

**ISLAND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS - MINUTES OF MEETING  
SPECIAL SESSION – NOVEMBER 24, 1999**

The Board of Island County Commissioners met in Special Session on November 24, 1999, beginning at 3:30 p.m. The purpose of the Special Session was to consider the date and time for scheduling of a public hearing on an ordinance which would implement an additional 2% hotel-motel tax, and to discuss additional budget considerations. The Special Session was held in the Courthouse Annex, Basement Hearing Room, Coupeville, Wa. Commissioners Shelton, McDowell and Thorn were present.

**PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED: ORDINANCE #C-154-99 ESTABLISHING AND LEVYING AN ADDITIONAL TWO PERCENT SPECIAL EXCISE TAX ON LODGING FOR TOURISM PROMOTION**

By unanimous motion, the Board scheduled a public hearing for December 13, 1999 at 3:30 p.m. for the purpose of considering proposed Ordinance #C-154-99 establishing and levying an additional two percent special excise tax on lodging for tourism promotion.

[NOTE: Due to requirements for legal notice and the fact that legal ad did not make the deadline for 10 days' prior notice in the newspaper, the Board by unanimous motion at a December 1, 1999 regular staff session, rescheduled the public hearing from December 13, 1999 @ 3:30 p.m. to December 20, 1999 at 1:30 p.m.. ]

**ISLAND COUNTY BUDGET – FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

Public Works/Road Fund/ Community Development

**Board Action:**

- Road levy set at: 1.42%
- Additional Staff Requested: approved hiring one new person from the Road Fund, a right-of-way utility inspector [GMA]
- Community Development: Bring forward a discussion with the Director early next year as a management subject the matter of improving the permitting process.

Auditor's O&M Fund

Request for a new Cris+ system for the Auditor's Office, a system some 20+ other counties use and are very pleased with. **Board Action:** The Board agreed that the proposal come forward with joint approval of the Auditor and Central Services Director with a plan for the installation and coordination between the two departments so there is a compatible interface with the existing County system.

District Court

A \$65,000 expenditure to be off-set by \$65,000 in revenue. Clarification: the reason the Board previously approved a new court commissioner position and allocated \$65,000 on the expenditure side of the budget was because the District Court Judge said he could offset the expense with \$65,000 worth of new revenue, i.e. make up the extra expense by covering cases the Court may not have otherwise gotten to.

Public Health Pooling

Allocated already an additional transfer from Current Expense to Public Health Pooling in the amount of \$26,000 to ensure not having to increase fees in environmental health. Margaret Rosenkranz, Budget Director, reviewed the latest figures with the Board, now showing a deficit of \$108,562.00.

The total Current Expense Reserve is now \$325,000, including the use of the \$26,000 being transferred to Public Health Pooling. The funding needed in Public Health Pooling either has to come out of the reserve or cut services.

The 695 initiative to the Legislature has been filed, which would roll back any taxes or fee increases imposed [back to July]. Chairman Shelton has heard some Legislators say that in terms of local government the Governor will attempt to restore criminal justice and public health monies. He thought there was a general recognition throughout the State that public health is important. He thought it had to be clear that any Current Expense monies to Public Health Pooling at this time is not indicative of anything on a continuing basis.

Chairman Shelton proposed using the Current Reserve an additional \$100,000 for Public Health Pooling. Commissioner McDowell agreed as long as it was made very clear the \$100,000 was not automatically on the table next year as a contribution to Public Health Pooling.

Commissioner Thorn suggested another way would be that the Health Director address planning as if that additional \$88,000 were included, the appropriation not made now, the Board reserve judgment until later in the year, if the Legislature did not come through in the meantime.

Board Agreement: Make up the \$88,000 a one-time borrow from the County's Current Expense reserve, but if at the beginning of the biennium July 1<sup>st</sup> there is some additional State money, the \$88,000 from Current Expense Fund will not be added on top of the State money.

Meeting adjourned 4:20 p.m. Next regular meeting to be held on December 6, 1999, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ISLAND COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

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Mike Shelton, Chairman

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Wm. L. McDowell, Member

ATTEST:

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Margaret Rosenkranz, Clerk of the Board

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William F. Thorn, Member