

**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, September 14, 2021

10:20 AM

Virtual Meeting

VIRTUAL MEETING - ENDS BY NOON (TO PARTICIPATE, SEE
INSTRUCTIONS AT www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil OR CALL
360.778.5010); AGENDA REVISED 9.13. 2021

COUNCILMEMBERS

Rud Browne
Tyler Byrd
Carol Frazey

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

Call To Order

Committee Chair Rud Browne called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m. in a virtual meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Rud Browne, Tyler Byrd, and Carol Frazey

Absent: None

Also Present: Barry Buchanan, Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, and Kathy Kershner

Announcements

Special Presentation

1. [AB2021-505](#) Report from the Finance Division

Brad Bennett, Administrative Services Department, reported.

He answered whether the intergovernmental general fund revenue would show a big spike because of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds; whether the budget amount reflects the original or the amended budget; whether revenues and expenses on the report have actually cleared as of the end of the quarter or whether they are just budgeted and approved; whether \$1.7 million for salary costs is budgeted or actual and whether it reflects the use of ARPA funds; the historic target ending fund balance; why the ending balance surplus will not be larger in light of higher projected sales tax revenues; and how much the County has gained because of sales tax revenues shifting back to more in-person versus online purchasing.

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive, also spoke about sales tax revenue.

This agenda item was REPORTED.

2. [AB2021-524](#) Presentation from RMC Architects regarding the Northwest Annex Campus update

Rob Ney, Administrative Services Department, briefed the Councilmembers and introduced the presenter.

Brad Cornwell, RMC Architects, gave a presentation.

Donovan stated they have not yet had conversations about the memo mentioning the use of unrestricted CARES Act dollars and how paying for this would affect capital projects.

Cornwell answered questions about whether there would be shared access for the Washington State University (WSU) Extension to the other County facilities, whether the plan should include a stand-alone onsite café, whether the plan should also include a combined 911 center, and where the unassigned area is located within the site plan.

The following people answered how the County will pay for the project and what the trade-offs would be:

- Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office
- Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

Councilmembers and the speakers continued to discuss whether a café should be included in the plans, the use of food trucks, whether childcare and other businesses should be onsite, making sure the facility would bring value to the community, using the facility as a recruiting tool, focusing on building one first then the rest of the campus, and whether the County is obligated to provide space for the WSU Extension.

This agenda item was PRESENTED AND DISCUSSED.

Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council

1. [AB2021-501](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an agreement between Whatcom County and Compass Health to lease a portion of the Whatcom Response Center, in the amount of \$20,000 annually

Cathy Halka, Council Legislative Analyst, stated this is a substitute agreement.

Perry Mowery, Health Department, spoke about the difference between the original and the substitute versions.

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

Mowery answered whether this facility is the same as the Unified Command facility.

Frazey's motion that the SUBSTITUTE Agreement be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd, and Frazey

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

2. [AB2021-493](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an Agreement between Whatcom County and Administrative Office of Courts (AOC) for reimbursement of Uniform Guardianship Act (UGA) services, in the amount of \$153,110

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

Aye: 2 - Browne, and Frazey

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 1 - Byrd

3. [AB2021-497](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Northwest Workforce Council to provide reimbursement of wages and benefits for eligible temporary employees working in various COVID-related positions, in the estimated amount of \$110,000 for a total estimated contract amount of \$330,000

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

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd, and Frazey

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

4. [AB2021-492](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Commerce to furnish goods and services necessary to accomplish activities under the SFY 2022 Victim/Witness Assistance Grant during the grant period, in the amount of \$60,368.00

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

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd, and Frazey

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

5. [AB2021-523](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into Local Agency Agreement Supplement No. 5 between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Transportation for the Birch Bay Drive and Pedestrian Facility Project in the amount of \$300,000

Byrd moved that the Agreement be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd, and Frazey

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

6. [AB2021-450](#) Resolution amending the Flood Control Zone District 2021 budget, request no. 2, in the amount of \$1,142,000 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

***Frazey moved* that the Resolution (FCZDBS) be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.**

Paula Harris, Public Works Department, briefed the Councilmembers and answered questions.

Frazey's motion that the Resolution (FCZDBS) be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd, and Frazey

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

7. [AB2021-451](#) Ordinance amending the 2021 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 13, in the amount of \$1,615,450

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

Councilmembers discussed the motion.

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

Aye: 2 - Browne, and Frazey

Nay: 1 - Byrd

Absent: 0

8. [AB2021-498](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Ecology to provide Pollution Prevention Assistance Specialists, in the amount of \$293,568

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

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd, and Frazey

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

9. [AB2021-509](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and City of Bellingham for the development of a housing communications strategy, in the amount of \$19,050

Frazey moved that the Interlocal be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION.

The following people briefed the Councilmembers and answered questions:

- Ann Beck, Health Department
- Anne Deacon, Health Department

They answered what the contractor would be doing, why the County's Community Outreach Facilitator is not the one doing this work, and whether the County should have its own dedicated communications department.

Clerk's note: see question on this item in Other Business below.

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

Aye: 2 - Browne, and Frazey

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 1 - Byrd

Councilmembers and Satpal Sidhu, County Executive, thanked Deacon for her 50 years of service in the field of social work as she gets ready to retire.

10. [AB2021-489](#) Resolution approving the 2022 recommended Convention Center (Lodging Tax) allocations for tourism-related facilities and activities as defined through RCW 67.28.1816 in the amount of \$1,469,575

Byrd moved that the Resolution be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.

Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office, answered a question about a discrepancy between the resolution and the exhibits regarding whether the requests that have been funded have been received or just anticipated. He

and Councilmembers discussed bringing a substitute version of Exhibit A for tonight's Council meeting.

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

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd, and Frazey

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

11. [AB2021-506](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract agreement between Whatcom County and West Publishing for online access to proprietary law publications in the amount of \$143,007

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

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd, and Frazey

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Council "Consent Agenda" Items

1. [AB2021-487](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Michael Bobbink for hearing examiner services

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

Councilmembers discussed the motion.

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

Aye: 2 - Browne, and Frazey

Nay: 1 - Byrd

Absent: 0

2. [AB2021-502](#) Resolution in the matter of the sale of surplus personal property and setting a date for public hearing, pursuant to WCC 1.10

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

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd, and Frazey

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

3. [AB2021-518](#) Resolution to amend Resolution 2020-046 for unrepresented Whatcom County employees

Frazezy moved that the Resolution be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd, and Frazey

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Items Added by Revision

1. [AB2021-535](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a revised contract between Whatcom County and the Housing Authority of the City of Bellingham to secure an EDI loan for the Samish Way Redevelopment project in the amount of \$725,000

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

Aye: 2 - Browne, and Frazey

Nay: 1 - Byrd

Absent: 0

Other Business

Anne Deacon, Health Department, answered a question about AB2021-509 and whether there is another contract that goes with it (*Clerk's note: the contract was added to the file for reference*).

Elenbaas stated he may not be back in time to chair the Planning and Development Committee and asked if Donovan could do it.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Rud Browne-via email 9/16/2021

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Rud Browne, Committee Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

SIGNED COPY ON FILE