

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, January 28, 2025

1:05 PM

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
Jon Scanlon

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

Call To Order

Committee Chair Buchanan called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. in a hybrid meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, and Jon Scanlon

Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, Kaylee Galloway, and Mark Stremmler

Announcements

Committee Discussion

1. [AB2025-103](#) Discussion from Executive's Office, Facilities Management and Justice Center Owners' Representative to discuss scope of work and contract for Justice Center
Kayla Schott-Bresler, Executive's Office, introduced the presentation.

Rob Ney, Administrative Services Department Facilities, read from a presentation (on file) on the process for selecting an owner's representative, and why the County selected STV.

Schott-Bresler answered questions about budget and financing. She stated they will be talking to the Council over the next several months about the development of final cost estimates. She answered questions about the commitments governing the use of sales tax in the interlocal agreement between the County and cities (see footnote on page five of the memo on file from Executive Sidhu), when the 54-month period starts, and whether they will be able to meet what was promised. She stated the clock started on the 54 months in July of 2024 when sales tax collections began. They do not know yet how much the project is going to cost, and how much they spend on the project is a Council decision. They will kick off the conversation about what is fiscally prudent with the advisors on the bonding (PFM) in two weeks. She answered questions about financing with the cities and whether the plan is for one or two buildings. She stated the Justice Project Implementation Plan outlines a jail with a co-located behavioral care center, which is essentially a prosecutorial diversion facility, but there is remaining work to do around what that operational model looks like.

Ney answered whether they are looking to source this project as one entire project or whether they are planning to break it up into smaller pieces. He stated he thinks they intend to design the project first and then figure out how and if it makes sense for them to break it into smaller bites.

The following representatives from STV read from a presentation (on file) regarding their organization and the scope of work, and they answered questions:

- Ashley McClaran, Principal-In-Charge / Engagement Lead
- Adam Johnson, Project Manager / Main point of contact

They answered how they worked with the community on the Mt. Vernon Library Commons building and spoke about how different projects require different levels of communication.

This agenda item was DISCUSSED.

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Barry Buchanan-via email 2/4/2025

Cathy Halka, Council Clerk

Barry Buchanan, Committee Chair

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kristi Felbinger

SIGNED COPY ON FILE