

BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' BRIEFING MINUTES
Mason County Commission Chambers, 411 North 5th Street, Shelton, WA
Week of July 20, 2015

Monday, July 20, 2015

8:30 A.M.

Superior Court – Judges Sheldon & Finlay

Therapeutic Courts

Commissioners Neatherlin, Jeffreys and Sheldon were in attendance.

- Court Commissioner Bob Sauerlender provided a handout to the Commissioners regarding therapeutic court programs. Today the focus is veterans court. They had hoped it would be a joint Superior and District Court but at this time it is planned to be a Superior Court Veterans Court. They developed a stakeholder group that has been meeting to develop the program and they are now accepting applications for Veterans Court. The application process was discussed. Chemical dependency issues were discussed and how even prescribed medications can disqualify an applicant but they continue to evaluate this topic. It is difficult to monitor compliance if a participant is taking prescription medications. Cmmr. Neatherlin supports the program and wants to get it going to see how it works. Upon graduation, the charge is dismissed with prejudice. Discussion of determining the connection between the criminal conduct and their military service (PTSD, etc.) It is something that is very difficult to develop the nexus. Federal funding availability hasn't been explored but they will continue to look at what it takes to qualify. The issue with District Court is that the jail is not taking their violators and this takes the teeth out of the program. Sam Sevier spoke in support of Veterans Court for non-drug issues. Tom Davis spoke in favor of the Thurston County Veterans Court model which is a pre-plea program through District Court rather than a post-plea program, which is what is being proposed. Mr. Davis supports moving forward with Veterans Court although, in his opinion, it is in the wrong direction. He also talked about the mentorship program that he is involved with through the Sheriff's Office.

9:00 A.M.

Support Services – Frank Pinter, Dawn Twiddy

Commissioners Neatherlin, Jeffreys and Sheldon were in attendance.

- Risk Pool insurance for Courthouse (coverage as building of historic significance) is recommended by Risk Manager Dawn Twiddy and the Board agreed to purchase.
- Extension of real estate services contract (Richard Beckman). Contract is from September 2014 – 2015 with option for one year extension. The Board agreed to extend the contract.
- Surplus Property – the Board agreed to act on the purchase offer at \$4,000 and Cmmr. Neatherlin asked for additional time for listing the additional properties.
- Reminder that Employee Service Awards are July 21 @ 2 p.m., Colonial House.
- A joint meeting has been scheduled next Monday with the City of Shelton to discuss the \$250,000 funding from the State for economic development.
- Debbie Riley made a staffing request for Environmental Health temporary help for the PIC program. The Board approved moving forward with hiring the temporary person.
- June Financial Reports were reviewed by Frank.
- Dawn informed the Board she met with Judges Sheldon and Finlay last week to hear their concerns with not being able to incarcerate offenders, they re-offend and the risk to the County.

9:30 A.M.

Sheriff's Office – Undersheriff Barrett

Commissioners Neatherlin, Jeffreys and Sheldon were in attendance.

- Cyndi Ticknor provided information on leasing a patrol vehicle which she estimates the cost to be \$63K per vehicle to lease a patrol vehicle; if purchased it is about \$51K per vehicle. Three vehicles have been ordered and the Sheriff's office is requesting a total of five replacement patrol vehicles. Cyndi surveyed several counties for their patrol vehicle replacement mileage policy - Clallam 120K to 140K miles and they replace; Cowlitz, 115K miles; Grays Harbor, 140K miles, Island 110K to 120K; Jefferson, 140K; Lewis, 140K – 150K, Skagit, 135K – 165K, Mason County is over 155K miles on some vehicles. Cmmr. Jeffreys brought up that the Board is waiting for the resolution on the ER&R finding to see if there are ER&R funds coming back to Current Expense. Frank is continuing the analysis of this finding, he has had discussions with the SAO. If

we replaced an additional five patrol vehicles, the cost would be about \$255K. Cyndi is exploring the cost savings if we employed a technician to up-fit the vehicles. Currently they lease non-patrol vehicles. Cmmr. Neatherlin reminded everyone it was a conscious decision during the 2015 budget process to fund what has been funded. Cyndi pointed out that the total time to obtain a new patrol car is eight months and she recommends 13 patrol vehicles be replaced over the next two years. The up-fit cost is about \$21K per vehicle that could be paid in January. Undersheriff Barrett stated they originally requested seven new patrol vehicles in 2015; during budget process went to five vehicles; actual budget is funding 2.5 vehicles. Goal is to get back on a normal replacement schedule. Frank stated the ER&R finding issue should be resolved in the next week or two.

- Undersheriff Barrett provided jail numbers. If the DOC inmates (Swift & Certain) were sent to Nisqually that would free up bed space for court and it would also reduce revenue. The bond obligations (jail remodel bond), is budgeted from the Swift & Certain revenues. Cmmr. Sheldon brought up risk management issue if offender cannot be incarcerated. Undersheriff Barrett stated that even with the jail remodel, will have overcrowding issues. Seven people call in every day for jail space and they are waiting for additional numbers from courts. These offenders could go to Nisqually but would have to pay the incarceration fee plus booking fee. Judge Sheldon referred to Judge Meadows' handout that was distributed at the Criminal Justice Working Team meeting. She talked about deferred prosecution and the consequences of offenders not being incarcerated. Undersheriff Barrett pointed out that Swift & Certain offenders are also local offenders. He estimates that when the jail remodel is complete we will have 120 beds and we need to continue to outsource another 50 inmates. Cmmr. Sheldon supports a budget supplement to address this risk. Cmmr. Jeffreys stated these are short term solutions and brought up a work release facility to work toward a long-term solution. The cost to outsource 35 inmates is \$41K per month, excluding medical, dental, mental health and the transportation issue needs to be addressed. Cmmr. Jeffreys stated that we need to also address the public defense staff problems so they can meet with their clients. Judge Sheldon pointed out we don't have to take Swift & Certain offenders and this would open up beds. Cmmr. Neatherlin reminded the group that we anticipate the Swift & Certain revenues for the jail remodel bond. Cmmr. Jeffreys wants to see how much of the problem will be solved. Cmmr. Sheldon advocates setting a budget hearing. Judge Sheldon referred to Resolution 87-87 for jail standards that gives direction when there is jail overcrowding. Cmmr. Neatherlin said they will have to find \$1M to address this issue. Brief discussion of cost to build new larger jail. Cmmr. Neatherlin stated they need to talk about eventually putting it out as a ballot issue for the public to weigh in. For jail transport, the MTA vans that are being surplussed may work for short term.

~~10:00A.M.~~ 10:45 A.M. Joint Briefing for Discussion of Solid Waste Facilities

Commissioners Neatherlin, Jeffreys and Sheldon were in attendance.

Due to time constraints, the Commissioners agreed to reschedule the briefing to next week.

Cmmr. Sheldon noted that the declining price of scrap of metal affects recycling facility and the public needs to be informed there are many factors that impact recycling.

10:30A.M. BREAK

10:35 A.M. Public Works - Brian Matthews & Melissa McFadden
Utilities & Waste Management - Brian Matthews & Erika Schwender
Commissioners Neatherlin, Jeffreys and Sheldon were in attendance.

The following items were approved for placement on the agenda:

- Use the County MRSC Consultant Roster to select and enter into agreement with an on-call consultant for survey services for 2015-2016.
- Execute the "Notification of Final Cost" of County Road Construction completed in 2014 that was performed by county force

Mason County Commissioners' Briefing Meeting Minutes
July 20, 2015

- Approve the reimbursable agreement with Tacoma Power for Mason County Public Works Department to provide maintenance, engineering and traffic count service, emergency assistance and fabrication of signs and materials.
- The Board will interview applicants Cheryl Williams (District 2) and Adrienne Amar (District 3) for the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC).
- FYI – County Road Project 1996, Shelton Matlock Road Improvement project has been awarded to the apparent low bidder, Lakeside Industries out of Lacey, Washington at their bid price of \$1,015,684.74.
- Hanks Lake Road is a private road and Public Works has had conversations with Green Diamond for maintenance of the roadway which would have to be brought up to county standards to be taken into the county road system.
- Solid waste tipping fees are not currently being charged to litter crew but could be included in litter grant.
- Cmmr. Sheldon brought up the Hunter Creek bridge issue with allowing long vehicles to cross. Staff is coming up with options.
- Cmmr. Sheldon then asked about fishing on the Skokomish River and the traffic problems that are caused. Melissa will contact the Sheriff's Office about enforcement.

11:00 A.M.

WA Counties Risk Pool Annual Visit – Vyrle Hill & David Goldsmith
Commissioners Neatherlin, Jeffreys and Sheldon were in attendance.

- David Goldsmith and Vyrle Hill provided information on the WA Counties Risk Pool which is a self-insured group of counties that have 26 participating members. Mason County has been a member since 1989. Cyber coverage is a new coverage for our technology system. There was a discussion of Clark County's lawsuit and they are no longer a part of the Risk Pool. Cmmr. Neatherlin left the briefing at 11:30 a.m. Executive Director search will be discussed at the Risk Pool conference. Discussion of Mason County's deductible and that we may need to raise it. Mr. Hill explained how it is important for the Commissioners to consider risk in decisions they make. Jail overcrowding issues were discussed and the potential liability.

Commissioner Discussion

Commissioner Jeffreys and Sheldon were in attendance. Commissioner Neatherlin was absent.

- Frank noted that the jail bond payment is \$140,000 and is budgeted to be paid from the Swift & Certain revenues. The jail's daily cost is \$92 and Swift & Certain is being billed \$85 per day.
- Dawn brought up Enterprise Risk Management and stated this would take a full time Risk Manager because it requires extensive analysis of risk and training. The Risk Pool's goal is for the county to be proactive, not reactive to risk.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Zoren, Administrative Services Manager

BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Randy Neatherlin
Chair

Tim Sheldon
Commissioner

Terri Jeffreys
Commissioner