

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, May 24, 2022

1 PM

Hybrid Meeting

**HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 1:45 P.M. (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON OR
SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT 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 1 p.m. in a hybrid 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

Special Presentation

1. [AB2022-268](#) Report from the Public Works Department

Jon Hutchings, Public Works Department Director, reported and topics included:

- The return of the Whatcom Chief ferry after its first spring maintenance outage and the replacement of four hatches.
- Recognizing the burden that the Public Works Department has been under and thanking staff for their work.
- Challenges that are burdening the work of the department (retirements, recruiting troubles, long lead time, supply chain issues, and future concerns about economic issues).
- Challenges with department services that are beyond core services and staff capacity, and Supplemental Budget Requests that will be coming to Council for what the department needs to deliver those services.

James Lee, Public Works Department, reported on capital Projects, flood damage repairs and maintenance from the flood event (document on file).

Hutchings spoke about deferred summer maintenance and chip sealing and the uncertainty of associated costs. He answered how many vacancies there are in the department and how long it will be before they get back to full staffing.

Galloway and Kershner thanked him and his team for everything they do for the County.

This agenda item was REPORTED.

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive, stated he had a special presentation in the evening meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Kathy Kershner-via email 5/26/2022

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Kathy Kershner, Committee Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

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