

**Whatcom County
Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee**

COUNTY COURTHOUSE
311 Grand Avenue, Ste #105
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038
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Committee Minutes - Draft Minutes

Tuesday, January 11, 2022

1 PM

Virtual Meeting

VIRTUAL MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 2:30 P.M. (TO PARTICIPATE, SEE INSTRUCTIONS AT www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil OR CALL 360.778.5010)

COUNCILMEMBERS

Tyler Byrd
Carol Frazey
Kathy Kershner

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

Call To Order

Committee member Tyler Byrd called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in a virtual meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Carol Frazey, Tyler Byrd, and Kathy Kershner

Absent: None

Also Present: Barry Buchanan, Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, and Kaylee Galloway

Announcements

Special Order of Business

1. [AB2022-031](#) Nomination and appointment of committee chair

Kershner moved to nominate Byrd for Committee Chair.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Frazey, Kershner, and Byrd

Nay: 0

This agenda item was APPOINTED.

Byrd was appointed as Chair.

Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council

1. [AB2021-741](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Washington State University to continue the jointly shared costs for faculty positions and program support for WSU Extension in the amount of \$240,071 for a total amended contract amount of \$2,731,428.90

Frazey moved that the Memorandum of Agreement be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION.

The following people answered questions:

- Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office
- Lee Anne Riddle, WSU Extension

Riddle answered what the proposed positions would do, how the Water Resources Coordinator fits in with the current water issue, and scheduling a future presentation about the Washington State University Extension.

Frazey's motion that the Memorandum of Agreement be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Frazey, Byrd, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

2. [AB2021-751](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Aristo Healthcare Services to provide staffing at the COVID Isolation and Quarantine Facility in the estimated amount of \$125,000 for a total estimated amended contract amount of \$325,000

***Frazey moved* that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION.**

The following people answered questions:

- Cindy Hollinsworth, Health Department
- Kathleen Roy, Health Department
- Erika Lautenbach, Health Department Director
- Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office

They gave an update on the COVID-19 isolation facilities and answered whether this and other related requests on this agenda are for the existing Byron Street or new Civic Field isolation facility, whether these are 90-day contracts, whether the Byron Street facility was ever used for temporary housing for flood victims, and whether the contract now only allows the Byron Street facility to be used for isolation purposes.

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive, spoke about opening up the second isolation facility.

Councilmembers discussed the motion.

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

Aye: 3 - Frazey, Byrd, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

3. [AB2021-752](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Road2Home to operate the COVID Isolation and Quarantine Facility in the amount of \$159,274 for a total amended contract amount of

\$318,549

Frazey moved that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION.

The following people answered questions:

- Cindy Hollinsworth, Health Department
- Erika Lautenbach, Health Department Director

They answered what Road2Home is doing, whether this contract is also for the new facility at Civic Field, and where people will be staying at the Civic facility.

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

Aye: 3 - Frazey, Byrd, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

4. [AB2021-753](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Pacific Security to provide security services at the COVID Isolation and Quarantine Facility and COVID Vaccine Clinics in the amount of \$52,521 for a total amended contract amount of \$176,009

Kershner moved that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION.

The following people answered questions:

- Cindy Hollinsworth, Health Department
- Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office
- Rob Ney, Administrative Services Department Facilities

They answered whether there have been incidents at COVID-19 vaccine clinics that have prompted the need for security and whether this is the same security contractor that is used in the front foyer at the Courthouse.

Kershner's motion that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Frazey, Byrd, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

5. [AB2022-001](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Lewis Publishing Company, Inc. to publish COVID-19 related advertisements, in the amount of \$27,000 for a total amended contract amount of \$67,000

Frazey moved that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION.

Kate Dabe, Health Department, answered what kind of advertisements they are putting out, whether they are putting any messaging out around other things people can and should be doing (beyond vaccination) to protect themselves from COVID-19, and why the Health Department is not talking about prevention strategies.

Councilmembers discussed the motion and took the vote (see below).

Byrd abstained and stated he would like to get more information first.

Councilmembers and Satpal Sidhu, County Executive, continued to discuss the item after the vote, what it would take to get an affirmative vote, and including messaging about preventative measures and early treatments as well as vaccination.

Frazey's motion that the Contract be recommended for authorization FAILED by the following vote:

Aye: 1 - Frazey

Nay: 1 - Kershner

Absent: 0

Abstain: 1 - Byrd

6. [AB2022-002](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Cascade Radio Group to provide radio commercial spots for COVID-19 related advertisements in the amount of \$20,000 for a total amended contract amount of \$60,000

Frazey moved that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION.

The Committee took a vote (see below) and then continued to discuss the item.

Frazezy asked if Byrd (who abstained) will reach out to the Health Department to get the answers he needs before tonight.

Kate Dabe, Health Department, stated she would request that more information be sent to the Councilmembers today.

Frazezy's motion that the Contract be recommended for authorization FAILED by the following vote:

Aye: 1 - Frazezy

Nay: 1 - Kershner

Absent: 0

Abstain: 1 - Byrd

7. [AB2022-003](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and MSNW Group, LLC to provide cleaning services at the COVID-19 Isolation and Quarantine Facility in the amount of \$15,000 for a total amended contract amount of \$55,000

Kershner moved that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION.

Cindy Hollinsworth, Health Department, answered why Road2Home was not providing these services.

Kershner's motion that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Frazezy, Byrd, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

8. [AB2022-006](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Health for the delivery and funding of various public health services

Frazezy moved that the Interlocal be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION.

Kathleen Roy, Health Department, answered why the agreement is needed since it notes a \$0 amount, whether this is the contract that funds the monoclonal antibodies, how they do get funded, whether these contracts come through every two years, what types of things this contract funds, and whether this covers the developmental disabilities day program.

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

Aye: 3 - Frazey, Byrd, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

9. [AB2022-018](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Aristo Healthcare Services to provide COVID-19 vaccine administration services at community vaccine clinics in the amount of \$435,000 for a total amended contract amount of \$543,732

Frazey moved that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION.

Cindy Hollinsworth, Health Department, answered whether the county has the demand for this amount of vaccination services since approximately 70% of Whatcom County has initiated vaccination.

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

Aye: 3 - Frazey, Byrd, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Council "Consent Agenda" Items

Kershner requested that the first item on the Consent Agenda (AB2021-712) be discussed separately.

1. [AB2021-712](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Sustainable Connections for costs to facilitate the Whatcom Housing Alliance in the amount of \$100,000

Frazey moved that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT.

The following people spoke:

- Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office
- Ann Beck, Health Department

They answered what the role is of Sustainable Connections in housing, the timeline for the final report or whether it is ongoing, and who the point

person is for the Housing Alliance.

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

Aye: 3 - Frazey, Byrd, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Council "Consent Agenda" Items Continued

Byrd moved to approve Consent Agenda items two through seven.
Councilmembers voted on those items (see votes on individual items
below).

2. [AB2022-004](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Northwest Youth Services to operate an overnight winter shelter for young adults experiencing homelessness, in the amount of \$81,000

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

Aye: 3 - Frazey, Byrd, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

3. [AB2022-009](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and BERK Consulting, Inc. to complete the COVID-19 Pandemic Response Review project for a total amount of \$71,458

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

Aye: 3 - Frazey, Byrd, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

4. [AB2022-014](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Pacific Security to continue providing building patrol security services at nine County buildings

**Byrd moved that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR
AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following**

vote:

Aye: 3 - Frazey, Byrd, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

5. [AB2022-015](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Whatcom Council of Governments for the performance of duties related to the Boundary Review Board for Whatcom County, in the amount of \$5,000

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

Aye: 3 - Frazey, Byrd, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

6. [AB2022-016](#) Request authorization to amend the WA State Nurses Association Collective Bargaining Agreement for the period January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2022

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

Aye: 3 - Frazey, Byrd, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

7. [AB2022-017](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a Collective Bargaining Agreement between Whatcom County and the Fraternal Order of Police for the period of January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2024

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

Aye: 3 - Frazey, Byrd, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

Cindy Hollinsworth, Health Department, answered whether there are plans in place to expand testing in light of the COVID-19 Omicron variant surge, whether people are able to get monoclonal antibodies right now, what kind of prioritizing the county is doing for treatment, whether the county can go past the interim State Department of Health guidance for prioritization and get additional access to monoclonal antibody treatment to make it readily available to individuals, whether monoclonal antibodies that are effective for the Omicron variant are different than the ones that were effective for the Delta variant, and whether the elected officials and news media briefings could not be held on Tuesdays.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Tyler Byrd, Committee Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription