

**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

ESTIMATED TIME - MEETING MAY BEGIN EARLIER/LATER THAN 10:30 A.M.

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

10:30 AM

Council Chambers

COUNCILMEMBERS

Tyler Byrd
Carol Frazey
Satpal Sidhu

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Call To Order

Committee Chair Satpal Sidhu called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. in the Council Chambers, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, Washington.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Tyler Byrd, Carol Frazey and Satpal Sidhu

Absent: None

Also present: Barbara Brenner, Barry Buchanan, Todd Donovan

County Executive's Report

Jack Louws, County Executive, reported on the following items and answered questions:

- The Silverlake Park improvement project
- Birch Bay berm groundbreaking
- The biennial review of the budget and its timeline

Special Presentation

1. [AB2019-448](#) Report from Whatcom County's Finance Department
Brad Bennett, Finance and Administrative Services Department, submitted and gave a report (on file) He and County Executive Jack Louws answered questions about whether and how the County is preparing for a potential down turn in the economy, the decrease of sales tax during the recession of 2008, and what specific measures the County can take to mitigate another dip in the economy should that happen.

This agenda item was REPORTED.

Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council

1. [AB2019-439](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interagency agreement between Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District and State of Washington Department of Health, in the amount of \$600,000 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

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

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey and Sidhu

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

2. [AB2019-440](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement

between Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham for support of US Geological Survey's development of the COastal Storm MOdeling System (COSMOS) across the Whatcom County Shoreline, in the amount of \$125,000 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

Byrd moved to recommend authorization by the full Council.

The following staff answered questions:

Gary Stoyka, Public Works Department, gave a background on the program and answered questions about its funding sources and benefits to the County.

Roland Middleton, Public Works Department, answered questions about saving money and time by having U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) running the models.

Byrd's motion that the Contract (WCFCZDBS) be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey and Sidhu

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

3. [AB2019-454](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a subrecipient agreement between Whatcom County and Whatcom Conservation District for Pollution Identification and Correction Program (PIC) Non-Dairy Agricultural Technical Assistance and Data Coordination in the amount of \$306,250 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

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

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey and Sidhu

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

4. [AB2019-455](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interagency agreement between Whatcom County and Washington Department of Ecology to provide Washington Conservation Corps members funding to complete environmental or disaster service projects in the amount of \$148,600 (County acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

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

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey and Sidhu

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

5. [AB2019-419](#) Ordinance amending the 2019 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 11, in the amount of \$986,542

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

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey and Sidhu

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

6. [AB2019-435](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham to provide dispatch services

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

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey and Sidhu

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

7. [AB2019-436](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Port of Bellingham for EDI Program funding to support the rural broadband construction project, in the amount of \$750,000

Byrd moved to recommend for authorization.

Gina Stark, Port of Bellingham, answered whether this is just for broadband construction and not for towers.

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

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey and Sidhu

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

8. [AB2019-437](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Children, Youth and Families for home visiting services to vulnerable families, in the amount of \$350,008.38

Frazey moved to recommend for authorization.

Judy Ziels, Health Department, answered questions about how participants get involved in the nurse family partnership program and what criteria is used to determine their eligibility, how the County is maintaining privacy of participants, and how the nurses are helping women to get connected to other resources and social connections in the community.

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

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey and Sidhu

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

9. [AB2019-443](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and City of Bellingham for the Lake Whatcom Homeowner Incentive Program, in the amount of \$350,000

Frazey moved to recommend for authorization.

Gary Stoyka, Public Works Department, answered questions about the current options for offering homeowner incentives and the potential of being able to look into other options once the funds from the Lake Whatcom Stormwater Utility are available.

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

Aye: 2 - Frazey and Sidhu

Nay: 1 - Byrd

Absent: 0

10. [AB2019-462](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Housing Authority of the City of Bellingham for EDI funding in the amount of \$600,275 to support the Samish Way Development Project

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

Aye: 2 - Frazey and Sidhu

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 1 - Byrd

11. [AB2019-442](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to amend the contract between Whatcom County and Cascadia Law Group, PLLC to increase the maximum compensation by \$25,000 and add three additional tasks

Frazey moved to recommend for authorization.

Jack Louws, County Executive, answered questions about whether he is in support of the contract amendment and how he would be involved going forward in the the overall process.

Karen Frakes, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, gave a background of the review process. She spoke about how time spent on specific tasks of this type of contract is tracked and drafting the ordinance once the findings are prepared.

Frazey moved that the Contract be HELD IN COMMITTEE and sent to Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee on 10/8/2019. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey and Sidhu

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Council "Consent Agenda" Items

1. [AB2019-441](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and US Imaging, Inc. in the amount of \$128,000

Committee members referred to a proposed amended page (yellow cover).

Byrd moved that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey and Sidhu

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

2. [AB2019-447](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Cascadia Consulting Group, Inc. to provide Climate Action Plan update support, in the amount of \$50,000

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

Aye: 2 - Frazey and Sidhu

Nay: 1 - Byrd

Absent: 0

3. [AB2019-453](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham to provide intergovernmental services relating to the Review and Evaluation (Buildable Lands) program requirements of the Growth Management Act in the amount of \$85,113.56

Byrd moved to recommend for authorization by consent.

The following answered questions:

Mark Personius, Planning and Development Services Department Director
Jack Louws, County Executive

Councilmembers and staff discussed how the County decides whether lots are buildable and what can be built on a parcel, whether there will be a way to track whether assumptions about buildable land were correct, whether similar contract requests will come from the other cities, and the use of this money to reimburse existing County staff for extra work required during the three years of the project.

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

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey and Sidhu

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

4. [AB2019-459](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and RE Sources to provide a countywide waste reduction and recycling education program in local school districts and youth organizations, in the amount of \$50,000

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

Aye: 2 - Frazey and Sidhu

Nay: 1 - Byrd

Absent: 0

5. [AB2019-449](#) Request approval for the County Executive to authorize the purchase of replacement semi-rugged laptops from Datec, Inc., an authorized reseller for Panasonic, using the Washington State Contract #05815-11, in an amount not to exceed \$104,060.69

Byrd moved to recommend for authorization by consent.

Perry Rice, Administrative Services Information Tecnology, answered questions about two separate quotes that list a total of laptops being purchased, and why the laptops are unique for their intended purpose.

**Byrd's motion that the Bid Award be RECOMMENDED FOR
AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT carried by the following vote:**

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey and Sidhu

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Satpal Sidhu, Committee Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

SIGNED COPY ON FILE