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WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
Special Committee of the Whole

June 4, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

Council Vice-Chair Todd Donovan called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, Washington.

ROLL CALL

Present: Barbara Brenner, Rud Browne, Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, Todd Donovan, Carol Frazey, and Satpal Sidhu.

Absent: None.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. AB2019-285 ORDINANCE AMENDING WHATCOM COUNTY CODE TITLE 3, REQUIRING THAT PUBLIC FUNDS USED FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS DO DOUBLE DUTY BY ALSO PROVIDING APPRENTICES WITH JOB TRAINING HOURS TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS NECESSARY TO BECOME THE NEXT GENERATION OF SKILLED TRADES PERSONS

Browne submitted a handout (*on file*).

Councilmembers discussed implementation in phases, State apprenticeship requirements under former Governor Gary Locke, whether it's necessary to specify training for the purposes of earning a certification for journeyman level, whether the ordinance will increase the County's costs, incentivizing schools to do training so young people will be interested in the industry, the importance of education, existing apprenticeship programs, and the difficulty of getting new apprenticeship programs approved.

Brenner moved to amend packet page 250, line 24, "Whereas, the Aspen Institute...contracts to provide apprentices with necessary **required** on-the-job training hours necessary to graduate."

The motion was seconded.

Councilmembers continued to discuss whether or not the requirement would benefit the community and the possibility of moving forward by forming a committee.

Brenner withdrew her motion.

The following people spoke and answered questions:

- Lance Calloway, Associated General Contractors (AGC) of Washington
- Trevor Smith, Laborer's Local 292
- Loren VanderYacht

