

**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, December 5, 2023**

**9:45 AM**

**Hybrid Meeting**

HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY NOON (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT [www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil), OR CALL 360.778.5010), AGENDA REVISED 12.5.2023

**COUNCILMEMBERS**

Todd Donovan  
Carol Frazey  
Kathy Kershner

**CLERK OF THE COUNCIL**

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

## **Call To Order**

Committee Chair Kathy Kershner called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. in a hybrid meeting.

## **Roll Call**

**Present:** 3 - Todd Donovan, Carol Frazey, and Kathy Kershner

Also Present: Tyler Byrd, Barry Buchanan, Ben Elenbaas, and Kaylee Galloway

## **Announcements**

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

*Donovan moved* to approve Consent Agenda items one through 39.

Galloway asked questions about the following Consent Agenda items:

#### 3 - AB2023-720

The following people answered questions:

- Tyler Schroeder, Director of Administrative Services
- Doug Chadwick, Undersheriff

They answered what the funds to the County were spent on and if they were directly related to salmon recovery or some other direct mitigation measures. They stated the impact payments are used to compensate the County for public safety services.

#### 4 - AB2023-768

Chris D'Onofrio, Health and Community Services, answered a question about the timeline for when the Millworks project would be occupied and stated it is expected to open in the spring.

#### 26 - AB2023-803

Rob Ney, Administrative Services Department Facilities, answered questions about what the profit will be for the city vehicle chargers and whether there is a way to keep them economically accessible. He stated they will be located on County property and will be available at no charge for both the County and City of Bellingham fleets as well as for metered citizen use if no one else is using them.

Councilmembers voted on the Consent items (see votes on individual items

below).

1. [AB2023-596](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Washington State University to continue the jointly shared costs for faculty positions and program support for WSU Whatcom County Extension in the amount of \$274,037 for a total amended contract amount of \$3,260,536.90

**Donovan moved that the Memorandum of Agreement be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

**Nay:** 0

2. [AB2023-700](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and the Port of Bellingham to lease the Whatcom Unified Emergency Coordination Center in the annual amount of \$88,055.20

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

**Aye:** 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

**Nay:** 0

3. [AB2023-720](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the City of Seattle (Seattle City Light) for the purpose of recovering impact payments relative to their power plants and dams located in Whatcom County

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

**Aye:** 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

**Nay:** 0

4. [AB2023-768](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Mercy Housing Northwest to support operations at permanent supportive housing facilities in the amount of \$51,000 for a total amended contract amount of \$260,250

**Donovan moved that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following**

**vote:**

**Aye:** 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

**Nay:** 0

5. [AB2023-770](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services (DVSAS) to operate emergency shelters in the amount of \$65,307 for a total amended contract amount of \$116,870

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

**Aye:** 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

**Nay:** 0

6. [AB2023-777](#) Resolution ordering the cancellation of unredeemed checks (warrants) more than one year old

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

**Aye:** 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

**Nay:** 0

7. [AB2023-780](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Administrative Office of the Courts for reimbursement for costs related to the Water Rights Adjudication in the amount of \$881,300

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

**Aye:** 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

**Nay:** 0

8. [AB2023-781](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal amendment between Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham to extend the term of the Jail Use Agreement until December 31, 2024

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

**Aye:** 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

Nay: 0

9. [AB2023-782](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal amendment between Whatcom County and the City of Sumas to extend the term of the Jail Use Agreement until December 31, 2024

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

**Aye:** 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

**Nay:** 0

10. [AB2023-783](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and RH2 to update the Whatcom County Coordinated Water System Plan, in the amount of \$150,000

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

**Aye:** 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

**Nay:** 0

11. [AB2023-786](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a 2-year contract between Whatcom County and Whatcom Law Group / Rajeev Majumdar for hearing examiner services for \$220,320

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

**Aye:** 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

**Nay:** 0

12. [AB2023-787](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Stephen Jackson Law, PLLC in order to have Stephen Jackson handle the RALJ Appeal matters for the Whatcom County Public Defender's Office for increased service costs in the amount of \$10,000.00

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

**Aye:** 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

**Nay:** 0

13. [AB2023-789](#) Request Authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and the Washington State Office of Public Defense for the purpose of improving the quality of public defense services in Washington State counties in the amount of \$213,905.00

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

**Aye:** 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

**Nay:** 0

14. [AB2023-790](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and U.S. Department of Justice for the FY23 Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Technology and Equipment Program grant, in the amount of \$500,000.00

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

**Aye:** 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

**Nay:** 0

15. [AB2023-792](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and YWCA Bellingham to operate a severe weather shelter for homeless women, in the amount of \$385,000

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

**Aye:** 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

**Nay:** 0

16. [AB2023-793](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Foundation Restoration LLC to install new FasTop SL45 Flooring at Whatcom County Disposal of Toxics, in the amount of \$53,877.98

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

**Aye:** 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

**Nay:** 0

17. [AB2023-794](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Whatcom Conservation District for Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) Program technical assistance and cost share, in the amount of \$71,000.00 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

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

**Aye:** 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

**Nay:** 0

18. [AB2023-795](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Whatcom Conservation District to implement the Domestic-Municipal Water Use Efficiency Project, in the amount of \$33,000.00 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

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

**Aye:** 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

**Nay:** 0

19. [AB2023-796](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce for Visitor Center operations in the amount of \$136,000

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

**Aye:** 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

**Nay:** 0

20. [AB2023-797](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Mount Baker Foothills for Visitor Center operations in the amount of \$146,000

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

**Aye:** 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

Nay: 0

21. [AB2023-798](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Bellingham Whatcom County Tourism for costs related to tourism efforts in the amount of \$200,000

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

Aye: 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

Nay: 0

22. [AB2023-799](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an agreement between Whatcom County and Northwest Tune Up, LLC in support of tourism activities in the amount of \$50,000

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

Aye: 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

Nay: 0

23. [AB2023-800](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an agreement between Whatcom County and the Port of Bellingham in support of an art installation project to promote tourism in the amount of \$75,000

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

Aye: 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

Nay: 0

24. [AB2023-801](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Sustainable Connections for their Agritourism program to promote tourism in the amount of \$40,000

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

Aye: 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

Nay: 0



25. [AB2023-802](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into Grant Amendment No. 1 between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Ecology, to provide for continued implementation of the Swift Creek Management Action Plan in the amount of \$1,040,989.97

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

**Aye:** 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

**Nay:** 0

26. [AB2023-803](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham for the installation of City owned and operated electric vehicle chargers

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

**Aye:** 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

**Nay:** 0

27. [AB2023-804](#) Request approval for the County Executive to award bid # 23-73 to successful bidder Faber Construction Corp and enter into a contract for the installation of a new modular office building at the Point Roberts Transfer Station, in the amount of \$228,060.00

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

**Aye:** 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

**Nay:** 0

28. [AB2023-805](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the City of Everson for implementation of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Agreement to purchase twelve flood-damaged properties, four of which are in the City of Everson (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

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

**Aye:** 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

Nay: 0

29. [AB2023-806](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Lake Whatcom Residential & Treatment Center to provide Leasing Specialist services in the amount of \$49,467 for a total amended contract amount of \$78,620

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

Aye: 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

Nay: 0

30. [AB2023-807](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a three-year agreement, using the State of Washington contract, between Whatcom County and Insight Public Sector for Neogov Onboard, Perform and Single Sign-On software, in the amount of \$150,695.09

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

Aye: 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

Nay: 0

31. [AB2023-810](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and YWCA Bellingham to operate shelter and transitional housing facilities in the amount of \$223,954 for a total amended contract amount of \$422,438

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

Aye: 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

Nay: 0

32. [AB2023-812](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Sound Earth Strategies LLC to provide remedial investigation/feasibility study and construction and permitting support services for the removal of existing underground storage tanks and sight remediation at the Whatcom County Central Shop facility, in the amount of \$138,737.00

**Donovan moved that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following**

vote:

Aye: 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

Nay: 0

33. [AB2023-818](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to authorize binding of coverage with Midwest Employer Casualty renewal for insurance protection for the self-insured workers compensation program in the amount of \$120,358 for calendar year 2024

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

Aye: 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

Nay: 0

34. [AB2023-821](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Sean Humphrey House to operate permanent supportive housing facilities for individuals living with HIV/AIDS in the amount of \$59,000 for a total amended contract amount of \$111,600

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

Aye: 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

Nay: 0

35. [AB2023-823](#) Request approval for the County Executive to award renewal of the Microsoft Enterprise Agreement for Annual Software Maintenance and enter into a three-year contract with CDW-G using the approved KCDA Cooperative Contract #AEPA 022-G, in the amount of \$849,567.27

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

Aye: 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

Nay: 0

36. [AB2023-826](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Summit Law Group to provide legal services for matters related to collective bargaining, in the amount not to exceed \$89,076 annually through December 31, 2026

**Donovan moved that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR**

**AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

**Nay:** 0

37. [AB2023-829](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a grant contract between Whatcom County and the Department of Commerce for the purpose of providing stabilization support to new refugees in the amount of \$300,000

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

**Aye:** 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

**Nay:** 0

38. [AB2023-830](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract agreement between World Relief Western Washington and Whatcom County for the provision of direct services assisting in the stabilization of newly arriving refugees in the amount of \$300,000

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

**Aye:** 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

**Nay:** 0

39. [AB2023-834](#) Resolution certifying Whatcom County's property tax levies for collection in 2024 to the County Assessor

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

**Aye:** 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

**Nay:** 0

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

1. [AB2023-746](#) Ordinance closing Sudden Valley Stormwater Improvement Fund 371

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

**Aye:** 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

Nay: 0

2. [AB2023-752](#) Ordinance closing the Marine Drive, Locust Avenue to Alderwood Avenue Fund 380

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

Aye: 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

Nay: 0

3. [AB2023-754](#) Ordinance amending the 2023 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 16, in the amount of 9,531,078

**Frazey moved** that the Ordinance be RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION.

Tyler Schroeder, Director of Administrative Services, answered whether we already put money into the Community Priorities Fund, how much is currently in there, and whether it can be used beyond the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) deadline. He stated there is \$9.4 million in the fund and it is using ARPA money for revenue loss which then allows us to utilize it in this fund beyond the ARPA deadline.

**Frazey's motion that the Ordinance be RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION carried by the following vote:**

Aye: 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

Nay: 0

4. [AB2023-763](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Northwest Youth Services to operate the Positive Adolescent Development Program in the amount of \$140,000 for a total amended contract amount of \$259,600

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

Aye: 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

Nay: 0

5. [AB2023-766](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Whatcom County Fire Protection District #7 for the provision of Advanced Life Support services, in the amount of \$3,189,754.00

**Frazey moved** that the SUBSTITUTE Interlocal be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION.

Mike Hilley, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Manager, answered what

the edits in the substitute are accomplishing, and whether the scope of work issues with the EMS Captain position have been resolved. He stated these were the language changes that were sent to him from the District 7 and Bellingham Fire Department fire chiefs.

Frazezy stated there was a lot of time since February to talk about this and she does not know what happened in the last three weeks. District 7 has a little more than a fourth of the EMS calls so it looks like the position is needed. She thinks it went through all the right channels and does not see the reason this would not be supported.

The following people spoke about the outcomes of the meeting that took place last week and where each entity stands:

- Michael Gustafson, Whatcom Seven Firefighters Guild, stated as far as their labor group is concerned, they are happy with where this sits right now and would like the Council to pass this and the next contract.
- Scott Farrell, International Association of Firefighters Local 106, stated IAFF Local 106 supports the passing of the District 7 contract with an amendment of removing the proposed EMS Captain position and he feels there is more work to do to appropriately respect both labor groups' aspects and position. He answered Councilmembers' questions.
- Larry Hoffman, Fire Chief at District 7, spoke about the meeting and stated they are asking that the Council pass the contract in its form and that they get the administrative support. He answered Councilmembers' questions and stated they are looking for the same level that the Bellingham paramedics get.

***Donovan moved*** to amend the interlocal to remove the EMS Captain and approve the contract with the understanding that the groups need more time to talk.

Hoffman and Hilley answered questions and Councilmembers discussed the motion to amend.

The motion to amend failed by the following vote:

**Aye:** 1 - Donovan

**Nay:** 2 - Frazey and Kershner

**Frazezy's motion that the SUBSTITUTE Interlocal be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

**Nay:** 0

6. [AB2023-767](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham for the provision of Advanced Life Support services, in the amount of \$12,830,990.00

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

**Aye:** 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

**Nay:** 0

7. [AB2023-771](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Opportunity Council to operate the permanent supportive housing facility, 22 North, in the amount of \$648,568 for a total amended contract amount of \$1,486,670

**Donovan moved that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION.**

Kershner requested that after she leaves her office, that Councilmembers continue to follow and track this to make sure that the people living at 22 North continue to receive the support that is necessary to keep the place a safe place to live.

Chris D’Onofrio, Health and Community Services, answered whether these recommendations came from the Opportunity Council or from the Health and Community Services Department and stated Health and Community Services has been in communication with the Opportunity Council over the last year and these are some of the things we talked about and thought were going to help with ongoing stability.

**Donovan's motion that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

**Nay:** 0

8. [AB2023-784](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Northwest Youth Services to operate the Ground Floor Day-Use Center, in the amount of \$170,000

**Frazey moved that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION.**

Chris D’Onofrio, Health and Community Services, answered whether this is a new facility or whether it is what they have been calling The Pad, and he stated it is something different and is a day-use shelter located in the basement of the First Congregational Church in Bellingham.

**Frazey's motion that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

**Nay:** 0

9. [AB2023-809](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Pioneer Human Services to operate a permanent supportive housing facility known as City Gate, in the amount of \$568,733 for a total amended contract amount of \$2,078,683

**Donovan moved** that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION.

Chris D’Onofrio, Health and Community Services, spoke about the funding source and stated it is funded with the Behavioral Health Fund as well as local document recording fees.

Kayla Schott-Bresler, Strategic Initiatives Special Programs Manager, answered how the fund balance of the Behavioral Health Fund is doing and stated the balance can support this.

Erika Lautenbach, Health and Community Services Director, spoke about the term and amount for contracts passed in August for the budgets for schools and how those affected the fund balance.

Donovan stated it would be great to get an update next year about the long-term trajectory of that fund.

**Donovan's motion that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

**Nay:** 0

10. [AB2023-819](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Opportunity Council to provide housing case management services in the amount of \$1,231,981 for a total amended contract amount of \$3,160,183



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

**Aye:** 3 - Donovan, Frazezy, and Kershner

**Nay:** 0

11. [AB2023-820](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Lake Whatcom Residential & Treatment Center to provide behavioral health support services at the downtown Bellingham Public Library, in the amount of \$185,000

**Donovan moved** that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION.

Malora Christensen, Health and Community Services, answered whether this is the contract that will be let after the decision to put a mental health therapist in the library was made a month or so ago, and stated that is correct. She answered whether the City is kicking in for part of this and stated it is a partnership between the City of Bellingham and Health and Community Services.

**Donovan's motion that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 3 - Donovan, Frazezy, and Kershner

**Nay:** 0

### **Items Added by Revision**

1. [AB2023-838](#) Request authorization for the County Executive, acting on behalf of the Flood Control Zone District, to take out loans from the Whatcom County Investment Pool

**Frazezy moved** that the Request for Motion be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.

Gary Stoyka, Public Works Department, briefed the Councilmembers and stated they have been doing a lot of repair work over the last couple years (particularly on Truck Road) for which they are waiting for FEMA reimbursement and in the meantime, the work has created a cash flow problem at the same time they are trying to implement the FEMA buyout program. These loans would give them the ability to move forward with purchases of properties without delaying anymore.

Steve Oliver, County Treasurer, answered whether we would be borrowing from the County's portion and whether it requires approval beyond the

Council. He stated this is authority that has been in place for quite some time and the County has made these types of cash flow loans to districts. It is usually the same case as in this situation in which they have to perform work to get reimbursed from an agency but they do not have the cash to actually perform the work in order to get the reimbursement. He answered whether there would be interest on the promissory note from the flood control zone district and stated there would be.

Stoyka answered whether they would also be asking FEMA for the interest reimbursement and he stated they are looking into that.

Oliver stated Council may want to look at amending the usage of the County's rainy-day reserve fund in the next biennium to make that available to the flood control zone district. He answered whether FEMA reimbursement will go directly to the loan payoff, whether it is market rate or whether we get a deal, and whether this requires the approval of the Administrative Finance Committee that oversees the investment fund.

Tyler Schroeder, Director of Administrative Services, stated they have been reaching out to the Federal delegation about the FEMA repayments of Truck Road and Marine Drive and they have been helping move FEMA forward to get the process done to get the reimbursement.

**Frazey's motion that the Request for Motion be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner

**Nay:** 0

### **Other Business**

There was no other business.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11 a.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

**Kathy Kershner-via email 12/11/2023**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathy Kershner, Committee Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

SIGNED COPY ON FILE