

**BOARD OF ISLAND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MINUTES OF MEETING
AUGUST 6, 2007 – REGULAR SESSION**

The Board of Island County Commissioners (including Diking Improvement District #4) met in Regular Session on August 6, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. in the Island County Courthouse Annex, Hearing Room, 1 N.E. 6th Street, Coupeville, Washington. Mike Shelton, Chairman, Wm. L. McDowell, Member, and John Dean, Member, were present. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. By unanimous motion the Board approved the minutes from the regular meetings of July 9, 2007 and July 16, 2007.

**ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFERS, PAYROLL, VOUCHERS AND PAYMENT OF
BILLS**

By unanimous motion, the Board approved the monthly electronic fund transfers, the payroll dated July 31, 2007, and the following vouchers/warrants:

Voucher (War.) #s: 268047-268491..... \$753,452.83
Electronic Fund Transfers: \$ 4,430.36

HIRING REQUESTS & PERSONNEL ACTIONS

As presented by Larry Larson, Human Resources Director, the Board by unanimous motion approved the following personnel action authorizations:

| Department | PAA # | Description | Position # | Action | Eff. Date |
|----------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| GSA | 094/07 | Cornet Bay Dock Manager | 1505.06 | Personnel Action (Set Salary) | 08/06/07 |
| | 095/07 | Parks Superintendent | 1501.00 | Personnel Action (Reclass) | 08/06/07 |
| Health | 096/07 | EHS II | 2407.12 | New Position | 08/06/07 |
| | 097/07 | EHS II | 2407.11 | New Position | 08/06/07 |
| | 098/07 | Department Assist | 2423.05 | New Position | 08/06/07 |
| Juvenile Court Services | 099/07 | CASA Assist .8fte | 1908.01 | Personnel Action (Increase Hours) | 08/06/07 |
| WSU Extension | 100/07 | Program Coord Weed Control | 1208.00 | Personnel Action (Increase Hours) | 08/06/07 |
| Prosecuting Atty | 101/07 | DPA I/II DOQ | 1814.00 | Replacement | 08/06/07 |
| Public Works | 102/07 | Laborer I, Bayview | 2245.07 | Replacement | 08/06/07 |

**ISLAND COUNTY DEPUTY SHERIFF'S GUILD – CORRECTIONS OFFICERS –
LABOR AGREEMENT 2005 THROUGH 2007**

For formal approval and signature of the Board, Larry Larson, Human Resources Director, presented the Island County and Island County Deputy Sheriff's Guild Agreement covering Corrections Officers for the period of January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2007. By unanimous motion, the Board approved and signed the Island County and Island County Deputy Sheriff's Guild Agreement covering Corrections Officers for the period of January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2007.

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**REAPPOINTMENT TO SERVE ON THE KEYSTONE FERRY ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

By unanimous motion, the Board reappointed Brian Martin to serve another term as a member on the Keystone Ferry Advisory Committee. The term of this reappointment shall run for four years, expiring August 31, 2011.

REAPPOINTMENT TO SERVE ON THE FERRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

By unanimous motion, the Board reappointed Doug Brand to serve another term as a member on the Ferry Advisory Committee. The term of this reappointment shall run for four years, expiring August 31, 2011.

APPOINTMENT TO SERVE ON THE NORTHWEST SENIOR SERVICES BOARD

By unanimous motion, the Board appointed Charles Schufreider to serve as a member on the Northwest Senior Services Board, filling a position that was recently vacated. The term of this appointment is effective immediately and will expire June 30, 2009.

**RESOLUTION C-84-07 PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 21-27, 2007
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY WEEK IN ISLAND COUNTY**

The Board by unanimous motion approved Resolution C-84-07 Proclaiming the Week of October 21-27, 2007 Friends of the Library Week in Island County, in recognition of the essential work done by Friends of the Library groups in Island County who promote, encourage, and enhance the work of local libraries. *[Resolution C-84-07 on file with the Clerk of the Board]*

ASSESSOR WAIVER AND CONTRACT APPROVED

The Board by unanimous motion approved a Waiver of Competitive Solicitation pursuant to ICC 2.29.030(B)(12) and approved the contract with The Master's Touch, LLC for printing and mailing the Assessor's Change of Value Notice. Term: 3-year renewable; Contract Amount: \$21,000.00/year. *[RM-ASSR-07-0148]*

**INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT WITH WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

By unanimous motion the Board approved the Interagency Agreement with the Washington State Department of Agriculture to provide Island County and its agent the Island County Noxious Weed Control Board funding for a project to control invasive knotweed species in Island County. Contract No.: IA-08-14-05; Contract Amount: \$6,000.00 *[RM-EXT-07-0131]*

PURCHASE ORDER – DICK'S RESTAURANT SUPPLY

By unanimous motion the Board approved Purchase Order No. 8100 with Dick's Restaurant Supply to purchase a CMA Dishmachines Model No. UWS-EVA-AH for the Freeland Hall in the amount of \$7,181.96, including freight and tax. *[RM-PKS-07-0138]*

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AMENDMENT TO SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH MARINE VIEW FARMS, INC.

The Board by unanimous motion approved the Amendment to Services Agreement with Marine View Farms, Inc. for the Iverson property, extending the period of performance. Contract Amount: \$0. *[RM-GSA-03-0029]*

**CONTRACT WITH BELFOR USA GROUP INC. FOR FREELAND PARK RESTROOM
REPAIRS**

By unanimous motion the Board approved a contract with Belfor USA Group Inc. for the Freeland Park restroom repairs. Contract Amount: \$12,586.70. *[RM-PKS-07-0136]*

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH CHRISTENSEN FAMILY
REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST**

The Board by unanimous motion approved the Memorandum of Understanding with the Christensen Family Revocable Living Trust for permission to store County election equipment in the Christensen Building. The Memorandum of Understanding will terminate upon the executed lease agreement. *[RM-GSA-07-0140]*

CLAIM FOR DAMAGES R07-022 CD – VERIZON

As recommended by Betty Kemp, Director GSA/Risk Management, in a memorandum dated August 6, 2007, the Board unanimously denied Claim for Damages R07-022 CD submitted by Verizon in the amount of \$3,586.33. Verizon claims that Public Works road crews damaged 36 pair, 50 pair, and 28 pair fiber optics lines which digging for culvert/conduit placement on Smugglers Cove Road in Coupeville. It was determined that the fiber optic line would not have been damaged had it been properly located and placed underneath the existing drainage culvert at its proper permitted depth. The lack of required locate tape at 36" in depth above the fiber optic line would have warned the excavation operators of fiber optic lines in the area. Additionally, two locates were called in for the area prior to the County's work. Verizon's fiber optic lines were not located.

RENEWAL # 1 TO AGREEMENT WITH CONSOLIDATED FOOD MANAGEMENT

By unanimous motion the Board approved Renewal # 1 to the Agreement with Consolidated Food Management, Inc. for food services provided to the Island County Juvenile Detention Center. Contract Amount: Per Meal Basis. *[RM-JUV-06-0083]*

**INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT WITH WASHINGTON ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS**

The Board by unanimous motion approved the Interagency Agreement with Washington Administrative Office of the Courts to increase the number of children served by court-appointed special advocates (CASA's) in dependency matters or reduce the average caseload of volunteers to recommended CASA standards. Contract No.: IAA08046; Contract Amount: \$146,052.00. *[RM-JUV-07-0133]*

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT

As recommended by Tim McDonald, Health Services Director, by memorandum dated August 1, 2007, the Board unanimously approved the following agreements:

Amendment No. 1 - Contract with Boart Longyear Company - Monitoring Network Well Installations. Contract amendment adds Change Orders #1 & #2 to the contract for monitoring well installations. Contract No. HD-02-07; Contract Amount: \$186,813.17; Amendment Amount: \$7,153.21 (*RM-HLTH-06-0119*)

Contract with KIPHS, Inc. – Electronic Client Registry and OMAHA Documentation System. Contract for client management software for Health Department Nursing Services. Contract No. HD-28-07; Contract Amount: \$30,500.00 (*RM-PA-007-0145*)

Amendment No. 3 - Contract with Department of Health – Consolidated Contract. Contract adds \$7,260.00 to the recreational beach monitoring program; \$550.00 to the WIC program; \$66,710.00 to the tobacco prevention programs; and \$8,277.00 to the public health emergency response program. Contract No. C14949; Contract Amount: \$797,027.00; Amendment Amount: \$82,797.00 (*RM-HLTH-06-0140*)

SPECIAL OCCASION LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS APPROVED

Having received recommendations of approval by the appropriate departments, the Board by unanimous motion approved forwarding a recommendation of approval to the Washington State Liquor Control Board for the following special occasion liquor license applications:

Special Occasion Liquor License No. 091224 by Camano Island Yacht Club for a special occasion to be held on August 18, 2007 from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Camano Island Yacht Club, 129 N. Sunset Dr., Camano Island, WA

Special Occasion Liquor License No. 092151 by Camano Senior Center for a special occasion to be held on August 18, 2007 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the Camano Senior Center, 606 Arrowhead Road, Camano Island, WA

Special Occasion Liquor License No. 092439 by Boy's and Girl's Club of Coupeville for a special occasion to be held on August 18, 2007 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the enclosed area at Hill & Ebey Rd. on NW field, Coupeville, WA

PUBLIC INPUT/COMMENTS

Angie Homola, 2362 Happy Lane, Oak Harbor stated that she and others have made numerous requests in writing to the County over the last month requesting data surrounding the water samples taken at the Swan Lake area but has yet to receive that information. She would like to know how she can get a copy of those results.

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She is concerned about recent activities in that area as several of the neighbors observed the Fakkemas taking the top from one of the weir boxes, removing the grate, and inspecting the water drainage system. She noticed Island County installing a drainage ditch system. Ms. Homola's daughter took photographs but was stopped by the workers and told if she is taking the pictures for the purpose of putting them in the paper, she needed to first get permission from the supervisor. Installing a drainage ditch system concerned her because a neighbor said that Dick Fakkema observed water weeping out of the side of the hill and he remarked that he needed to do something to stop the water from flowing there before the County gave it the designation of a wetland.

She also observed Jeff Tate and Dick Fakkema at the tide gates to Swan Lake "checking the tide gates." Ms. Homola said that she has not been able to get any response from Island County to her request that someone look at the tide gates for restoration of Salmon. She is curious what the purpose would be for a private landowner to develop in that watershed area and would like to be advised of what is going on because as part of the Swan Lake Watershed Preservation Group, she and others are interested in bringing Salmon back to the lake and protecting the watershed in that area.

**HEARING HELD: TRANSFER OF FRANCHISE # 318 TO FRANCHISE # 350
BETWEEN ISLAND COUNTY AND DEVIN BARRETT – SANITARY SEWER LINE**

At 10:15 a.m. as advertised, a public hearing was held for the purpose of considering a transfer of Franchise # 318 to Franchise # 350 [PW-0720-61] submitted by Devin Barrett to construct, operate, and maintain a sewer transport system located within County right-of-way in the Plat of Saratoga Beach, Division 1 located in Section 14, Twp. 30N, R 2E on Whidbey Island.

Bill Oakes, Public Works Director, reported in favor of franchise approval as requested.

There were no public comments either in support of or in opposition to approval of the franchise.

By unanimous motion, the Board approved transfer of Franchise # 318 to Franchise # 350 [PW-0720-61] submitted by Devin Barrett to construct, operate, and maintain a sewer transport system located within County right-of-way in the Plat of Saratoga Beach, Division 1 located in Section 14, Twp. 30N, R 2E on Whidbey Island.

PUBLIC WORKS

By unanimous motion the Board approved the following as recommended by Bill Oakes, Public Works Director:

Roads

Quitclaim Deed with Washington State Department of Transportation, County's Turnback Agreement No. TB1-0181. [PW-0720-69]

Purchase Order No. 8153 with Signal Electric, Inc. for an Induction Loop at East Camano Drive and Cross Island Road. Amount: \$6,000.00, excluding sales tax which is exempt because it is work within a right-of-way.

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Resolution C-85-07 /R-33-07 in the Matter of Amending CRP 07-04(A) for 2007 HMA Overlays on Whidbey Island. Work Order No. 413; Total Appropriation: \$881,000.00 [*Resolution on file with the Clerk of the Board*]

Adopt-A-Road Litter Control Program

Renewal with Central Whidbey Lions; Engle Road from Coupeville City limits to Fort Casey Road

Renewal with Central Whidbey Lions; West Beach Road from Libbey Road to Van Dam Road

Renewal with Central Whidbey Lions; Libbey Road from SR 20 to the end of Libbey Road

Drainage

Resolution C-86-07/R-34-07 in the Matter of Initiating a County Drainage Project designated as CDP 07-02, Work Order No. 408; Ewing Road Culvert Replacement. Total Appropriation: \$150,000.00. [*Resolution on file with the Clerk of the Board*]

[Resolution R-35-07 in the Matter of Approving Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Call for Bids for Camano Annex Drainage Improvements, Work Order No. 321 pulled from today's agenda.]

**HEARING HELD: ORDINANCE C-80-07 (PLG-018-07) IN THE MATTER OF AN
ORDINANCE CONCERNING TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO THE ISLAND
COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FUTURE LAND USE MAP AND THE ISLAND
COUNTY ZONING ATLAS, MAPS # 153 AND # 958**

At 10:30 a.m. as scheduled, a Public Hearing was held to consider adoption of Ordinance C-80-07 (PLG-018-07) in the Matter of an Ordinance Concerning Technical Amendments to the Island County Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map and the Island County Zoning Atlas, Maps # 153 and # 958.

Jeff Tate, Assistant Director of Planning and Community Development, began by saying that the Zoning Atlas was adopted in 1998, was created by hand, and is a result of interpretation of data, aerial photographs, and known land use. He said when working with site specific issues, on occasion, there is information before the County that reveals an error was made when applying designation criteria to individual parcels. Two such corrections are necessary to parcel R13222-215-0660, which is currently zoned Rural in the County's comprehensive plan and parcel R33218-183-4610, which is a 30-acre piece of property zoned Rural Forest on North Camano Island.

Concerning the first parcel, R13222-215-0660, Mr. Tate explained that the property was in the Penn Cove Sewer District on December 1, 1998 when the current code and comprehensive plan went into effect. The Sewer District provided evidence that showed that the property was within the Sewer District effective March 4, 1957. He said that the designation criteria for Rural Residential lands includes parcels that are in sewer districts and also parcels that are adjacent to

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subdivisions and planned residential developments. Roads are also considered. Mr. Tate said that this property meets the designation criteria because of its inclusion of the sewer and water districts and the fact that it is adjacent to other high density development and bounded by the road.

Mr. Tate continued by saying that when the code was adopted in 1998 the rezone criteria to be removed from the Rural Forest/Rural Agriculture/Commercial Agriculture zoning designation was to pay back taxes. The rezone criteria changed in 1999. Prior to that change the landowner of parcel R33218-183-4610 correctly removed the land from the tax program but never followed up to be removed from the zoning designation. This is a technical correction to acknowledge that action by the landowner. Mr. Tate confirmed for the Chairman that 20 acres stays in Rural Forest and 10 acres comes out to Rural.

There were no public comments either in support of or against the adoption of Ordinance C-80-07 [PLG-017-07].

By unanimous motion the Board approved Ordinance C-80-07 [PLG-018-07] in the Matter of an Ordinance Concerning Technical Amendments to the Island County Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map and the Island County Zoning Atlas, Maps # 153 and # 958 [GMA Record # 9437]

GRANT AGREEMENT WITH SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD

Immediately following the public hearing Mr. Tate presented for the Board's approval a Grant Agreement with the Salmon Recovery Funding Board for the Strawberry Point Protection Assessment. He explained that in 2006 the County applied for salmon recovery funding dollars for the project at Strawberry Point which is a five to six mile stretch of shoreline on the north and east side of Whidbey Island. It is a fairly undeveloped intact area on the landward side and a robust, intact, and existing salmon potential on the seaward side.

The Board by unanimous motion approved the Grant Agreement with the Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board for the Strawberry Point Protection Assessment. Project No. 06-2217N; Contract Amount: \$211,900.00 [RM-PLAN-07-0091] [GMA Record # 9438]

HEARING SCHEDULED TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE C-87-07[PLG-017-07] IN THE MATTER OF AMENDING CHAPTER 17.02 AND 17.03 ICC, THE ISLAND COUNTY CRITICAL AREAS AND ZONING ORDINANCES AND THE ISLAND COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO ADDRESS LAND USE COMPATIBILITY SURROUNDING NAVAL AIR STATION WHIDBEY ISLAND

By unanimous motion the Board scheduled a public hearing on August 27, 2007 at 2:30 p.m. to consider the adoption of Ordinance C-87-07[PLG-017-07] in the Matter of Amending Chapter 17.02 and 17.03 ICC, the Island County Critical Areas and Zoning Ordinances and the Island County Comprehensive Plan to Address Land Use Compatibility Surrounding Naval Air Station Whidbey Island.

HEARINGS SCHEDULED TO CONSIDER OPEN SPACE TIMBER LAND CURRENT USE PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

By unanimous motion the Board scheduled two public hearings on August 27, 2007 at 2:30 p.m. to consider the following Open Space Timber Land Current Use Program Applications:

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OPS 522/06 – Suzannah Dalzell – requesting that 27 acres of the 28 acre parcel be reclassified from the Open Agriculture program into the Public Benefit Rating System current use program. Parcel R32935-450-0630 located on South Whidbey Island.

OPS 056/07 – Vicki & Glenn Hoffman – requesting that 5.5 acres of the 7.00 acre parcel be accepted into the Open Timber current use program. Parcel R13231-111-1070 located on Central Whidbey Island.

**HEARING HELD: ORDINANCE C-78-07 ESTABLISHING SALES AND USE TAX TO
FINANCE CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY OR MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT
SERVICES AND THERAPEUTIC COURTS**

As scheduled and advertised, a public hearing was held to consider adoption of Ordinance C-78-07 Establishing Sales and Use Tax to Finance Chemical Dependency or Mental Health Treatment Services and Therapeutic Courts.

There were approximately 52 people in attendance including three on Camano Island via video-conferencing and two from the press. *[Attendance sheets on file with the Clerk of the Board]*

Chairman Shelton opened the public hearing by saying that on July 9, 2007 a public meeting was held during which the Mental Health Initiative Task Force gave a Power Point presentation to explain exactly what would happen, how the money would be spent, as a result of enacting the ordinance. Before beginning the public hearing the Chairman first confirmed there was not someone in the audience who missed the July 9 meeting and who wished to see the Power Point presentation. Only one gentleman raised his hand but said it was not necessary to show the presentation merely for his benefit. With no one in the audience desiring to see the Power Point presentation, the public hearing proceeded.

Chairman Shelton then reminded those in attendance that their public testimony from the July 9 presentation is a matter of public record and it is not necessary to again reiterate those comments. He added, however, that if someone wished to speak to something new or was not able to attend the July 9 presentation, the floor is certainly open.

Richard Bryan, 760 Labrador Lane, Coupeville, inquired as to how the results will be measured in services created by the new tax. He asked, “What are the primary specific and measurable positive results you expect from investing another million dollars a year roughly of the taxpayers’ money in improving mental health and reducing chemical dependency. Key point is results, not activities. Saving \$350,000 is a result. Putting part time experts in each of the four school districts is an activity, not a result.”

Chairman Shelton responded by saying that the drug courts and mental health courts in existence are very successful in getting people off dependency of abuse by controlled substances. In terms of schools, there are a multitude of problems. If addressed early while students are young, there is a better chance at long term success when dealing with students with mental illness by putting a prevention piece into the mental health arena where there has never been one before. He said that the current mental health system is financed primarily through Medicaid and is not a preventative program, in fact, in order to become Medicaid eligible in the mental health field one must be seriously mentally ill. Additionally, the program will offer services to people who are neither

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Medicaid eligible or have insurance. There is a huge population in Island County of those suffering from mental illness.

Jackie Henderson, Director of Human Services, Island County Public Health said they are hoping to begin to help people who are either underinsured or uninsured. She believes with the money generated from the tax they will be able to provide mental health services to 250-300 people, people diagnosed with mental illness with no means to pay for any mental health help. With respect to professionals in the schools, while it is still unclear exactly how many kids and families the professionals will see, she believes it will be in the hundreds. The professionals will not only provide treatment in the schools, but will refer those in need to other community programs and services. She said it is a known fact that if people in the jails with a mental illness, who have a chemical dependency issue, are assessed and receive services prior to leaving jail, the chances are much better they will continue with the services once released. The exact number of people, however, is not yet known. And lastly, with respect to seniors, she believes an outreach to 25-50 seniors is possible who are abusing alcohol, mixing medications with alcohol, or who are depressed. Ms. Henderson believes it is the morally and economic thing to do.

Mr. Bryan then asked, “At the end of year one or year two of the program, how will we know how successful it’s been?”

Commissioner Dean responded to Mr. Bryan’s question by saying that in the business of treating mental health, it is difficult to know sometimes the impact though the evidence is there that if help is received by those who need it, there is an impact. He believes if one or two teenagers are saved from suicide then the program is a success.

Mr. Bryan thinks objectives should be set for the hard numbers and those keeping track should return at the end of year one or second year and ask “did we hit it or didn’t we?” He is concerned about this program or any program where there has not been set in the beginning clear objectives.

Commissioner Dean believes it would take a decade to know the impact.

Commissioner McDowell agrees the numbers should be measured of those going into treatment versus the previous numbers so that over the years one can see if the program is working.

Ms. Henderson fully agreed and said that data will be kept on each of the programs.

Mr. Bryan then asked if a comparison has been done of the money spent now compared to how much will be spent under the new program.

The Chairman said what is frustrating to him concerning mental health is that at the local level, little input can be given as to how money is spent in the local community. Those decisions are made at the state and federal levels. The mental health program for the five-county region which includes Snohomish, Skagit, Whatcom, San Juan, and Island County is \$55,000,000, however, the Medicaid money must be spent according to Medicaid rules and the state money is siloed so the needs are determined elsewhere. He said the Task Force has done an excellent job in defining the areas of need in Island County that are not being addressed.

Mr. Bryan continued by asking, “Because this law is very specific to this subject, the alternative is to do it or not do it is that correct?” Chairman Shelton replied “that is correct.”

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Lastly, Mr. Bryan asked, “Is there any intent to allow taxpayers to express their views other than in this hearing?”

Chairman Shelton said that when the legislature enacted the opportunity to increase the sales tax to address mental health it also made it a decision of the legislative body of the counties. Five or six other counties have already adopted the measure and there are other counties considering it. He said it is not necessary according to legislation to put it out for a public vote and the Board does not intend to do so.

Mary Sanford, 3124 Forest Lane, Langley, spoke in favor of the ordinance. She said that in this country every 18 minutes, someone commits suicide. The Board has an opportunity before it to prevent several of those deaths from occurring with the help of the proposed programs. Mental illness has nothing to do with weakness or personal choice, but has everything to do with biology and genetic makeup and how those things intersect with events in daily lives. As a former college professor and former associate dean she has seen many disturbed students and colleagues who were too ashamed to get needed treatment or who could not afford it. She believes the Board can make a difference by adopting the ordinance, a difference sometimes hard to measure in someone’s life. Ms. Sanford said we must keep an eye on our neighbors and reach out to those we think are in need of help.

Elaine Woods, Newman Road in Freeland is in support of help for the mentally ill in the jails. She would like to see law enforcement out on the streets helping those in need instead of spending time in the jails.

Bill Rauls, 429 Shumway Road, Camano, is on the Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Board and is nothing but impressed at what is being done on the County level toward this end. He believes this is a rare opportunity for something good to be done on the County level and is more than willing to spend the extra money and make the effort.

Helen Price Johnson, 6695 Cliffordsville, Clinton serves as the Director of the South Whidbey School District and is in support of the measure. She said we are paying for mental illness in the schools today and it continues to increase at the secondary and primary levels so the need is great. She believes mental illness not only affects the students, but also those around them. There will be measurable results.

David Wilder, 7056 S. Heggenes Road, Clinton, is a clinical social worker on Whidbey. Mr. Wilder read the following letter from SEIU 1199 NW:

Dear Commissioners:

We, the undersigned leaders of SEIU 1199NW and mental health workers at Compass Health, urge you to adopt the proposed Ordinance Establishing Sales and Use Tax to Finance Chemical Dependency or Mental Health Treatment Services and Therapeutic Courts. We represent 350 mental health workers at Compass Health, including 44 individuals who serve people in Island County.

As front line community mental health workers, we know that adequate funding for mental health and chemical dependency treatment is desperately needed because it is fiscally sound to provide these services in our community rather than through significantly more expensive institutional settings. We believe that providing prevention services to children will make our communities a better place to live for all our citizens.

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We are committed to building a quality mental health system that provides affordable, accessible services for all who need them.

During this past legislative session, we worked in Olympia to increase funding for mental health services in our state, and we were successful. Our success results from the high level of participation among frontline community mental health workers, and also because we were able to work collaboratively with our management to achieve common goals.

We think that this is just a first step in creating a mental health system that allows access to mental health services and treatment for all those in need, services, that promote recovery and resilience, have reasonable caseloads, and fair pay, benefits and respect for all workers.

We will work with consumers, advocates, and all allies who share our vision.

Thank you for taking the time to consider making this historic leap forward in funding mental health services in our county.

[Letter on file with the Clerk of the Board]

Patricia Terry, 271 Richmond Lane, Camano, has been a registered nurse for 30 years and her work has included quality oversight with children and adolescents in treatment. She learned that the human psyche is extremely fragile, especially when young in life. She believes that those struggling with mental health illness, especially depression, seek physical health care first and may go to their physician many times before their situation is diagnosed as a behavioral health problem and not a body problem.. She said it is important to think about those lost opportunities and encouraged the Board the vote in favor of the tax.

Diane Kendy, 4200 Archwood Court, Langley supports the measure and congratulates the Board for bringing it to a vote. She does not agree, however, with the method of financing. She believes it is not equitable and is unfair to finance mental health with a sales tax. But with the fragmented state of the health care system in this country she said “this is the best we can do” so nevertheless supports it.

Terry Ann Gallagher, 1101 NE Lovejoy Street, Coupeville said one in 3-4 girls and one in five males are molested before age 18. It happens within the family and goes unseen. Post traumatic stress disorder is another issue that strikes families and is prevalent today. Both issues would fall under and be helped by the new program.

Bill Thorn, 1020 Sandy Beach Drive, Camano, acknowledged Chairman Shelton’s position in the mental health community both regionally and statewide as well as at home. Mr. Thorn supports the ordinance and likes the focus on prevention activities, especially in the area of senior outreach. He said there is a loneliness and isolation program in Whatcom County for seniors that hopefully over time will demonstrate an impact on depression. Mr. Thorn also mentioned that the Island County United Way is going to sponsor a forum on October 23 in Oak Harbor at the United Methodist Church and he would encourage participation if at all possible. The focus will be carrying on with the identification of gaps in the system and implementation of how the community can be better served in the mental health area. He solicits approval of the ordinance.

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BOARD COMMENTS:

Commissioner Dean believes there has been clear evidence of the unmet needs in the community, especially noticed by those involved in the human services field where they continually see it in the jails and in the emergency rooms when people have no where else to go. There is majority support for the ordinance in Island County and he also supports it.

Commissioner McDowell said there is no doubt this is a good program primarily because local people get to decide where the dollars will do the most good. He has one objection, however, and that is the method of funding. The state has recognized that it is short in funding counties but rather than help by providing some of the state surplus, it instead allows the passage of the 1/10th of 1% sales tax. He believes the dollars raised in Island County per person will be much less than what Skagit County, as an example, would be able to gather. In his opinion it is a poor way to fund something that affects every Washington County. Regardless, he supports the ordinance.

Chairman Shelton said that in his 15 years this is the second time the Board has taken a tax vote by the sales tax route. There were other tax votes but in the early 90s there was a vote for a 1/10th of 1% tax increase for criminal justice. While this is not labeled a criminal justice vote, the Chairman believes what people are recognizing is that we cannot build enough jails and we cannot hire enough police. This program is something that takes the neediest population in the County and directs dollars toward pulling them back into the mainstream of society. He added that the stigma around mental health continues to exist but positive strides are being made to reduce that stigma. The amount of money the ordinance will raise will be a giant step forward toward understanding that people who are mentally ill need all the same things generally accepted as the requirements to live a meaningful life. Chairman Shelton is in total support of the ordinance and believes it is a wonderful opportunity for the community to do something for people who are in very desperate need.

By unanimous motion the Board approved Ordinance C-78-07 Establishing Sales and Use Tax to Finance Chemical Dependency or Mental Health Treatment Services and Therapeutic Courts.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m. The next regular meeting of the Board will be on August 13, 2007 at 9:30 a.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ISLAND COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Mike Shelton, Chairman

ATTEST:

Wm. L. McDowell, Member

Elaine Marlow
Clerk of the Board

John Dean, Member