

BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

February 28, 2012

1. Call to Order – The Chairperson called the regular meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Constance Ibsen led the flag salute.
3. Roll Call – Present: Commissioner District 1 - Lynda Ring Erickson; Commissioner District 2 – Tim Sheldon; Commissioner District 3 – Steve Bloomfield.
4. Correspondence and Organizational Business
 - 4.1 Correspondence
 - 4.1.1 The Washington State Liquor Control Board sent notice of an application for added privilege for Hood Canal Grocery in Hoodspport.
 - 4.1.2 The Port of Allyn is seeking a position on the Mason Transit Authority Board.
 - 4.1.3 Wilson Recycling commented on the divestiture of the Mason County solid waste program.
 - 4.1.4 The Shelton Mason County Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Development Council of Mason County and the Olympia Master Builders provided suggestions regarding Mason County's Stormwater Program.
 - 4.1.5 Tom Farmer is seeking appointment to the Parks & Trails Advisory Committee.
 - 4.1.6 Tom Davis is seeking appointment to the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Advisory Committee.
 - 4.1.7 Brian Avery is seeking appointment to the Historical Preservation Commission.
 - 4.2 John Keates, Facilities, Parks and Trails, announced the award to AJO Consulting to complete the Mason County Parks and Trails Department Comprehensive Plan Update in an amount not to exceed \$25,000. Funds for the project will come from REET II Capital Funds.
 - 4.3 Cmmr. Ring Erickson discussed the proposed budgets from the House and the Senate. The House's proposed budget contained several potential cuts that would directly affect Mason County. The Senate's budget was much better. She asked Commissioner Sheldon to discuss the situation.

Cmmr. Sheldon explained that the Governor, the House and the Senate have all put out budget proposals. What the State does impacts the County's budget tremendously. He went over the different services and programs that could be affected. He stated that everything is still in play and they hoped to have a final budget adopted by March 9th. He thanked the other Commissioners for actively lobbying the Legislature.
5. Open Forum for Citizen Input –
 - 5.1 Danielle Skeeters-Lindsey provided a letter of appreciation for Brian Matthews for his work on signage in her neighborhood.
 - 5.2 Mary Jean Hrbacek asked if ½ of 1% of State construction was still going for art. She wanted to see the money put where it was needed. She also voiced concerns about pay raises to individuals under the Commissioners. She thought the Commissioners were being inequitable and it needed to be looked at.

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- 5.3 John Gunter commented that he went to a Department of Ecology meeting regarding pending grant and loan applications for the Belfair sewer project. He was concerned that the majority of the funds would be 20-year loans that would need to be repaid. There were errors in the maps and other items in the application that he was also concerned about. He hoped the loan application would be withdrawn. He also commented that he would like to see a Belfair advisory committee move forward. He provided his written comments for the record.
- 5.4 Terri King, WA Sea Grant, announced that Mason County would be hosting a conference for shellfish growers from all over the region next week. A geoduck research symposium will also take place.
6. Adoption of Agenda - **Cmmr. Sheldon/Bloomfield moved and seconded to adopt the agenda as published. Motion carried unanimously. RE-aye; S-aye; B-aye.**
7. Approval of Minutes – February 21, 2012 briefing and regular meeting minutes.
Cmmr. Bloomfield/Sheldon moved and seconded to approve the February 21, 2012 briefing and regular meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously. RE-aye; S-aye; B-aye.
8. Approval of Action Agenda:
- 8.1 Approval to cancel the March 5 Commission briefings and the March 6 regular Commission meeting.
- 8.2 Approval to reschedule the public hearing to update Ordinance #149-01, establishing the Gambling Tax Rate for Punch Boards and Pull Tabs from March 6 to March 20 at 9:30 a.m. The updated ordinance outlines two additional options to aid in the collection of gambling taxes and there are no proposed changes to the amount of tax charged.
- 8.3 Approval to appoint Jeffery Duffy to the Mason County Parks and Trails Advisory Board to fill a vacant position.
- 8.4 Approval of the Veterans Assistance Fund applications for: James R. Beals – Utilities \$149.16; Randolph Bittner – Utilities \$92.49; Kenneth Gonella – Housing \$300.00; Eldon Hosick – Food \$150.00; Steven Inman – Housing \$600.00; Frank Orr – Utilities \$116.00; and Wade W. Walls - \$191.15 for a total of \$1598.80 as recommended by the Veterans Assistance Fund Screening Committee.
- 8.5 Approval of the resolution reflecting the reclassification of the Public Health Director, Range 39, to Public Health and Human Services Director, Range 45, effective March 1, 2012. The incumbent's salary placement will be Step D of the salary range.
- 8.6 Approval of the salary placement at Step A of Range 45 of the Non-Union Salary Range Alignment for Tom Moore while he is appointed as Interim Director of Utilities and Waste Management. The salary adjustment shall be effective February 1, 2012.
- 8.7 Approval of the reclassification of the (Jail) Clerk position in the Mason County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) to Financial Assistant, which was approved by the Mason County Civil Service Commission on February 16, 2012. The Memorandum of Agreement between Mason County and the I.A.M./Woodworkers Lodge W38 reclassifies the position and places the incumbent employee at Step 1 of the salary range of Financial Assistant, effective February 1, 2012.
- 8.8 Approval to set a public hearing on March 13, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. to consider amendments to Section 17.03.030 of the Mason County Code relating to mandatory connections to sewer for all new development within the Belfair Urban Growth Area.

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8.9 Approval of the interim appointment of Brian Matthews to Public Works Director, with a salary placement in Range 45, Step C, of the Non-Union Salary Range Alignment effective March 1, 2012.

Cmmr. Bloomfield asked to remove items 8.5 and 8.7.

Ms. Hrbacek asked for a separate vote on items 8.6 and 8.9.

Mr. Gunter asked for item 8.8 to be removed for further discussion.

Cmmr. Sheldon/Bloomfield moved and seconded to approve Action items 8.1 through 8.4. Motion carried unanimously. RE-aye; S-aye; B-aye.

Item 8.5

Cmmr. Sheldon didn't believe that the item could be removed from consideration because the agenda was approved as presented. He thought all of the items should be voted on. He noted that all of the salary items on the agenda were different situations.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson disagreed. She thought the item could be removed from further consideration.

Cmmr. Sheldon thought the motion would need to have a certain time as to when it would be reconsidered, if it were to be reconsidered at all.

Cmmr. Bloomfield thought a 30-day time period would be appropriate. He was concerned about what was happening in the Legislature as it could affect Mason County. He thought that item 8.5 was different from the other items.

Cmmr. Sheldon stated that he would vote no if the item was before the Board. He thought a 20% salary increase was extraordinary. He did not want the item on the agenda in the first place.

Cmmr. Bloomfield/Ring Erickson moved and seconded to remove item 8.5 from the agenda to be reconsidered in 30 days. Motion carried. RE-aye; S-nay; B-aye.

Amber Cervantes asked why the Board would consider reclassifying one position when the same amount of money could even out the non-union step increases or provide more money for the union members' medical contributions. She thought the amount of money could help an entire group of people instead of just one person.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson replied that the Board has never stated that they wouldn't consider other increases. However, if they did not consider item 8.5 they probably shouldn't consider other increases.

Cmmr. Bloomfield agreed that any increases that were needed should be identified as a whole. He didn't like the process of approving increases one at a time.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson added that she would like to give a lot of employees increases but there isn't enough money. She would like to look at it for everyone, but the State's budget needed to be settled before than could happen.

Cmmr. Sheldon agreed that there needed to be a comprehensive solution.

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Item 8.6

Tom Davis asked the amount of money associated with the salary range.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson replied that the amount associated with range 45-A was \$7,019 per month.

Karen Jackson, Human Resources, noted that County policy requires that employees who work out of class need to be compensated appropriately. It needs to be a minimum of 5% and the Director position is already classified at range 45.

Cmmr. Sheldon added that Mr. Moore would be holding his original position along with the Director position, which he has done twice in the past.

Cmmr. Bloomfield/Sheldon moved and seconded to approve item 8.6. Motion carried unanimously. RE-aye; S-aye; B-aye.

Item 8.7

Cmmr. Bloomfield stated that he requested that the item be removed for the same reasons as item 8.5.

Cmmr. Sheldon thought it was a different situation because it was a bargained position that went through the Civil Service Commission. It was putting the individual in the correct class for the work they were performing.

Ms. Skeeters-Lindsey noted that the person had already been doing the work related to the position for a long time.

Ms. Jackson explained that there was an increase in the employee's duties over time. The County's policy wants to recognize people for performing work out of class. If the item was not approved the individual would need to cease and desist from performing the duties.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson thought it was a piecemeal situation. She commented that if everyone got raises then people would eventually need to be laid off because the County does not have enough money. She thought it was a problem that some people were receiving raises and increased benefits while others were being cut back and only working four days per week.

Cmmr. Sheldon stated that he was trying to be consistent. He felt that the Board had approved increases for the highest paid individuals, which he has not voted for. He thought some of the increases were disproportionate to the level of work. He noted that some of the lower paid positions have suffered for a long time. He didn't want to give the impression that higher-level positions were more likely to get an increase.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson disagreed. She noted that the directors' salaries were reduced by 5% in 2009. They got 3% back last year, so now they make 2% less than in 2008. The elected officials also haven't had a raise in four years. The Chief Finance Manger received a raise because the Budget Director was laid off so she had to take on a lot of that work.

Cmmr. Sheldon wanted to see an equitable approach to the situation. He thought that if the employees received an increase across the board they might feel better about the issue. He suggested a master settlement through a salary survey or looking at comparable counties.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson didn't think that would be an option with the union agreements. She also thought it would run the risk of seeing reductions instead of raises.

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Cmmr. Bloomfield urged department heads to bring forward any employee situations that needed to be addressed so the Board would know the whole picture.

Cmmr. Sheldon agreed that if someone was working out of class it should be addressed and he thought this item was a straightforward request.

Cmmr. Sheldon/Bloomfield moved and seconded to approve item 8.7. Motion carried. RE-nay; S-aye; B-aye.

Item 8.8

Mr. Gunter realized that the item was just setting the public hearing so he didn't have any further issue with it.

Cmmr. Sheldon/Bloomfield moved and seconded to approve item 8.8. Motion carried unanimously. RE-aye; S-aye; B-aye.

Item 8.9

Cmmr. Sheldon commented that it was a similar situation to the position with Mr. Moore. The Public Works Director was retiring at the end of the month and it was appropriate for the County Engineer to fill the interim appointment.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson noted that Mr. Matthews would still be serving as the County Engineer while filling in as the Director.

Cmmr. Bloomfield/Sheldon moved and seconded to approve item 8.9. Motion carried unanimously. RE-aye; S-aye; B-aye.

9. 6:30 p.m. Public Hearings and Items Set for a Certain Time – There were no public hearings scheduled.

10. Other Business (Department Heads and Elected Officials) –

10.1 Cmmr. Ring Erickson commented on the grant application for the Belfair Sewer. She assumed the grant would not be accepted since it could not be used for phase 2.

Mr. Moore explained that after some budget work they realized that the loan to grant ratio was probably not financially feasible for the system.

Cmmr. Sheldon asked the status of the Get Connected program.

Mr. Moore commented that the program is on track and on budget. They are still working on easements on three properties.

10.2 Cmmr. Ring Erickson asked the Department of Community Development Director when the Belfair advisory group issue would be ready for action.

Ms. Adkins replied that it should be ready on March 13th.

11. Board's Reports and Calendar - The Commissioners reported on meetings attended the past week and announced their upcoming weekly meetings.

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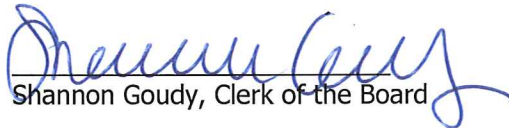
12. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MASON COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Lynda Ring Erickson, Chair

ATTEST:


Tim Sheldon, Commissioner


Shannon Goudy, Clerk of the Board


Steve Bloomfield, Commissioner