

**ISLAND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS - MINUTES OF MEETING  
REGULAR SESSION - JANUARY 3, 2000**

The Board of Island County Commissioners (including Diking Improvement District #4) met in Regular Session on January 3, 2000, at 9:30 a.m., Island County Courthouse Annex, Hearing Room, Coupeville, Wa., with Wm. L. McDowell, Chairman, William F. Thorn, Member and Mike Shelton, Member, present.

**VOUCHERS AND PAYMENT OF BILLS**

The following vouchers/warrants were approved for payment by unanimous motion of the Board:

Year 2000 Voucher/ War. #: 65843-65866.....\$162,428.53  
 Year 1999 Voucher/War. #: 65685-65841.....\$ 68,017.28

**HIRING REQUESTS & PERSONNEL ACTIONS**

By unanimous motion, the Board approved two personnel action authorizations:

<b><u>PAA #</u></b>	<b><u>Position/Description</u></b>	<b><u>Action</u></b>	<b><u>Effective Date</u></b>
142/99	Engineering Tech III/Critical Areas/BMP monitoring #2225.02	New Position	1/3/00
145/99	Corrections Officer #4015.02	Replacement	4/4/00

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN WSU AND ISLAND  
COUNTY TO REFLECT CURRENT AMOUNT OF FUNDS  
BUDGETED FOR THE YEAR 2000**

The Board, by unanimous motion, approved Appendix "A", annual modification to the Memorandum of Agreement between Island County and Washington State University, to reflect Island County's share for the year 2000.

**COMMENTS AND CLARIFICATION WITH REGARD TO ORDINANCE  
#C-154-99 ADOPTED DECEMBER 20, 1999 - ADDITIONAL 2%  
HOTEL/MOTEL EXCISE TAX**

Chairman McDowell recalled that the County passed an ordinance on December 20, 1999, Ordinance C-154-99, establishing and levying an additional 2% special excise tax on lodging for tourism promotion. Part of the ordinance stipulated that the two cities and the town needed to pass the tax in 1999.

Concerning adoption and implementation of the additional 2% excise tax effective December 31, 1999, Commissioner Shelton moved that the Board acknowledge that the cities of Oak Harbor and Langley, and the town of Coupeville, have passed 2% additional Hotel/Motel tax in 1999 on the following dates:

Oak Harbor November 3, 1999  
 Langley December 15, 1999  
 Coupeville November 22, 1999

Commissioner Thorn seconded the motion.

Under discussion, Commissioner Thorn pointed out that Langley's adoption was an additional 1%, for a total of 2%.

Motion, as made and seconded, carried unanimously.

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT BETWEEN ISLAND COUNTY AND REID MIDDLETON, INC., FOR LIBBEY BEACH SHORE PROTECTION**

Lee McFarland, Assistant Director, GSA, requested the Board's approval on Professional Services Contract #RM-PARK-99-0098, with Reid Middleton, Inc., for final design and permitting for Libbey Beach Shore Protection, in the amount of \$58,000. He confirmed that the contract had been reviewed by the Deputy Prosecutor and Risk Manager.

By unanimous motion, the Board approved Professional Service Agreement #RM-PARK-99-0098 with Reid Middleton, Inc. as presented.

**CONTRACT BETWEEN ISLAND COUNTY AND WYNDHAM DESIGN REGARDING WILKINSON ROAD CLOSURE**

The Board approved, by unanimous motion, a Contract with Wyndham Design, Inc., Renton, for the Wilkinson Road Closure project, under CRP 99-01, in the amount of \$27,686.75, per bid awarded 12/20/99.

**PUBLIC INPUT.** The Public input portion of the meeting opened at 10:00 a.m., with approximately 7 people in attendance, identified as representing various veterans organizations.

Al Siebecke, Concrete, Wa., a member of the Disabled American Veterans of Oak Harbor, VFW and the Fleet Reserve, advised there were seven nationally chartered veterans organizations within in Island County: 2 – VFW; 2- American Legion; 1- Fleet Reserve; 1-Disabled American Veterans; and 1-American Ex-Prisoner of War .

Mr. Siebecke believed WAC 73.08.010 clearly spelled out that the responsibility for the Veteran's Relief Fund and voucher rested with the commanders of the veteran's service organizations. He was given to understand that in Island County, some of the members of the Veterans Committee are not veterans. The DAV wrote two letters to the Commissioners in the last two months raising questions on the Veterans Funds, but have yet to receive an answer. He expressed concern about the lack of levies for the Veterans Fund, only one levy in three years.

He has served on the Skagit County Veterans Advisory Council and is familiar with how the system works. As of November, Skagit County served 800 people. The veterans population of Skagit County is 11,500, and in Island County, 9,500 [based on latest census data from Washington Department of Veterans Affairs]. He did not believe the veterans were being served in Island County. Island County is so restrictive that the fund is not being used and the veterans are not being served, and the County should be tied into a social network to serve veterans. He understood it had never been the purpose of this Board to deny veterans rights under the Act and appreciated the help the Board had provided, and acknowledged it was up to the veterans organizations to be

aware of this matter. The problem he believes is that the system established in Island County does not meet the needs of veterans.

Mr. Siebecke is in the process of conducting a meeting of the seven veterans organizations in order to discuss and come up with proposed policies and procedures for administering the fund and a veterans committee responsive to the commanders of the veterans organizations. Again, he stressed that the administration and committee should be responsible to the national service organizations; input from posts and chapters reflected in the committee overseeing the fund.

James E. Burrell, Oak Harbor, past Commander, VFW Post 7392, was very appreciative of the work the commission has done and how responsible they are. He suggested that what was needed was to improve the relationship and perhaps get more veteran input into the decision-making process, with the possibility of creating a social worker position involved with contacts in the community to get the information out that this fund is available to those who need it. At the monthly Post meeting tonight, he will discuss interaction with the Opportunity Council and ask the service officer attend the up-coming staff session with the Board.

Gordon Hines, Oak Harbor, Jr. Vice Commander, DAV Chapter 47, Oak Harbor, pointed out that under R.C.W. 73.08.010, composition of the veterans committee administering the Fund is to be comprised of members appointed by Commanders of the seven veterans service organizations, subject to approval by the County Commissioners. In effect, the County Commissioners establish the levy and the Veterans Committee administers the fund.

Bert Erwin, DAV Chapter 47, Oak Harbor, handles the veterans relief claims on behalf of the chapter and felt that the fund could be used better than at present. Criteria for use of the fund needs to be changed and should be discussed at the up-coming staff session to expand the fund and the use of the fund.

Once a proposal has been prepared, Chairman McDowell invited Mr. Siebecke to contact his office to schedule a date and time for presentation and round-table discussion during one of the regularly scheduled staff sessions, a first or third Wednesday. He hoped that all service officers would attend.

Mr. Siebecke agreed, and noted his intent would be to have representatives from the seven veterans agencies, and have a consensus of opinion .

**HEARING SCHEDULED: ORDINANCE #C-01-00 [PLG-001-00] TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO ISLAND COUNTY ZONING ATLAS**

As presented by Phil Bakke, Planning Director, the Board by unanimous motion, scheduled a Public Hearing on January 24, 2000 at 2:45 p.m., to consider scheduled to consider Ordinance #C-01-00 [PLG-001-00] concerning technical amendments to the Island County Zoning Atlas, Map #277, 472, 793, 347 and 138.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board met in Executive Session at 1:30 p.m., as allowed under R.C.W. 42.30.110 (1) (i) to discuss with special legal counsel litigation, or potential litigation. The Chairman anticipated that the meeting would last approximately 45 minutes and did not think an announcement would be made in open public session on completion.

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There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, meeting adjourned 2:15 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2000 at 9:30 a.m.

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

Wm. L. McDowell, Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

William F. Thorn, Member \_\_\_\_\_

Mike Shelton, Member \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTEST:**

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Margaret Rosenkranz, Clerk of the Board

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