

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 50  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
Commissioners' Proceeding for May 13, 2009

The Honorable Board of Franklin County Commissioners met on the above date. Present for the meeting were Rick Miller, Chairman; Bob Koch, Chair Pro Tem; and Brad Peck, Member; Fred Bowen, County Administrator; and Mary Withers, Clerk to the Board.

**OFFICE BUSINESS**

Secretary Patricia Shults met with the Board. Present in audience: Tri-City Herald Reporter Joe Chapman.

Consent Agenda

**Motion** - Mr. Peck: I move for approval of the consent agenda for Wednesday, May 13, 2009, as follows:

1. Approval of **Resolution 2009-178** appointing Rick Miller to serve on the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, thus, amending Franklin County Resolution 2009-001.
2. Approval of **joint Resolution 2009-179** for the Professional Services Agreement between James F. Bell and Benton County and Franklin County, to provide legal representation to indigent persons subject to involuntary commitment proceedings in Benton and Franklin Counties Superior Court, Contract #BFSC0909JFB001, effective May 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009.
3. Approval of **joint Resolution 2009-180** in the matter of appointing Edward Thornbrugh as a County-Designated Mental Health Professional. (Exhibit 1: Information sheet.)

Second by Mr. Koch. 3:0 vote in favor.

**Motion** – Mr. Koch: I move for approval of vouchers for 2009: Current Expense warrants 16784 through 16823 for \$18,892.07; Crime Victims warrant 16824 for \$95.00; Law Library warrants 16825 through 16827 for \$768.85; and Veterans Assistance warrants 16830 through 16836 for \$1740.75; with bottom line total of \$21,496.67.

Second by Mr. Peck. 3:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 2)

Commissioner Meeting Discussion

Mr. Peck invited Mr. Koch to attend a fund raising event. He mentioned a concern some commissioners may have about having a quorum of commissioners being

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present. Mr. Koch has been told that the Spokane County prosecutor said it is okay for more than one county commissioner to attend a meeting or gathering that was not called by the county commission in which they do not make decisions. Mr. Peck said I think you're absolutely right. Mr. Miller nodded his head in agreement.

**PLANNING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

Planning Director Jerrod MacPherson met with the Board. Present in audience: Joe Chapman.

Building Department Update

The April 2009 Building Report was reviewed. Mr. MacPherson said the building activity has picked up recently.

Mr. Koch asked if City of Mesa is planning to use the county's planning services. Mr. MacPherson said he has not yet heard back from the City of Mesa.

Mike Schwisow and Ryan Verhulp joined the audience.

Ridges to Rivers

Mr. MacPherson has reviewed the request from Scott Woodward of Ridges to Rivers asking that a county representative serve on the Ridges to Rivers council. Mr. MacPherson said as a county we always need to plan for open space and similar types of areas but he would be a little hesitant to be involved on the council because of his responsibility regarding land use decisions for the county.

Mr. Peck said he thinks it would be of benefit to the county to have someone representing the county be at the meetings so we are aware of what they're doing but Mr. MacPherson makes an excellent point about real or perceived conflict of interest. There may be some way to participate as a non-voting member, in an informational capacity only. Mr. Peck asked Mr. MacPherson to consult with Benton County about what their level of involvement is. He said we need to be careful about promising services and about conflicts.

Mr. Miller said he attended the Pasco City Council meeting where the Ridges to Rivers' request was discussed and the city had the same concerns and wanted more information.

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Mr. MacPherson will do more research about the matter with other counties and send the proposed letter prepared by Ridges to Rivers back with some comments for changes.

Mr. Peck said it may be possible that a Franklin County volunteer could attend the meetings.

**PROSECUTOR**

Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor Ryan Verhulp met with the Board. Present in audience: Joe Chapman and Mike Schwisow.

Claim for Damages

Mr. Verhulp presented a claim for damages.

**Executive Session** at 9:35 am expected to last five minutes regarding potential litigation based on RCW 42.30.110(1)(i).

**Open Session** at 9:40 am.

**Motion** – Mr. Peck: I would move that we deny the claim from Mr. Dean Shelton dated April 7, 2009, as presented to us today by counsel. Second by Mr. Koch. 3:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 3)

**VOUCHERS/WARRANTS**

**Motion** – Mr. Koch: I move approval of vouchers for Public Works: County Road Fund in the amount of \$74,617.63; and for Motor Vehicle Fund for \$10,958.52. Second by Mr. Peck. 3:0 vote in favor.

**COLUMBIA BASIN DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE**

Mike Schwisow from the Columbia Basin Development League met with the Board. Present in audience: Joe Chapman.

Columbia Basin Development League Update

Mr. Schwisow described the professional work he does. He explained what the League does and some of its history.

The League is currently working on four basic projects: Odessa Subarea Special Study, Lake Roosevelt Incremental Storage Releases Program, Potholes Supplemental Feed Route, and Weber Canyon Siphon Complex. He gave the Board a map showing

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alternatives that are being considered for the Odessa Subarea Special Study (Exhibit 4).

He gave an update about the status of each of the projects.

**Recessed** at 10:23 am.

**Reconvened** at 10:30 am.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

County Administrator Fred Bowen met with the Board. Present in audience: Joe Chapman and Pasco Police Captain Michael Aldredge.

Port of Columbia – Lyons Ferry Park

Mr. Bowen gave the Board members a copy of the proposed agreement for maintenance of Lyons Ferry Park between the Port of Columbia and Franklin County. The Port of Columbia Commissioners are expected to sign it at a meeting tonight and then the original will be sent to Franklin County.

Bond Refinancing

Mr. Bowen gave the Board some financial information regarding refinancing of bonds.

Regarding refinancing of bonds, Mr. Peck said there are two things to consider. One is the potential to help with this year's budget shortfall. Second, there is a time value cost of trying to optimize the interest rate. If we wait another couple months to try and get a slightly lower rate, we'd lose the half-year interest savings available at this time. The value of that loss at the present time when the budget is short might be worth more to us than getting the absolute lowest rate that may or may not materialize in the next six months.

Mr. Peck said unless we have some reason to believe rates are going to improve significantly, he is thinking we might be wise to seriously consider refinancing before June 1. He asked if it is possible. Mr. Bowen said he will talk to Jim Nelson with Martin Nelson and Company, a financial services company. Mr. Miller and Mr. Koch agreed with Mr. Peck about going ahead with refinancing as soon as possible.

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Build USA Bonds

Mr. Bowen said Mr. Nelson told him briefly about a new financing tool called Build USA Bonds with a 6% interest rate. However, it has a 35% return per year which brings the bonds down to about a 4% interest rate. It's part of the government's economic stimulus package. The rate would go for the life of the bonds on an annual basis.

Mr. Peck wants to see the rates over the last year to year and a half just to see the trends.

Mr. Bowen will try to schedule a telephone call with Mr. Nelson on Monday during the Board meeting.

**INFORMATION SERVICES (IS)**

IS Director Kevin Scott and Dispatch Supervisor Ed Bush met with the Board. Present in audience: Joe Chapman and Pasco Police Captain Michael Aldredge.

Bi-PIN Interlocal Agreement

Mr. Scott asked for approval of the Bi-PIN Interlocal Agreement. The only change from previous agreements is that the City of Connell will now be a member.

The Board discussed the review process by Prosecuting Attorneys' offices in Franklin and Benton Counties. Mr. Peck expressed his concern about having another county's attorneys do review of contracts for Franklin County contracts.

**Motion** – Mr. Koch: Chairman, I move for approval of Bi-County Police Information Network (Bi-PIN) Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the Counties of Benton and Franklin and the Cities of Connell, Kennewick, Pasco and Richland and authorize the chairman to sign the Interlocal Agreement. Second by Mr. Peck. 3:0 vote in favor. This is Resolution 2009-181.

Human Resources Director Rosie H. Rumsey joined the audience.

Dispatch Budget

Mr. Bush gave the Board comparative cost information between similar-sized counties regarding the cost per call in Dispatch departments as a follow up to a discussion held with the Board on March 16 (Exhibit 5).

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He also gave the Board some information regarding projected costs for 2010 (Exhibit 6). He said when he met with the Board the last time, there was discussion about doing a radio upgrade in the next few years. The upgrade would include adding microwave system management which would cost around \$3 per call.

Mr. Bush said he is not asking for Board action at this time but presented the information to answer Commissioner Peck's questions. He said this is what we're driving towards in 2010. He said Captain Aldredge of the City of Pasco and all of our user groups have heard from him for over two years that there will come a point in time when we get our system upgraded and up that we're going to have to start paying for these costs. Remember the cost per call average in the state is \$30. We're still well under that cost. For the most part this is a self-supporting budget based on our 911 tax, our state contract, and our user fees. Our current radio system is poor to say the least. We did some work to bring it to a manageable level. Mr. Bush is hoping within the next two to three months that we will have a system that will be more than adequate for all user groups.

In response to Mr. Peck's question, Mr. Bush told the Board about the information he requested from the other counties in order to compile the information on Exhibit 5. Mr. Peck thanked Mr. Bush for getting the information. Mr. Peck said his questions were to understand and help others understand what we do or don't have in terms of value. Based on this information, certainly it appears that we're very fortunate to have the system that we do at the cost that we do. Regardless of how these numbers came out -- and I'm glad they came out looking so good -- it's important for people to know what they're paying for, so I think this is encouraging.

Staffing

Mr. Bush told the Board about the need for a person who has the expertise to do the radio work that is required. It is possible that Franklin County can contract with the Benton County PUD for the work. Mr. Bush will bring the request for the help forward in June when he presents his fiscal year 2009-2010 budget. Mr. Scott said if we do contract with an outside agency, it would help offset the cost per call for the next year.

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Budget

Mr. Bush said he expects that some budget funds will need to be moved from the Current Expense budget into the Miscellaneous budget fund so they can be rolled over.

Microwave Antenna

Mr. Bush explained the work done to put a microwave antenna on the roof of the Public Safety Building (PSB). It would never be higher than 7 feet. Pasco City Manager Gary Crutchfield has said the City of Pasco will trim the trees and keep it at that level.

The Board **gave approval** to put the microwave antenna in place.

Engineering review will be required before the work is done.

The Board **gave approval** to delegate authority for the decision to place the microwave antenna after engineering review to Mr. Bowen.

**VOUCHERS/WARRANTS**

**Motion** – Mr. Koch: I move for approval of Salary Clearing payroll in the amount of \$581,633.17. On the cover sheet it also has Emergency Management and Irrigation. Second by Mr. Peck. 3:0 vote in favor.

Salary Clearing payroll warrants 48393 through 48487 for \$178,067.91; warrants 48488 through 48493 for \$82,741.06; and Direct Deposit for \$320,724.20;

Emergency Management payroll warrants 16837 through 16843 for \$3564.48; warrants 16844 through 16847 for \$1910.38; and Direct Deposit for \$8315.52; for a total amount of \$13,790.38; and

Irrigation payroll warrants 16848 through 16863 for \$9051.70; and warrants 16864 through 16867 for \$1698.61; for a total amount of \$10,750.31.

(Exhibit 7)

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR (continuing)**

Human Resources Director Rosie H. Rumsey joined the meeting. Present in audience: Joe Chapman.

Resolution

Ms. Rumsey asked for approval of an addendum to the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Public Works union to replace the previous salary matrix with a new

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matrix. The Public Works employees will remain at a 40-hour work week. Recently some other non-union county employees were switched to a 37-1/2 hour work week. The matrix is changed so the Public Works union employees' hourly pay would be equal to those employees that are on the same matrix but were working 37-1/2 hours. The change has been made after negotiations with the Public Works union.

**Motion** – Mr. Peck: I would move approval of Memorandum of Agreement, Addendum to Resolution 2009-037, Collective Bargaining Agreement between Franklin County and Local 874, Council 2 (Public Works), of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees and Washington State Council of County and City Employees. Second by Mr. Koch. 3:0 vote in favor. This is Resolution 2009-182.

**Adjourned** at 11:16 am.



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There being no further business, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned until May 18, 2009.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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Chairman

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Chairman Pro Tem

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Member

Attest:

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Clerk to the Board

Approved and signed May 27, 2009.