

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, October 21, 2025

11 AM

Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers

**HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 11:40 A.M. (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON,
SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil,
OR CALL 360.778.5010); AGENDA REVISED 10.20.2025**

COUNCILMEMBERS

Barry Buchanan
Tyler Byrd
Todd Donovan

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

Call To Order

Committee Chair Todd Donovan called the meeting to order at 11 a.m. in a hybrid meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Tyler Byrd, Todd Donovan, and Barry Buchanan

Also Present: Ben Elenbaas, Kaylee Galloway, Jon Scanlon, and Mark Stremmler

Announcements

Council "Consent Agenda" Items

Donovan moved to recommend approval of Consent Agenda items one through two and stated he would like to consider Consent Agenda item number 3 separately.

Councilmembers voted on Consent item numbers 1 and 2 (see votes on individual items below).

1. [AB2025-727](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal grant agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Commerce to reimburse the 5% match obligation required in the two elevation grants, in the amount of \$600,000 (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 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

2. [AB2025-728](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Opportunity Council to administer the Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) Program in the amount of \$1,813,929, for a total amended contract amount of \$5,223,812

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

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

3. [AB2025-730](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a three-year contract between Whatcom County and Correctional Healthcare Partners Inc. for the provision of jail healthcare and juvenile detention nursing services, in the three-year total amount of \$22,896,000

This item was considered separately below.

Council "Consent Agenda" Items Considered Separately

3. [AB2025-730](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a three-year contract between Whatcom County and Correctional Healthcare Partners Inc. for the provision of jail healthcare and juvenile detention nursing services, in the three-year total amount of \$22,896,000

Kayla Schott-Bresler, Executive's Office, stated the Administration has requested that this item be held. They are sorting out an operational issue related to the timing of transitioning the medical records on New Year's Day. They are working with the Sheriff's Office and need a couple more weeks to sort out those details with Correctional Healthcare Partners Inc. They expect to bring a contract to the Council on November 5th and request a motion to hold until that time.

Donovan moved that the Contract be RECOMMENDED TO HOLD IN COMMITTEE until November 5th.

Scanlon spoke about a mention in the contract about a potential for cost savings and asked if they are tracking that and what the tracking mechanism is.

Schott-Bresler stated she believes that was written in reference to extraordinary medical costs and that those will be tracked separately by the Sheriff's Office.

Aly Pennucci, Executive's Office, stated they will also be looking at whether this has any impact on risk liability and they will be tracking pharmacy costs. The Sheriff's Office will have a correctional health services manager so she thinks that position can help monitor it all. The Administration is interested in the same thing.

Scanlon stated he would like to come back in a year to see how things are going.

Byrd asked whether this will have any effect on the per diem rates they charge, and the interlocal agreements and expense sharing, and

Schott-Bresler stated it will, and the Sheriff's Office will be working closely with the cities on that.

Donovan's motion that the Contract be RECOMMENDED TO HOLD IN COMMITTEE until November 5th carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

Recommended to Hold in Committee until November 5th

Committee Discussion

1. [AB2025-714](#) Discussion of resolution declaring the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District's intention to lease property on River Road (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

Andrew Hester, Public Works Department, briefed the councilmembers. He stated they are looking to lease this property on River Road and it is a property they have leased in the past (since 2008). He stated the related resolution (**AB2025-713**) is scheduled for introduction tonight and a public hearing should be held the second Council meeting in November. If it is approved, it will go through a bid process through Finance, with a lease to start next year. He stated it would be an agricultural lease and that it is currently being leased, but the current lease will be expiring.

This agenda item was DISCUSSED.

2. [AB2025-716](#) Discussion of a resolution declaring the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District's intention to lease property on East Main Street (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

Andrew Hester, Public Works Department, briefed the councilmembers on the property and stated it will be an agricultural lease. If approved, it would go through Finance for a bid and a lease would be awarded, hopefully in January of next year. He answered if these are properties the County has acquired because they are flood prone, and stated it was a mix of that and for future flood improvement projects.

This agenda item was DISCUSSED.

Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council

1. [AB2025-678](#) Ordinance amending the project budget for the New Public Health, Safety and Justice Facility, request no. 9

Donovan stated they would be considering the substitute Ordinance.

Clerk's note: This item was discussed again under Other Business below.

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

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

2. [AB2025-680](#) Resolution amending the 2025 Flood Control Zone District and Subzones Budget, request no. 4, in the amount of \$49,400 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

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

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

3. [AB2025-682](#) Ordinance establishing the Silver Lake Lagoon Project Fund and establishing an initial budget for the Silver Lake Lagoon Bridge Fund

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

Bennett Knox, Parks and Recreation Department Director, briefed the councilmembers. He stated they have a maintenance issue with the Lagoon Bridge at Silver Lake and this establishes the fund to analyze the situation. It is not clear at this point what parts of the structure will need to be removed.

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

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

4. [AB2025-685](#) Ordinance amending the 2025 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 11, in the amount of \$517,671

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

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

Stremmer asked about **AB2025-678** and whether the Executive's Office could brief them on it.

Kayla Schott-Bresler, Executive's Office, stated it is an appropriation of revenue the County has received under the new public safety sales tax and the funding would be used to purchase a wetlands mitigation opportunity for the construction of the new jail.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Cathy Halka, Council Clerk

Todd Donovan, Committee Chair

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kristi Felbinger