

**BOARD OF ISLAND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MINUTES OF MEETING  
DECEMBER 14, 2009 – REGULAR SESSION**

The Board of Island County Commissioners (including Diking Improvement District #4) met in Regular Session on December 14, 2009 beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of County Commissioners Hearing Room (Room # 102B), Annex Building, 1 N.E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Coupeville, Washington. John Dean, Chairman, Helen Price Johnson, Member, and Angie Homola, Member were present. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS

(Record Part 1 @ :38)

<u>Department</u>	<u>Employee</u>	<u>No Years</u>
Auditor	Barb Oleson	25
Central Services	Cathy Caryl	30
Central Services	Jenean Nettlebeck	5
Human Resources/Budget	Shirley Wood	5
Public Works	Joseph Benjamin	5
Solid Waste	Amie Weatherford	10
Sheriff	Chad Eastwood	5

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH FOR NOVEMBER

GAYLE FORBES – SOLID WASTE

Ms. Forbes has been instrumental in integrating the new accounting software recently purchased for the Public Works Solid Waste Program with the needs of the County Auditor's Office. She has been working closely with staff of the Auditor's Office to ensure that the reports and other information that is being provided is what the Auditor's Office needs and is a format that can be used by the Auditor staff.

This effort has taken numerous meetings with the Auditor's Office staff. It has required people to work through many challenging issues and as they have done so, Ms. Forbes has always provided a friendly professional demeanor. She has chosen to address the issue rather than the problem itself. This positive can do attitude has enabled the transition to move forward with less difficulty and has allowed people to work on issues and avoid personalities.

During trying times such as these, it is refreshing to work with a professional who understands the true value of a professional attitude and a can do spirit. Her care for other employees demonstrates that we are "a family" that cares for its own. We are that much better off to have Ms. Forbes as one of our family.

PUBLIC INPUT OR COMMENTS (Record Part 1 @ 18:05)

Dave Hollett read from a prepared statement concerning the proposed elimination of his position as Deputy Director of the Department of Emergency Management (DEM). He suggested that DEM be placed under the management of the Commissioners. (*Statement on file with the Clerk of the Board*).

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Terry Clark, Mel Vance, and TJ Harmon also spoke on behalf of Mr. Hollett, stating reasons why he should remain as Deputy Director of DEM. (*Hand-out provided and on file with the Clerk of the Board*)

Sheriff Brown commented that he is moving forward with the transition team based on the Board's preliminary agreement (Dean and Price Johnson) that the Sheriff would absorb the Department of Emergency Management, eliminating Mr. Hollett's position.

CONSENT AGENDA (Record Part 1 @ 42:00)

BY UNANIMOUS MOTION (3-0) the Board approved the following items presented on the Consent Agenda:

Pre-audited bills and vouchers for payment – Voucher #s 324297–324505 - \$326,488.31  
EFTs (electronic funds transfers) - \$192,831.28  
Minutes from previous meeting(s): Work Sessions: 8/12, 8/19, 9/2, and 9/9/09  
Regular Sessions: 10/12  
Special Sessions: 10/12

Budget

**Public Hearing Scheduled – December 28, 2009 – 2:15 p.m.**  
Resolution C-153-09 Amending 2009 Island County Budget

Human Resources

Personnel Action Authorizations – None Presented

Planning & Community Development

- **Public Hearing Scheduled – December 28, 2009 – 2:15 p.m.**  
OPS 358/08 Applicant James Lukehart proposes to have 15.3 acres of his 20 acre North Camano property reclassified from current use to Open Timber tax classification. The proposal includes parcels: R33219-050-3340 & R33219-017-3350
- **Public Hearing Scheduled – December 28, 2009 – 2:15 p.m.**  
OPS 366/08 Applicant Michael Jones proposes to have 17.3 acres of their 18.3 acre North Whidbey property reclassified from current use to the Open Timber tax classification. The proposal includes parcels: R23322-240-1000 and R23322-303-1000

Liquor License(s)

New Application for Liquor License No. 405729-6E by Jeffrey David Barlow and Erica Lynn Barlow, d/b/a Island Cider Works, 3890 Goldfinch Lane, Clinton, WA 98236

REGULAR AGENDA (Record Part 1 @ 49:20)

Commissioners

Resolution C-154-09 In the Matter of Temporary Suspension of Lump Sum Travel Allowances in Lieu of Actual Expenses to County Commissioners

The resolution temporarily continues the suspension of the Commissioners' vehicle allowances and would save approximately \$28,000 annually, which is comparable to a 10% reduction in Commissioners' salaries.

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IT WAS MOVED BY HOMOLA, SECONDED BY PRICE JOHNSON, to APPROVE Resolution C-154-09. MOTION CARRIED: 3-0

*Appointments and/or Re-Appointments to Boards and Committees*

- Approval of 2010 Board Committee Assignments

IT WAS MOVED BY PRICE JOHNSON, SECONDED BY HOMOLA, to APPROVE the 2010 Board Committee Assignments.

- Recommendation of an Appointment to the Conservation Futures Citizens Advisory Board for a Representative Living on Camano Island

IT WAS MOVED BY HOMOLA, SECONDED BY PRICE JOHNSON, to re-appoint Judy Chapman to the Conservation Futures Citizens Advisory Board. MOTION CARRIED: 3-0

PUBLIC HEARINGS

*Planning & Community Development* (Record Part 1 @ 52:29)

Ordinance C-144-09 (PLG-019-09) In the Matter of Amending Chapter 17.03 ICC to Change Requirement Standards for Permitting Mini Storage Facilities in the Rural Zone and Renaming Personal Storage to Mini Storage

At 10:47 a.m. Chairman Dean opened the public hearing.

Mr. Pederson said the ordinance is part of the 2009 planning docket process to establish new requirements for formally personal storage, now called mini-storage uses in the Rural zone. For the benefit of the audience Mr. Sweeza explained the changes in the proposed ordinance to address public concerns and Mr. Griffin, the Building Official, provided information concerning fire flow and the review process.

Following discussion and public comment, and a decision to make a substantive change to 17.03.180(C)(7) which would require re-advertising and another public hearing, the Chairman indicated that the record would remain open.

IT WAS MOVED BY PRICE JOHNSON, SECONDED BY HOMOLA, that ICC 17.03.180(C)(7) be amended, at the suggestion of Commissioner Homola, to read:

If full screening is not achieved within five years, the facility shall be subject to closure ~~eliminated~~ until landscaping achieves ~~matures to~~ a level where it provides ~~does provide~~ full screening.

MOTION CARRIED: 3-0

IT WAS MOVED BY PRICE JOHNSON, SECONDED BY HOMOLA, to SCHEDULE FOR HEARING the revised language on January 4, 2010 at 10:20 a.m. to Ordinance C-144-09 (PLG-019-09) In the Matter of Amending Chapter 17.03 ICC to Change Requirement Standards for Permitting Mini Storage Facilities in the Rural Zone and Renaming Personal Storage to Mini Storage. MOTION CARRIED: 3-0 (GMA No. 10396)

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Planning & Community Development (Record Part 1 @ 1:17:05)

Resolution C-145-09 (PLG-023-09) In the Matter of Amending Planning & Community Development Building Permit Fee Schedule

At 11:22 a.m. the Chairman opened the public hearing

Mr. Pederson said the resolution reflects an across the board 10% increase in building permit fees with a three-fold reason for the adjustment: 1) the building permit fee has not kept with inflation over the years; 2) the Department is attempting to recoup budget reductions in order to restore personnel; and, 3) begin to collect funds to purchase, implement, and train for permit tracking software that will realize efficiencies over the course of time for all permitting matters and to maintain if not enhance levels of service. An annual review of the fee schedule is planned to compare and align actual costs in conjunction with the annual budget process.

The Chairman opened the floor to public comment and following remarks either in favor or not in favor of the proposed fee schedule, and comments from staff and the Board, public comment was closed at 11:48 a.m.

Following Commissioner remarks,

IT WAS MOVED BY PRICE JOHNSON, SECONDED BY HOMOLA, to ADOPT an amended Resolution C-145-09 (PLG-023-09) increasing the building permit fees by 7% (striking 10%) with an additional 3% technology fee. The Board is committed to reviewing the schedule on an annual basis which means the potential for rollback. MOTION CARRIED: 3-0

Planning & Community Development (Record Part 1 @ 1:54:22)

Resolution C-146-09 (PLG-022-09) In The Matter of Amending Planning & Community Development Land Use Permit Fee Schedule

At 11:59 a.m. Chairman Dean opened the public hearing.

Mr. Pederson said much of the discussion on the prior item transcended the building and planning side. The resolution also contains the commitment to an annual review of the fee schedule to compare and align with actual costs in conjunction with the annual budget process.

The Chairman opened the floor to public comment and following remarks either in favor or not in favor of the proposed fee schedule, public comment was closed at 12:02 p.m.

Following Commissioner comments,

IT WAS MOVED BY HOMOLA, SECONDED BY PRICE JOHNSON, to ADOPT Resolution C-146-09 (PLG-022-09). MOTION CARRIED: 3-0

At 12:06 p.m. the Board recessed, reconvening at 1:09 p.m. for public hearings on the 2010 budget and property tax levies, continued from December 7.

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Commissioners (Record Part 2)

Continued from December 7, 2009

- Resolution C-137-09 Adopting the Island County Budget and Diking District No. 4 Budget for Fiscal Year 2010
- Ordinance C-138-09 Increasing the Taxing District's Prior Year's Levy Amount for Collection in Fiscal Year 2010 for the County Current Expense Levy.
- Ordinance C-139-09 Increasing the Taxing District's Prior Year's Levy Amount for Collection in Fiscal Year 2010 for the County Road Levy
- Ordinance C-140-09 Increasing the Taxing District's Prior Year's Levy Amount for Collection in Fiscal Year 2010 for the County Conservation Futures Levy
- Ordinance C-141-09 Increasing the Taxing District's Prior Year's Levy Amount for Collection in Fiscal Year 2010 for the County Conservation Futures Levy

*On file with the Clerk of the Board:*

- *Attendance Sheets*
- *Power Point Presentation*

Chairman Dean remarked that at the earlier public hearings he closed public comment but intended to re-open public comment today after Ms. Marlow's presentation.

Ms. Marlow spoke about her assessment of Senior Services as requested by the Board and then explained the property tax levies, taking questions from the Commissioners. She wanted to take public comment on the property tax levies but because of ongoing union negotiations, requested that the Board continue the public hearing on the budget to December 28.

The Chairman re-opened the floor to public comment on the property tax levies and following remarks either in favor or not in favor of the levies, public comment was closed at 1:44 p.m.

Following Commissioner comments and discussion,

IT WAS MOVED BY PRICE JOHNSON, SECONDED BY HOMOLA, to ADOPT Ordinance C-138-09 Increasing the Taxing District's Prior Year's Levy Amount for Collection in Fiscal Year 2010 for the County Current Expense Levy. MOTION CARRIED: 3-0

IT WAS MOVED BY HOMOLA, SECONDED BY PRICE JOHNSON, to ADOPT Ordinance C-139-09 Increasing the Taxing District's Prior Year's Levy Amount for Collection in Fiscal Year 2010 for the County Road Levy. MOTION CARRIED: 3-0

IT WAS MOVED BY HOMOLA, SECONDED BY PRICE JOHNSON (to place the issue on the table), to ADOPT Ordinance C-141-09 Increasing the Taxing District's Prior Year's Levy Amount for Collection in Fiscal Year 2010 for the County Conservation Futures Levy.

Commissioner Price Johnson believed this tax levy to be discretionary and when the issue of substantial need is less obvious when discretionary, she did not support taking the 1% this year.

MOTION CARRIED: 2-1 (Commissioner Price Johnson opposed)

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*(Ordinance C-140-09 Increasing the Taxing District's Prior Year's Levy Amount for Collection in Fiscal Year 2010 for the County Conservation Futures Levy not adopted)*

IT WAS MOVED BY HOMOLA, SECONDED BY PRICE JOHNSON, to CONTINUE the public hearing on Resolution C-137-09 Adopting the Island County Budget and Diking District No. 4 Budget for Fiscal Year 2010 to December 28 at 2:15 p.m. MOTION CARRIED: 3-0

The Chairman re-opened the floor to public comment on Resolution C-137-09 (2010 budget), with Sheriff Brown speaking to the DEM transition.

The Sheriff wanted the Board to know he has been proceeding forward with meetings and operational change of command issues in lieu of the potential decision made by the Board that the change take place January 1 (the Sheriff would absorb DEM and Mr. Hollett's position would be eliminated). He emphasized that he is not dismantling or eliminating DEM but instead, the department is being restructured.

Chairman Dean believes the issue to be one of public safety, sensing that either DEM under Mr. Hollett or DEM under the Sheriff would provide the same level of public safety. He continues to support the Sheriff in his plan as presented.

Commissioner Homola remained concerned about the Sheriff's proposal to eliminate Mr. Hollett's position. It is important to her that the Department of Emergency Management remain a department with Mr. Hollett as the Director, she does not support the Sheriff's proposal to absorb DEM.

With a considerable amount of additional information coming forward and the apparent challenges with achieving the proposal, Commissioner Price Johnson's concerns about the Sheriff's plan have raised significantly since the initial discussion. She now believes that having a professional emergency manager is what the public expects. In light of the additional information she is not in favor of the proposal to eliminate the DEM position. The Commissioner asked the Sheriff to come forward with a different proposal for his budget reduction.

The Sheriff will cease his transition due to the decisions of Commissioners Price Johnson and Homola. Ms. Marlow will work with Sheriff Brown on his next proposal. A discussion on the budget for Emergency Management will occur at the next Work Session.

Ms. Marlow next reported the results of the survey concerning office hours.

IT WAS MOVED BY PRICE JOHNSON, SECONDED BY HOMOLA, that County offices will be open to the public 9-4, Monday through Thursday, and closed to the public on Fridays for the 2010 budget year in response to budget reductions, excluding law and justice offices. Office hours will be revisited in six months at Roundtable with Elected Officials and Appointed Department Heads. MOTION CARRIED: 3-0

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COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS (Record Part 2 @ 1:27:20)

*Commissioner Price Johnson*

- State budget shortfall and commitment from Governor's office to allow local governments more flexibility.

*Commissioner Homola*

- Attended the Sailor-of-the-Year Awards with the Navy League

*Chairman Dean*

- Meeting with the North Sound Connecting Communities Project (Farmhouse Gang). \$13 billion coming down from Congress for high speed rail.

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m. The Board will meet next in Regular Session on December 21, 2009 beginning at 10:00 a.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ISLAND COUNTY, WASHINGTON

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Dean, Chairman

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Helen Price Johnson, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Angie Homola, Member

ATTEST:

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Elaine Marlow, Clerk of the Board