

**Whatcom County
Council Public Works & Health Committee**

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



Committee Minutes - Final

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

1 PM

Council Chambers

COUNCILMEMBERS

Todd Donovan
Carol Frazey
Kathy Kershner

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

Call To Order

Committee Chair Carol Frazey called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, Washington.

Roll Call

Present: 2 - Carol Frazey and Todd Donovan

Absent: 1 - Kathy Kershner

Also present: Rud Browne, Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, and Ben Elenbaas

Special Presentation

1. [AB2020-114](#) Report from Whatcom County Public Works Department

Jon Hutchings, Public Works Department Director, briefed the Councilmembers about the recent resignation of County Engineer Joe Rutan and the appointment of Jim Karcher as the interim County Engineer; a three year Public Works action plan that will focus on both internal and external communication conveying public meeting information and education about Public Works services, asset management, workforce development, and the role of government solving drainage issues; proactively assessing leadership and possible changes in the interim time before hiring a new County Engineer; and the progress of the Birch Bay Berm project. He answered questions about the process of hiring a new County Engineer, and considering diversity in the hiring decisions.

This agenda item was DISCUSSED.
2. [AB2020-081](#) Presentation regarding food recovery system

Mark Peterson, Sustainable Connections, gave a presentation about reducing food waste. He answered questions about education, the best way to measure how much waste is diverted from landfill by using food waste drop boxes, whether there are efforts underway to work with local grocery stores for in-house-prepared food donation and food waste reduction, how the food lifeline program works, and how agencies can sign up for Sustainable Connections' food recovery program and what kind of waste they pick up, how it works with large events, whether there are any programs for recovering household food waste, whether they work with the backpack program which provides school lunches, and whether food donations can be a tax write-off

This agenda item was PRESENTED AND DISCUSSED.

Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council

1. [AB2020-092](#) Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code (WCC) 2.150, Whatcom County Veterans' Advisory Board, and WCC 2.152, Veterans' Assistance Program
- Anne Deacon, and Liz Harmon-Craig, Health Department, summarized the updates reflected in the proposed ordinance and answered questions about why the changes were proposed.

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

Aye: 2 - Frazey and Donovan

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Kershner

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Carol Frazey, Committee Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

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