

**Whatcom County  
Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee**

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



**Committee Minutes - Draft Minutes**

**Tuesday, July 9, 2024  
10 AM  
Hybrid Meeting**

HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 11:15 AM - MAY BEGIN EARLY  
(PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT  
[www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil), OR CALL 360.778.5010)

**COUNCILMEMBERS**

Tyler Byrd  
Todd Donovan  
Kaylee Galloway

**CLERK OF THE COUNCIL**

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

## **Call To Order**

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

## **Roll Call**

**Present:** 3 - Tyler Byrd, Kaylee Galloway, and Todd Donovan

Also Present: Barry Buchanan, Ben Elenbaas, Jon Scanlon, and Mark Stremmer

## **Announcements**

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

*Galloway moved* to recommend approval of Consent Agenda items one through 22.

Councilmembers asked questions.

#### Consent Agenda Item #12 (AB2024-439)

Kayla Schott-Bresler, Executive's Office, answered whether they have considered bringing the work of this contract in house and making it County employment as opposed to a contract. She stated the Sheriff, Facilities, and Executive's offices talk about it often but no decisions have been made. There is a possible role that has been discussed for the Sheriff's Office around courthouse security. The cost is a big factor for why they might contract the work out as opposed to bringing it in house.

Scanlon stated he would be interested in having more discussion about that.

#### Consent Agenda Item #17 (AB2024-445)

Schott-Bresler answered what the syringe services program looks like in Whatcom County, what the data is to show that it is helping, and how they measure success. She briefed the Councilmembers on the program.

Donovan stated that the Council previously voted to expand the number of hours that the program is running, and Councilmembers and staff answered where the program takes place.

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive, stated another way to look at success would be that the lack of such a program would mean finding syringes anywhere and everywhere.

Erika Lautenbach, Health and Community Services Director, stated they

have a mobile site right now and will be located in the Way Station once that is finished. She spoke about the program.

Shamika Brooks, Health and Community Services, and Lela Riherd, Health and Community Services, answered whether they count how many referrals they give out and how many of those are actually used or engaged. Riherd stated she does not have specific numbers at this time but it is something they do try to build into the program.

Consent Agenda Item #2 (AB2024-417)

Amanda Burnett, Health and Community Services, answered questions about the funding and stated it is existing funding from the Behavioral Health Fund. She answered whether the services are just for homeschool students, and stated it is for all students across all seven districts, regardless of how they attend. She answered how it is different from counselors who are onsite at the schools, and stated there are not mental health professionals available for many students in the county. She answered how parents are engaged or notified, and stated the services are K-12, so all students from age five to twelve would be able to access services with their parents. Washington State law states that students over thirteen do not need to have their parents' permission, but they are going to encourage that parents still be involved.

Donovan stated he does not understand why the County is funding school districts.

Burnett answered whether the conversation has occurred with school districts about whether they could potentially fund these programs themselves.

Elenbaas stated if they want to see change, a no vote would encourage change.

Byrd requested that Consent Agenda item #2 (**AB2024-417**) be considered separately.

Schott-Bresler stated this contract was the result of the execution of a plan for prevention spending that was already approved by Council.

Health Department staff spoke about the responsibility they feel to address priority issues and they answered questions about parental involvement.

*Donovan* stated the *motion* then is to recommend approval for Consent Agenda item numbers 1 and 3-22.

Councilmembers discussed getting a summary presentation on the youth components of the All Hands Whatcom summit, the opinion that it is not the County's job to fill in for where the legislature dropped the ball, and the belief that parents should be involved and that they need to support families.

More questions on Consent Agenda Item #17 (AB2024-445)

Ann Beck, Health and Community Services, answered what emergency childcare vouchers are, and whether all families can access those vouchers.

Scanlon asked why the Department of Health charges local jurisdictions to use their videos.

Councilmembers voted on the Consent items 1 and 3-22 (see votes on individual items below).

1. [AB2024-406](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Snohomish County to utilize State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSP) funding to sustain and enhance Division of Emergency Management programs, in the amount of \$41,307

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

**Aye:** 3 - Byrd, Galloway, and Donovan

**Nay:** 0

2. [AB2024-417](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Uwill, Inc. to provide school based teletherapy services, in the amount of \$150,000

This item was considered separately below.

3. [AB2024-421](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Pace CDL Consulting and CDL Training to provide Commercial Driver's License Training and test preparation to Maintenance and Operations employees, in the amount of \$75,000

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

**Aye:** 3 - Byrd, Galloway, and Donovan

**Nay:** 0

4. [AB2024-423](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Skagit County for the purpose of providing each other with labor, equipment, or materials on a reimbursable basis for road maintenance activities through May 21, 2027

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

**Aye:** 3 - Byrd, Galloway, and Donovan

**Nay:** 0

5. [AB2024-424](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Social and Health Services to ensure a coordinated system of local developmental disability services in the amount of \$6,476,900, for a total amended agreement amount of \$12,546,270

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

**Aye:** 3 - Byrd, Galloway, and Donovan

**Nay:** 0

6. [AB2024-426](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Ferndale Community Services to perform rural homeless outreach services, in the amount of \$55,377

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

**Aye:** 3 - Byrd, Galloway, and Donovan

**Nay:** 0

7. [AB2024-431](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to provide federal Ferry Boat Program (FBP) funds for the Lummi Island Ferry operations costs, in the amount of \$1,099,507.00

**Galloway moved that the Interlocal be RECOMMENDED FOR**

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

**Aye:** 3 - Byrd, Galloway, and Donovan

**Nay:** 0

8. [AB2024-433](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and the State of Washington Department of Ecology to receive funding for Water Resource Inventory Area 1 (WRIA 1) collaborative water supply planning, in the amount of \$485,600.00

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

**Aye:** 3 - Byrd, Galloway, and Donovan

**Nay:** 0

9. [AB2024-435](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and the Executive Office of the President Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to implement the strategy of the Northwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) in the amount of \$170,590.00

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

**Aye:** 3 - Byrd, Galloway, and Donovan

**Nay:** 0

10. [AB2024-437](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and RH2 to update the Whatcom County Coordinated Water System Plan in the amount of \$50,000, for a total amended contract amount of \$200,000

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

**Aye:** 3 - Byrd, Galloway, and Donovan

**Nay:** 0

11. [AB2024-438](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and the City of Everson for participation in the Floodplain Integrated Planning (FLIP) process in the amount of \$25,000 for a total amended agreement amount of \$73,000 (Council acting as the Whatcom County

Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

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

**Aye:** 3 - Byrd, Galloway, and Donovan

**Nay:** 0

12. [AB2024-439](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Pacific Security for patrol services, in the amount of \$64,260.00

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

**Aye:** 3 - Byrd, Galloway, and Donovan

**Nay:** 0

13. [AB2024-440](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a lease agreement amendment between Whatcom County and Greg Dibble to extend the lease at 600 Dupont Street, Suite 100, in the amount of \$257,217.36, for a total amended amount of \$500,843.00

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

**Aye:** 3 - Byrd, Galloway, and Donovan

**Nay:** 0

14. [AB2024-442](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Tolin Law Firm to provide legal representation for the preparation and completion of the resentencing hearing in the matter of State v. Ryan Eugene Alexander in the amount of \$10,001.00 for a total amended amount of \$50,000.00

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

**Aye:** 3 - Byrd, Galloway, and Donovan

**Nay:** 0

15. [AB2024-443](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement

amendment between Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham to provide funding for the Alternative Response Team (ART) Program in the amount of \$60,000, for a total amended agreement amount of \$630,096

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

**Aye:** 3 - Byrd, Galloway, and Donovan

**Nay:** 0

16. [AB2024-444](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Opportunity Council to support childcare stabilization in Whatcom County in the amount of \$119,305, for a total amended contract amount of \$618,038

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

**Aye:** 3 - Byrd, Galloway, and Donovan

**Nay:** 0

17. [AB2024-445](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Health to provide funding for various public health services in the amount of \$1,948,136, for a total amended agreement amount of \$16,258,233

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

**Aye:** 3 - Byrd, Galloway, and Donovan

**Nay:** 0

18. [AB2024-447](#) Request approval for the County Executive to award Bid #24-64 for the purchase of 16 pair of night vision goggles with helmet mounts from Steele Industries, Inc., located in Bradenton, Florida, in an amount not to exceed \$190,979.27

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

**Aye:** 3 - Byrd, Galloway, and Donovan

**Nay:** 0



19. [AB2024-448](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a commercial lease agreement between Whatcom County and Cornwall Center Inc. for use of parking spaces at the Bellingham Senior Activity Center over five years with cost sharing from the City of Bellingham and Whatcom Council on Aging, in the amount of \$133,464

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

**Aye:** 3 - Byrd, Galloway, and Donovan

**Nay:** 0

20. [AB2024-449](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Military Department for pass-through funding to support the What-Comm Communication Center in the amount of \$52,900

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

**Aye:** 3 - Byrd, Galloway, and Donovan

**Nay:** 0

21. [AB2024-457](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission for reimbursement of expenses, in the amount of \$84,000

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

**Aye:** 3 - Byrd, Galloway, and Donovan

**Nay:** 0

22. [AB2024-458](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and TBL Investigations and Consulting, LLC for background investigations, in the estimated amount of \$40,000 per year

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

**Aye:** 3 - Byrd, Galloway, and Donovan

**Nay:** 0

### **Council "Consent Agenda" Items Considered Separately**

2. [AB2024-417](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Uwill, Inc. to provide school based teletherapy services, in the amount of \$150,000

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

**Aye:** 2 - Galloway, and Donovan

**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:** 1 - Byrd

### **Special Presentation**

1. [AB2024-416](#) Presentation from Bellingham Whatcom County Tourism President and CEO Dylan Deane-Boyle

Because of unexpected circumstances the presenter was not available to present.

**Galloway moved that the Presentation be HELD IN COMMITTEE. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 3 - Byrd, Galloway, and Donovan

**Nay:** 0

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

1. [AB2024-432](#) County Executive requests approval of the Economic Development Investment (EDI) Board's recommendation for funding to support the City of Bellingham's Bear Creek Corridor Construction Project, the City of Lynden's Wastewater Treatment Plant Capacity and Nutrient Improvement Project, the City of Ferndale Water Treatment Plant Upgrades and Douglas Deep Well Projects, and the Housing Affordability through the Workforce Program

Kayla Schott-Bresler, Executive's Office, answered questions about differences in the applications, why the Lynden application does not show that there have been audit findings or show the amounts awarded for past projects, and why the Council is not getting presentations that would break down each of the projects. She stated they would be happy to have the applicants come and do formal presentations if that is Council's desire.

Donovan spoke about issues with the EDI process itself.

Schott-Bresler answered what the Housing Affordable through the Work

Force request (on file as “HATWF Funding Request”) is and stated it is filling out the budget in case additional applications come in for the affordable housing impact fee program. She stated, because there were no presentations today, Council could hold this item and consider this concurrently with contracts coming forward or with a budget supplemental, or could approve this with the understanding that they would want the cities here for presentations concurrent with the contract adoption. She stated the most time-sensitive one would be the HATWF which is not dependent on the cities.

Galloway stated she would be inclined to hold this today and just move forward with the Housing Affordability through the Workforce funding request. She would like the Council to think about whether this is how they would like to be spending this fund balance, and would like to make sure every city is accessing these funds proportionately.

Schott-Bresler stated they could bring the cities for presentations and could put together some policy memos that answer some of the questions about historic funding per jurisdiction as well as some of their thoughts that they are planning on discussing with the EDI board in August as they think about program reform. She stated separating out the housing affordability is not necessary.

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive, stated he concurs with Councilmember Donovan that our EDI program does need a bit of an overhaul. He stated they would prefer for applicants to get more loans and fewer grants, and spoke about reformation needed in the application process.

Donovan spoke about a resolution approved by Council regarding restructuring of the board and asked about the status of scheduling a discussion of that at an EDI meeting.

Jori Burnett, City of Ferndale, stated he spoke to Lynden this morning and answered the earlier question about whether they have been audited. He stated they had to go through the annual State audit and that there have been no audit findings, just management letters.

Councilmembers spoke about thoughts for how EDI funds should be used and hearing from cities how funds would be tied to the cities growing in a denser way within their city limits, looking at whether there are other sources of funding in cities that are not bearing the burden because of EDI money covering for them, and getting an update on the reason the EDI fund was implemented.

Galloway moved that the Special Executive Only Item be **RECOMMENDED TO HOLD IN COMMITTEE** until the Executive's Office can schedule the presentations. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Galloway, and Donovan

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 10:42 a.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cathy Halka, Council Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Todd Donovan, Committee Chair

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