

Whatcom County Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee

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



Action Summary

Wednesday, August 6, 2025

9:30 AM

Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers

**HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 10:40 A.M. (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON,
SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil,
OR CALL 360.778.5010)**

COUNCILMEMBERS

Barry Buchanan
Tyler Byrd
Todd Donovan

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

Call To Order

Roll Call

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

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

Announcements

Special Presentation

1. [AB2025-010](#) Report from the Assessor's Office

REPORTED

2. [AB2025-560](#) Update from Public Works staff on the proposed Phase 2 of the Stewart Mountain Community Forest and request for Council direction on preferred ownership option

DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED

Motion approved to recommend to the Council that they endorse the co-management model that is in front of them (an ownership model with a non-profit entity with County participation).

Council "Consent Agenda" Items

1. [AB2025-543](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Ecology to provide technical assistance and education outreach to small businesses, in the amount of \$308,750

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

2. [AB2025-544](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Cowden Brothers Trucking, LLC, vector waste facility for the disposal of waste produced by Whatcom County Public Works vector trucks while providing service to multiple functions within our Maintenance and Operations group in the amount of \$288,000 for a total amended contract amount of \$576,000

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

3. [AB2025-550](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement

between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Ecology to remove litter and illegally discarded materials from public lands, in the amount of \$71,400

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

4. [AB2025-555](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a cost reimbursement agreement between Whatcom County and the City of Ferndale for participation in the Floodplain Integrated Planning (FLIP) process, including participation on the FLIP Steering Committee, FLIP Team, and FLIP Reach Teams, in the amount of \$30,000 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

5. [AB2025-556](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Columbia Policy Advisors to assist Whatcom County in developing and implementing a legislative advocacy program in the amount of \$86,040

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

6. [AB2025-557](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a cost reimbursement agreement amendment between Whatcom County and the City of Everson to increase the budget for participation in the Floodplain Integrated Planning (FLIP) process, including participation on the FLIP Steering Committee, FLIP Team, and FLIP Reach Teams, in the amount of \$30,000 for a total amended amount of \$103,000 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

7. [AB2025-561](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a grant agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Ecology to acquire Phase 2 of the Stewart Mountain Community Forest, in the amount of \$5,517,000

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

8. [AB2025-562](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Associated Earth Sciences, Inc. to conduct additional monitoring and data collection for a groundwater-surface water interaction study and an investigation into the impacts of agricultural tile drains on stream flows, in the amount of \$77,420 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

9. [AB2025-564](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to amend Whatcom County Contract No. 202005011 between Whatcom County and Runback Election Services, increasing the original contract amount by \$111,428

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

10. [AB2025-566](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Matrix Consulting Group, Ltd. to evaluate human resources policies and procedures in an amount of \$0 for a total amended contract amount of \$76,500

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

11. [AB2025-567](#) Request authorization for County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Mission Critical Partners, LLC to complete a countywide fire and EMS study, in an amount of \$0 for a total amended contract amount of \$223,056

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

12. [AB2025-568](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission to continue building an officer wellness program, in the amount of \$50,000

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

13. [AB2025-569](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and the Executive Office of the President's Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to implement the strategy of the Northwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), in the amount \$193,147

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

14. [AB2025-571](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Commerce to help cover a portion of the Victim/Witness Coordinator position salary and benefits in an amount not to exceed \$52,029

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

15. [AB2025-572](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an agreement between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Children, Youth and Families for reimbursement for daily bed rate for detention services for juveniles committed to Juvenile Rehabilitation, in the amount of \$250 per day

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

16. [AB2025-573](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an agreement between Whatcom County and the Administrative Office of the Courts for reimbursements of costs related to water adjudication, in the amount of \$1,721,200

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

17. [AB2025-574](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Military Department to receive pass through funding in support of WhatComm 911 in the amount of \$74,045

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

Committee Discussion

1. [AB2025-559](#) Discussion of an ordinance amending the 2025 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 9, in the amount of \$956,986

DISCUSSED

Items Added by Revision

Other Business

Adjournment