

**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 8, 2022  
10 AM  
Virtual Meeting**

**VIRTUAL MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 10:35 A.M. (TO PARTICIPATE, SEE  
INSTRUCTIONS AT [www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil) OR CALL  
360.778.5010)**

**COUNCILMEMBERS**

Barry Buchanan  
Kaylee Galloway  
Kathy Kershner

**CLERK OF THE COUNCIL**

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

## **Call To Order**

Committee Chair Kathy Kershner called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. in a virtual meeting.

## **Roll Call**

**Present:** 3 - Barry Buchanan, Kaylee Galloway, and Kathy Kershner

**Absent:** None

Also Present: Tyler Byrd, Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, and Carol Frazey

## **Announcements**

## **Committee Discussion**

1. [AB2022-148](#) Discussion regarding the temporary closure of Gulf Road to vehicular traffic  
Councilmembers discussed the item with the following people:

- Jon Hutchings, Public Works Department Director
- Skip Sahlin, SSA Marine/ Pacific International Holdings
- Jim Karcher, Public Works Department
- Doug Chadwick, Undersheriff

They discussed why the description of the conditions at the beach at Gulf Road differ between the public and the applicant, what the disconnect is between what Councilmembers are hearing from the public and what they heard at a meeting in July of 2021 (about there being drugs, guns, multiple fires, and police responses), whether there are no-trespassing signs posted, the role of the Public Works Department, the perspective of the property owner, how temporary the closure would be, whether the level of crime events justifies closing a public road, having better signage to clarify which parts of the property are private and which are public, the County maintaining control of the gate, how much of the tidelands is privately owned and what of it needs to remain accessible to the public given the regulations under the Shoreline Management Program (SMP), the requirements for putting in a public road on private property, whether the requirements have to be maintained for the life of the road or only when it is originally established, how long the company Sahlin represents has owned the property, whether the property owner wants to do away with public access or the negative consequences associated with allowing public access, whether there is a middle ground on which the private land owner would be open to allowing public access to the property, whether signs are

put out on the property prior to a public hearing to give notice of the hearing, illegal activities that have occurred on the property, whether Councilmembers could get a cost analysis to show how much it will cost the County to keep this road open (including providing law enforcement support, repairing the road, and replacing signs), and how the Tribes are involved in this.

**This agenda item was DISCUSSED.**

**Items Added by Revision**

There were no agenda items added by revision.

**Other Business**

There was no other business.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

**Kathy Kershner-via email 3/9/2022**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathy Kershner, Committee Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

SIGNED COPY ON FILE