

**BOARD OF ISLAND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MINUTES OF MEETING
JULY 27, 2009 – REGULAR SESSION**

The Board of Island County Commissioners convened in Regular Session at 11:00 a.m. on July 27, 2009 for a Roundtable with Elected Officials and Appointed Department Heads, held in the Board of County Commissioners Hearing Room, Annex Building, 1 NE 6th Street, Coupeville, Washington. Other topics for the Regular Session followed at 2:00 p.m. as shown on the agenda. John Dean, Chairman, Helen Price Johnson, Member, and Angie Homola, Member were present.

**ROUNDTABLE WITH ISLAND COUNTY
ELECTED OFFICIALS AND APPOINTED DEPARTMENT HEADS**

Elected Officials and Appointed Department Heads Attending:

Greg Banks	Sharon Franzen	Dave Mattens
Robert Bishop – <i>Excused</i>	Jackie Henderson	Mike Merringer – <i>Excused</i>
Mark Brown	Keith Higman	Bill Oakes
Cathy Caryl – <i>Excused</i>	Angie Homola	Helen Price Johnson
Sheilah Crider	Betty Kemp	Linda Riffe
John Dean	Larry Larson	Dan Sherk – <i>Excused</i>
Judy Feldman	Elaine Marlow	

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Planning Director

Chairman Dean mentioned the recent article in the Whidbey Examiner concerning the Planning Director process and the sub-headline that said the Board was not aware that Mr. Pederson was dismissed from his job and/or laid off because of budget cuts or change in politics. He underscored Mr. Pedersen's abilities, his experience with San Juan County and the GMA, and the fact that he will fit in well with the Island County family. The newspaper editor apologized for the sub-headline and will print a letter in response from the Board. Mr. Pedersen will begin his work with the County on August 17.

Human Resources

Mr. Larson indicated that misunderstandings were expressed about conflicts of interest, outside employment, and working with sub-taxing districts and agencies for which the County controls funds. In response, following conversations with the Board, Mr. Larson re-drafted relevant policies for clarification which he provided to the group (*Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy, Outside Employment Policy*). He asked that the assembly, when time allowed, review the re-drafted policies and provide comment by August 3. Mr. Larson will include the information requested by Commissioner Homola regarding employees who decide to leave voluntarily then return as a consultant no sooner than six months to a year thereafter.

Mr. Larson attended the WCIF/WCIP meeting, along with Commissioner Price Johnson, and a number of changes were voted on that affect the medical plan in two areas. Currently the County is paying on a 6-tier rate structure (employee/employee-spouse/employee-spouse-one child/employee-spouse-two children/employee-one child/employee-two children). It was voted to change that policy to a 4-tier rate structure (employee/employee-spouse/employee-child/employee-spouse-child). Another change will include self-auditing each year of dependent

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status to make sure the County is following the guidelines of what is and what is not a dependent status. That change will involve everyone at open enrollment completing new forms.

Miscellaneous

The assembly was asked, for the purpose of streamlining the roundtable discussion, that Ms. Henderson or Ms. Feldman be notified if comments are expected to last more than two minutes. Those items requiring more time will be placed on an agenda.

ROUNDTABLE

Auditor

The State Auditors are finishing up their work but no date set as of yet for the exit conference. The Voter's Guide is available on-line and printed copies will be available by the 29th at major locations throughout the county. Volunteer paid election workers are needed should anyone know of someone who would like to help.

Assessor

Mr. Mattens reported wrapping up the 30-day appeal period; a significant number of appeals were received. Staff are out with new construction and are also working with the new responsibility of current use and open space. The Board of Equalization hearing schedule is forthcoming and the mapping division continues its work to reduce backlog. Technology remains an issue. Mr. Mattens will be out of the office the second week of August at a conference.

Budget Director

Ms. Marlow awaits budget worksheets from departments. She thanked everyone for their cooperation to help Commissioners' staff obtain meeting agendas.

Commissioners

Commissioner Homola

- Commissioner Homola reported that she will be out of town as of Wednesday through the week so please let her know of any pressing issues beforehand.
- She spoke about an opportunity that exists for grant monies for small counties from the energy grant program. The Council of Governments, the umbrella over the Sustainable Whidbey Coalition (SWC), has taken on working with other jurisdictions, the Town of Coupeville and Island County to try to qualify for that funding. The SWC will hire a grant writer in an effort to obtain up to \$135,000 per city, town and county.

Commissioner Price Johnson

- Commissioner Price Johnson followed up concerning the issue of restructuring. Since technology seemed to be the overarching issue that issue will be the first she will bring forward for discussion. Consideration will be given to re-forming the technology committee.

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Mr. Banks commented that what he thought was lacking relative to technology, and as similarly concluded by Moss Adams, was that technology policies sometimes are driven by project level decisions instead of the other way around. If a committee is re-formed he believes the committee should fill that role and should have some authority in that regard.

General Services Administration

The current priority is to schedule the Board of Equalization hearings four days a week with some mini-boards taking place. The hope is to conclude all hearings prior to Christmas.

Health

- Mr. Higman mentioned a resolution the Board will consider at its afternoon meeting to formally move the resource enhancement program (service water quality monitoring and salmon recovery programs) from Planning to the Health Department effective Aug 1.
- He encouraged everyone to contact staff or Dr. Case concerning any health related issues or questions (flu or otherwise) instead of relying on information from the media. A flu vaccine is anticipated to be available in the fall but not before school starts. He encouraged immunizations for all and will advise once more information is received.

Human Resources

The roundtable meeting on August 24 will include a 45 minute presentation by Magellan, an update on what is available through the employee assistance program.

Human Services

Regardless of how people feel about the Transit issue Ms. Henderson reminded everyone that there are a number of people with developmental disabilities, mental illness, seniors, and vulnerable adults who for them, the Transit is their only mode of transportation. Without the transit, they will not be able to get to and from their jobs and be out of work on unemployment. Receiving treatment would also be difficult.

Prosecuting Attorney

Mr. Banks mentioned that an editorial in the Whidbey News-Times was incorrect concerning the number of expected voter fraud cases. He said the Auditor's office does an incredible job of checking ballots and signatures and catching a lot of questionable ballots at the outset of the process. He believes all should feel confident that the number of voter fraud is actually low.

Public Works

Public Works is currently working with the City of Oak Harbor, Coupeville and Langley by way of the stimulus packages in terms of pavement preservation and the Ault Field Road project, both under contract

Sheriff

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Sheriff Brown echoed Mr. Banks comments about the number of actual voter fraud in Island County.

Treasurer

The State Auditors are concluding their work. Staff continues to do well despite cuts.

WSU/Extension

The process may begin soon to hire a permanent director

Roundtable adjourned at 11:55 a.m. The next Roundtable is scheduled for August 24, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.

The Board of Island County Commissioners (including Diking Improvement District #4) met at 2:00 p.m. to consider items contained on the agenda. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gerald Betts attended to offer a short presentation on property tax valuation and taxation. (*Hand-outs provided and on file with the Clerk of the Board*). He requested the Board give consideration to the following three points:

- Real property taxation should be uniform and equitable and the underlying property assessment process should also be uniform and equitable.
- The assessed value of the property must be 100% of the fair and true market value as determined by the highest authority.
- The appeal process should be changed in three ways:
 - Allow property owners to submit assessed valuations for comparable properties as evidenced at BOE and BTA hearings;
 - Expand the time allowed for property owners to file Form A or require the Assessor's office to submit comps to property owners within five calendar days of requesting the information; and
 - Allow property owners to challenge the rate of taxation compared to similar properties.

Chairman Dean thanked Mr. Betts for his presentation, commenting that the Board and the Assessor's office have a distinction between them that both are elected officials; the Assessor does not work for the Board of County Commissioners, he works more in this particular area for the State. Regardless, he said, the Board and Mr. Mattens work well together as a team so the two will talk about the ideas presented at possibly an upcoming Work Session. Chairman Dean suspects there will need to be some effort working with the State Legislature as he does not believe the County has the authority to do as Mr. Betts suggests.

Commissioner Homola commented that she was impressed with the hard work put forth by Mr. Betts. She is confident that Mr. Mattens, who was also in the audience to hear the presentation, will consider the comments and provide a response as will the Board.

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CONSENT AGENDA

By unanimous motion the Board approved the Consent Agenda as follows with the exception of item 17, *Contract Collection Agreement with Whidbey Island Bank for On-Site Repair Financial Assistance Program (Younce)*, pulled from the agenda:

ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFERS, VOUCHERS, PAYMENT OF BILLS

Vouchers (War) #s 315839-316097	\$416,739.92
Electronic Fund Transfers.....	\$1,424.00

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Work Session – May 13, 2009

CENTRAL SERVICES

Purchase Order No. 7668 Gov Connection for purchase of Barracuda Message Archiver. Amount: \$7,236.92 (RM-CS-09-0329)

EXTENSION SERVICES

Amendment No. 1 to Services Agreement Second Renewal with Porter Group LLC to include additional work on Island County Marine Resources Committee UW Keystone Project; Amendment Amount: \$875 (RM-WSU-09-0330)

Services Agreement with Dan Pedersen for Island County Marine Resources Committee Communications Manager; Amount: \$29,000

HUMAN SERVICES

Contract with WA State DSHS/DASA – Alcohol & Substance Abuse Treatment & Prevention. Biennium contract provides funding for community alcohol, drug and chemical dependency prevention services in Island County. DSHS Agreement No. 0963-68036; Contract Amount: \$938,349 (RM-HS-09-0310)

Contract with Phoenix Recovery Services, LLC – Substance Abuse Treatment and Crisis Services. Contract to provide community substance abuse and crisis services in Island County. Contract Number HS-06-09; Contract Amount: \$371,672 (RM-HS-09-0308)

Contract with Phoenix Recovery Services, LLC – Substance Methamphetamine Treatment Services. Contract to provide substance abuse treatment services for persons with methamphetamine addiction in Island County. Contract Number HS-013-09; Contract Amount: \$85,000 (RM-HS-09-0294)

PUBLIC HEALTH

Contract with Opportunity Council – Early Learning Program. Island County Health to provide child behavior consultation, develop STARS workshops, facilitate Baby Connections groups and

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provide staff educational opportunities. Contract No. HD-09-09; Contract Amount: \$7,992 *(RM-HLTH-09-0286)*

Contract with WA State Department of Health – Consolidated Contract. Contract continues biennium funding of \$101,310 for the tobacco program, \$11,679 for WIC, and \$100,000 one-time funding for small on-site maintenance program implementation. Contract No. C14949, Amendment No. 16; Contract Amount: \$2,498,790, Amendment Amount: \$212,989 *(RM-HLTH-09-0292)*

Contract with WA State DSHS – Early Intervention Program. Contract continues child abuse prevention program at a reduced level of funding. Contract No. 0963-67119; Contract Amount: \$16,667 *(RM-HLTH-09-0323)*

Contract with WA State DSHS – Early Family Support Services. Contract continues home visits by a public health nurse to Child Protective Services referral families at the current level of service. Contract No. 0963-68651; Contract Amount: \$10,374 *(RM-HLTH-09-0324)*

Contract with WA State DSHS – Foster Care Public Health Nurse Services. Contract continues ‘Passport’ program at a reduced level of funding and for a reduced 6-month period. Contract No. 0963-68665; Contract Amount: \$10,250 *(RM-HLTH-09-0325)*

Contract with WA State Department of Ecology – On-Site Financial Assistance Program. Amendment extends the contract period to facilitate funding two loans/repairs that are currently in process. Contract No. L0600020, Amendment 1; Contract Amount: \$300,000, Amendment Amount: \$-0- *(RM-HLTH-09-0326)*

Contract Collection Agreement with Whidbey Island Bank for On-Site Repair Financial Assistance Program (Ridley)

Contract Collection Agreement with Whidbey Island Bank for On-Site Repair Financial Assistance Program (Soyke)

PUBLIC WORKS

County Roads

Resolution C-93-09/R-38-09 In the Matter of Initiating a County Road Project CRP 09-01, Work Order No. 460; 2009 Camano Island Overlays *(Resolution on file with the Clerk of the Board)*

Resolution C-94-09/R-39-09 In the Matter of Initiating a County Road Project CRP 09-02, Work Order No. 461; 2009 Whidbey Island Overlays *(Resolution on file with the Clerk of the Board)*

Bid Award – 2009 Camano Island HMA Overlays; CRP 09-01, Work Order No. 460; Award to Associated Asphalt, Inc.; \$333,302.00

Bid Award – 2009 Whidbey Island HMA Overlays; CRP 09-02, Work Order No. 461; Award to Krieg Construction, Inc.; \$1,312,246.57

Bid Award – ARRA Funded Roadway Preservation; CRP 09-094, Work Order No. 463; Award to Associated Asphalt, Inc.; \$253,110.00

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Interagency Agreement – Island County & City of Langley; Work provided as part of the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) 2009; CRP 09-04, Work Order 463 (RM-PW-09-0279) *(PW-0920-121)*

Supplemental Agreement No. 5 – Herman Traffic Engineering; Maximum Amount Payable \$463,375.00; Completion Date Marcy 31, 2010 (RM-PW-09-0314) *(PW-0920-127)*

Adopt-A-Road Litter Control Program – Camano Hills Families (T. Burkart); Camano Hill Road from East Camano Drive to Chase Road

Public Hearing Scheduled – August 24, 2009 – 2:15 p.m.

Franchise #347 – Maxwellton Beach Water System Group; existing water distribution system; Maxwellton Road; Sec. 5, Twp 29N, R 3E (RM-PW-09-0248) *(PW-0920-113)*

Public Hearing Scheduled – August 24, 2009 – 2:15 p.m.

Franchise #371 – David L & Carol L. Moe; new franchise for sewer transport/collection system; Beachwood Drive & Ravenridge Drive; Plat of Harbor Sands, Division No. 1; Sec.2, Twp 29N, R 2E. (RM-PW-09-0249) *(PW-0920-114)*

LIQUOR LICENSES

Assumption of Liquor License No. 355161-3D from John Thomas Coupe and Mary Frances Coupe, d/b/a Coupe's Greenbank Store, to Ruth Katherine Buzard, the Greenbank Store, LLC, Tradename: The Greenbank Store, 25189 SR 525, #102, Greenbank, WA 98253

Application for Special Occasion Liquor License No. 091765 by WSU (Lighthouse Environmental Programs) for a special occasion to be held August 7, 2009 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and August 8 & 9, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Lavender Wind Farm (enclosed area), 2530 Darst Rd., Coupeville.

REGULAR AGENDA

Public Health

RESOLUTION C-95-09 ASSIGNING MANAGEMENT AND SUPERVISION OF ISLAND COUNTY SURFACE WATER QUALITY AND SALMON RECOVERY PROGRAMS TO THE ISLAND COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR

The Board agreed the move to be a positive one for the water quality of Island County.

By unanimous motion the Board approved Resolution C-95-09 Assigning Management and Supervision of Island County Surface Water Quality and Salmon Recovery Programs to the Island County Public Health Director. *(Resolution on file with the Clerk of the Board)*

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COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Dean

- *Puget Sound Regional Council - Dues*

Chairman Dean received a call from Chris Strow with the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) regarding dues. The County pays dues to the PSRC but past Boards have declined to pay an additional \$45 in dues to the Economic Development District. The County joined the PSRC in 1992, specifically to talk about the issue of flights at Paine Field. In 2003 the PSRC joined the Economic Development District (EDD). Mr. Strow asked for County membership (as an advocate) on a committee that is working military installation issues (it is unclear if the committee is part of the PSRC or EDD). The Chairman's concern, and as pointed out by Sharon Hart with the local EDC, is that the South Sound Economic Development District is concerned about bringing money to King County and other larger counties; there has not been a reason for Island County to participate or attempt to have a voice at the table.

Commissioner Price Johnson explained that the County has a seat at the table with the PSRC but the Economic Development District is separate and Island County is not a voting member. She believes more information is necessary from Mr. Strow as to what is and is not involved with the membership. If for \$45 the Board has a seat at the table and a vote around military installation advocacy and economic stimulus, and if there is a chance that membership would put the County in a place that would be advantageous, then paying the dues would make sense. If not, the Commissioner wondered about a regional North Sound district instead.

Commissioner Homola asked about any known impacts to Camano Island surrounding flights at Paine Field, questioning if membership would have any relationship or say to that issue.

Chairman Dean felt that flights have a connection with the PSRC but not the Economic Development District since its role is to bring money to the counties in the South Sound and to promote economic development.

The Board decided to hold off on its decision to pay the additional \$45 dues to the Economic Development District until Ms. Marlow has an opportunity to speak with Mr. Strow and address the questions presented.

- *Green Energy*

Chairman Dean wondered about some promotion by Island County to support the concept of the green energy challenge agreed to at a recent Council of Governments meeting.

Commissioner Price Johnson indicated that due to the County's current financial situation, no staff person is assigned to the task. She is hopeful that grant money will buy time with someone working on the issue with one of the other jurisdictions.

Commissioner Homola added that the concept did not come across correctly at the Council of Governments meeting about how to purchase energy credits. Mr. Blackford, in a meeting with Commissioner Homola, agreed that the wording on signs needed to be changed because they read as though one is using 100% renewable energy which is not correct. She does not like to provide

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false information and is frustrated that people are not aware of the details of the effort; i.e., that people are thinking they are buying into the concept of “free” energy but instead are paying for it. She hopes the Board will step up to the plate with renewable energy ordinances for wind driven or solar energy and put into place a mechanism for the public to be able to be entrepreneurs without having to go through a grant process.

Commissioner Price Johnson indicated that the Council of Governments took action to support the effort so regardless of any reservation, she believes a way should be found to back the effort. Buying credits toward green power is a positive step and ultimately achieves the end result. And with no other alternative for electrical power on Whidbey, the vote to champion the effort was a good one in her opinion. She would like to find ways to make it happen so the grant could be awarded to someone in Island County.

Chairman Dean will follow-up with Mr. Blackford concerning ways to promote the green energy challenge concept.

Commissioner Homola

- *Emergency Management Plan*

Commissioner Homola reported on the recent Emergency Management Plan meeting. Mr. Hollett asked that departments review the revised draft Emergency Management Plan (available on-line) by category specific to each and provide comment.

Ms. Marlow suggested that Mr. Hollett send Department Heads and Elected Officials an e-mail with that request. Commissioner Homola will take the lead to respond on behalf of the Board.

- *Northwest Regional Council*

A letter was received from the Northwest Regional Council requesting a budget increase of \$1,979. The funding is to maintain repeater sites and radio equipment for the Island County Sheriff.

Commissioner Price Johnson

- *Broadband*

Commissioner Price Johnson is nudging the Economic Development Council to take advantage of available broadband stimulus grant money. Contact was made with Betty Buckley who is helping at the state level to coordinate. The Commissioner said if stimulus money is available to pay for infrastructure then a new client base would exist, increasing the economic development potential and viability for families and professionals living in Island County. The deadline is August 13 and Commissioner Price Johnson will follow-up on a possible interest by Whidbey Telecom.

- *Initiative 1033*

Initiative 1033 was certified and WSAC will not take a stand, but will be available to answer questions going forward. The initiative will limit revenue based on the previous year’s revenue; revenues this year would provide the baseline and could not be increased in the general expense

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fund except for the rate of inflation and population growth. The measure excludes voter approved revenue increases so as sales tax and interest rates return, anything beyond the current base would reduce property taxes. The Office of Financial Management at the Governor's level will provide an impact statement for the Voter's Pamphlet.

- *Miscellaneous*

Will travel to Olympia tomorrow for a two-hour session on sustaining change in organizations.

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m. The Board will meet next in Regular Session on August 3, 2009 beginning at 10:00 a.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ISLAND COUNTY, WASHINGTON

John Dean, Chairman

Helen Price Johnson, Member

Angie Homola, Member

ATTEST:

Elaine Marlow, Clerk of the Board