's Office can be used. He stated they received more money than what they originally asked for and would have to go back to the Attorney General's Office to find out if it can be used for other things such as community safety programs or firearm safety classes.

Councilmembers and Harris discussed the program and ideas about other uses for the money if there is funding left.

Councilmembers voted on the Consent items (see votes on individual items below).

1. [AB2024-844](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a lease agreement between Whatcom County and Swinomish Health Services dba Didg^wáliç Wellness Center to lease space at 2028 Division Street, Bellingham WA, in the amount of \$360

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

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

2. [AB2025-016](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham Fire Department for the purchase of personal protective clothing described as being free of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (known as PFAS), in the amount of \$83,781.64

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

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

3. [AB2025-017](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Health to define the joint and cooperative relationship of the parties for the delivery of various public health services, in the amount of \$0

Buchanan moved that the Interlocal be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following

vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

4. [AB2025-018](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and NAMI of Whatcom County to provide mental health education and support programs, in the amount of \$38,000

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

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

5. [AB2025-020](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Julota to track and monitor services and care provided to individuals frequently seen by Health and Community Services' Response Systems Division Programs in the amount of \$155,022 for a total amended contract amount of \$433,448

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

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

6. [AB2025-024](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Lake Whatcom Residential & Treatment Center to provide Mental Health Court case coordination services in the amount of \$12,000, for a total amended contract amount of \$22,000

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

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

7. [AB2025-025](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Common Goodness Project to support LGBTQ+ youth and promote substance use prevention through training and technical assistance, in the amount of \$40,000

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

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

8. [AB2025-026](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham for joint administration of a Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate Program funded by the Department of Commerce with Climate Commitment Act funds, in the amount of \$0

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

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

9. [AB2025-027](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Military Department to utilize the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) funding in the amount of \$65,647 to assist in preparing for all hazards through sustainment and enhancement Division of Emergency Management programs

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

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

10. [AB2025-028](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Whatcom Conservation District for assistance with implementation of Whatcom County's stormwater outreach program, with a particular emphasis on the Lake Whatcom watershed, in the amount of \$87,940.98

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

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

11. [AB2025-029](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to inter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Whatcom Conservation District for outreach,

education, and technical assistance with Birch Bay Watershed and Aquatic Resources Management (BBWARM) stormwater programs, in the amount of \$113,492.07 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

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

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

12. [AB2025-031](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Whatcom Conservation District for the planning, oversight, maintenance, and monitoring of existing and new FCZD and Special District mitigation and/or revegetation projects that utilize the Alternative Corrections Crew as well as provide technical assistance to the FCZD and Special Districts, in the amount of \$50,000 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

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

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

13. [AB2025-033](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a cost sharing agreement between Whatcom County and Birch Bay Leisure Park Association (BBLPA) to facilitate a joint project to replace a failing culvert, in the amount of \$0

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

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

14. [AB2025-035](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Anchor QEA to conduct a study to analyze the Musto Marsh and Springsteen Lake sites to obtain information that is important to evaluate their feasibility as water storage projects, in the amount of \$80,000 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

Buchanan moved that the Contract (FCZDBS) be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following

vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

15. [AB2025-036](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Unity Care NW to provide Mental Health Court case coordination services in the amount of \$8,000, for a total amended contract amount of \$18,000

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

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

16. [AB2025-037](#) Request authorization for County Executive to enter into a 2 year agreement between Whatcom County and the Northwest Regional Council for the purposes of administering the Meals on Wheels program in the amount of \$120,000

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

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

17. [AB2025-038](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter a Collective Bargaining Agreement between Whatcom County and the Sheriff's Office Corrections Senior Management Group for the period January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025

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

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

18. [AB2025-046](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Attorney General of Washington for cy pres funding, in the amount of \$125,000

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

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

19. [AB2025-047](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and Washington State Military to revise the budget categories for Stonegarden FY21

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

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

20. [AB2025-049](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission for a cooperative framework for boating safety, in the amount of \$0

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

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council

1. [AB2025-021](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and PFM Financial Services, LLC to increase the compensation by \$60,000 for a total amount of \$99,000

Donovan briefed the Councilmembers. He asked why they are extending this now, why Council has not received the presentation that was said to be part of the work contract that they approved in 2023, and what they get by extending it.

Kayla Schott-Bresler, Executive's Office, briefed the Councilmembers on the contract with PFM Financial Advisors, LLC and stated that discussion with the Council on the scope and revenue outlook for paying back bonds for these capital facilities is forthcoming. They think they are a couple months away from being able to put some information and decisions before the Council as it relates to the jail, the Sheriff, and the Northwest Annex project. Their plans for the ferry project will be significantly informed by what happens this legislative session. She spoke about how they have spent money related to the contract so far and that the work product related to the

jail was provided on May 7 of 2024.

Councilmembers discussed getting more timely updates on this sort of information and talking more about the expectations of Council for being involved in the project financing discussions.

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

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

2. [AB2025-023](#) Resolution amending Resolution 2024-058 and re-certifying Whatcom County's property tax levies for collection in 2025 to the county assessor

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

Randy Rydel, Administrative Services Department Finance, stated they are fixing an error and he explained how the error occurred. The \$10.5 million of Healthy Children's Fund was excluded from levy rates, which did not appear to be the intent of Council. This resolution is the correction of the error.

Aly Pennucci, Executive's Office, stated the resolution that Council certified in December did not include this calculation, but the ordinance they passed as part of the budget process, that set the amount of property tax revenue they would collect, is correct. So, there is a mismatch between the ordinance that was passed and what was certified. She stated this will not impact anything for the first 15 days of the year regarding revenue.

Rydel showed the corrected version on his screen.

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

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

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 11:35 a.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Todd Donovan-via email 1/28/2025

Cathy Halka, Council Clerk

Todd Donovan, Committee Chair

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kristi Felbinger

SIGNED COPY ON FILE