

**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, June 9, 2026

10:20 AM

Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers

HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 11:30 A.M.(PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil, OR CALL 360.778.5010)

COUNCILMEMBERS

Elizabeth Boyle
Barry Buchanan
Ben Elenbaas
Kaylee Galloway
Jessica Rienstra
Jon Scanlon
Mark Stremler

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

Call To Order

Committee Chair Jon Scanlon called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m. in a hybrid meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 7 - Elizabeth Boyle, Barry Buchanan, Ben Elenbaas, Kaylee Galloway, Jessica Rienstra, Jon Scanlon, and Mark Stremler

Announcements

Council "Consent Agenda" Items

Galloway moved to recommend approval of Consent Agenda items one through 16. The motion was seconded by Boyle. Councilmembers voted on the Consent items (see votes on individual items below).

1. [AB2026-421](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Health to cover tuberculosis medications for patients who are underinsured or uninsured, in the amount of \$0

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

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

2. [AB2026-423](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Nel/Son Distributing, DBA Nelson Reisner, to provide for the purchase of fuel to be used in Whatcom County fleet vehicles, in the amount of \$850,000

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

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

3. [AB2026-424](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Cowden Brother's Trucking, LLC for the disposal of waste produced by Maintenance and Operations vector trucks and street sweepers, in the amount of \$288,000

Galloway moved and Boyle seconded that the Contract be

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

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremmer

Nay: 0

4. [AB2026-425](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Birch Bay Water & Sewer District for water main relocation as part of the Drayton Harbor Road Landslide Repair Project, in the amount of \$75,000

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

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremmer

Nay: 0

5. [AB2026-428](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the City of Lynden for the Hannegan Levee Rehabilitation Project (NSK-03-26), in the amount of \$64,280 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

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

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremmer

Nay: 0

6. [AB2026-429](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a cooperation agreement between Whatcom County and the United States Army Corps of Engineers for repairs to the Hannegan Levee along the left bank of the Nooksack River (Project No. NSK-03-26), in the amount of \$64,280 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

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

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremmer

Nay: 0

7. [AB2026-433](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and Washington State Health Care Authority for the Medication for Opioid/Alcohol Use Disorders (MOUD/MAUD) program

grant, in the amount of \$200,000

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

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

8. [AB2026-435](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Health to increase funding for the 2025-2027 Consolidated Contract, specifically the Maternal & Child Health Block Grant, in the amount of \$47,392 for a total amended agreement amount of \$11,334,197

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

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

9. [AB2026-436](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Clean Earth Environmental Solutions, Inc. to authorize a three-year extension of services, ensuring the uninterrupted transportation and disposal of moderate-risk waste from Whatcom County's Disposal of Toxics Facility, in the amount of \$367,500 annually, and for a total amended contract amount of \$1,452,500

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

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

10. [AB2026-437](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Kulshan Supported Employment to extend the contract for one year, providing supported employment and community inclusion services to eligible individuals with developmental disabilities, in the amount of \$1,889,779 for a total amended contract amount of \$3,478,552

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

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

11. [AB2026-439](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Max Higbee Center to extend the contract for one year, allowing the continuation of supported employment and community inclusion services for eligible individuals with developmental disabilities, in the amount of \$69,603 for a total amended contract amount of \$113,483

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

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

12. [AB2026-440](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, for extra duty overtime patrols, in the amount of \$35,000

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

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

13. [AB2026-441](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services (DVSAS) to extend the contract for six months, allowing the continuation of funding for personnel and other costs necessary to operate and maintain three safe shelters in Whatcom County, including a 21-bed house for women with children and two other houses for single women, in the amount of \$65,526 for a total amended contract amount of \$353,448

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

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

14. [AB2026-445](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to award Bid #26-30 and enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Everett Ship Repair for the Drydock Repair and Maintenance of the Whatcom Chief Ferry in the amount of \$1,061,069.56

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

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

15. [AB2026-446](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services for reimbursement of a percentage of Superior Court Commissioner time when working civil court cases involving Child Support Title IV-D of the Social Security Act, not to exceed an amount set each year by award letter from the Department of Social and Health Services

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

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

16. [AB2026-452](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Pacific Power Group to perform generator preventative maintenance, in the amount of \$80,235

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

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Special Presentation

1. [AB2026-434](#) Quarterly Report from the Finance Division

Randy Rydel, Administrative Services Department Finance Director, read from a presentation (on file).

He and councilmembers discussed the impact of sales tax exemptions that are coming with the state millionaire's tax and that they are not yet able to understand what those projections could look like, that the new criminal justice public safety sales tax will start collection in July and that it has potential to help with transfers from the General Fund to the Jail Fund for jail services, and that Finance and the Executive's Office will be applying

more scrutiny to unpaid-for General Fund expenditures that may impact fund balance.

Kayla Schott-Bresler, Executive's Office, and Rydel discussed with councilmembers what they are targeting for a General Fund ending balance, that they would like to land above \$29 million, that they are applying more scrutiny now to hopefully end with a laps greater than seven percent, what other expenses might be coming in the next few months that will be unpaid-for, that the budgeted projected expenditures for 2026 (\$137 million) were calculated before the mid-biennium changes, and how the actual 2025 sales tax revenue compares to what was projected for that year.

This agenda item was REPORTED.

Committee Discussion

1. [AB2026-451](#) Discussion of an ordinance amending the 2026 Whatcom County Budget, request no 9, in the amount of \$7,941,775

Scanlon asked if there were questions on this item but there were not.

This agenda item was DISCUSSED.

Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council

1. [AB2026-408](#) Request authorization for the Whatcom County Council to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Whatcom County Executive for the adoption of Whatcom County Administrative and Personnel Policies for the Council Office

Cathy Halka, Clerk of the Council, briefed the councilmembers. She stated in early 2025, Council hired a contractor to evaluate human resources policies and procedures. A report was provided to the council in September of last year, and one recommendation out of the report was to have each elected office formally adopt and apply countywide harassment and discrimination policies to ensure that there is consistency across all departments, employees and officials. The Council Office has its own set of office policies, which includes a statement that our office follows all County policies available on Inside Whatcom. But this memorandum of understanding (MOU) would be a more formal acknowledgment by the council body that the Council Office follows Whatcom County administrative and personnel policies.

Councilmembers discussed the hope that they as councilmembers will commit to upholding these policies and procedures even though they are not subject to them (they just apply to staff), that it represents a partnership between the Executive's Office, the Council, and the Council Office, the

hope that this starts a series of agreements between the Executive's Office and other branches of government in which elected officials lead their teams, in order to coordinate some of our HR policies across all the departments in the County, and that this was a key recommendation that came out of the consultant report which they received last year.

Kayla Schott-Bresler, Executive's Office, thanked them for their partnership and leadership on this.

Galloway stated the Council would still retain authority regarding the policy for inclement weather for the Council Office because it differs slightly from general County policy.

Halka stated under Section 4 - Limitations, it indicates that the MOU does not limit Council's ability to adopt independent or supplementary policies.

Galloway moved and Rienstra seconded that the Memorandum of Agreement be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

2. [AB2026-416](#) Request for motion to approve the updated 2026-2027 Criminal Justice Treatment Account Plan

Kayla Schott-Bresler, Executive's Office, briefed the councilmembers and stated the county legislative authority must adopt our Criminal Justice Treatment Account Plan. The account funds services for treating nonviolent offenders who have substance use disorders and the goal is to reduce prison sentences through the Department of Corrections. She spoke about how the money can be used.

Scanlon stated he would be interested in learning some more data about the program including how many people they are supporting every year, and is wondering if it might help to make a case with the legislature to boost these funds. He asked if they could include this in their legislative strategy.

Schott-Bresler stated they are happy to follow up with the Health Department to get background on the outcomes of the program and to work with the lobbyist to make the case about boosting funds. They will follow up on that and coordinate with councilmembers as they approach the legislative session.

Buchanan answered if this has come up in the work that he has been doing on behavioral health over the years, and stated it has not.

Councilmembers discussed lobbying for more and efficient use of these funds in regards to long-acting injectables, and how many days of in-house treatment \$10,000 would pay for.

Buchanan moved and Rienstra seconded that the Request for Motion be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

3. [AB2026-448](#) Resolution requesting authorization to make an application and enter into a grant agreement with the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office for funding through the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Act Program for renovation of the Lagoon Bridge and other bike and pedestrian accessibility improvements at Silver Lake Park

Galloway moved and Boyle seconded that the Resolution be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.

Bennett Knox, Parks and Recreation Department Director, briefed the councilmembers on what they are doing to put themselves in a position to receive the grant and answered questions. He answered if the new bridge will look different than the old one, and stated it will be slightly different because it will have ADA accessibility. He answered what the overall budget is for the project and the current mix of local and other funds, and stated they currently have \$300,000 in place, the total replacement is \$1.5 million, and \$500,000 would potentially come from the grant, with the remainder coming from Economic Development Investment (EDI) funds.

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

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

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 11:08 a.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Jon Scanlon-via email 6/17/2026

Cathy Halka, Council Clerk

Jon Scanlon, Committee Chair

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kristi Felbinger

SIGNED COPY ON FILE