

BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

December 9, 2014

1. Call to Order – The Chairperson called the regular meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Chair Jeffreys led the flag salute.
3. Roll Call – Present: Commissioner District 1 - Randy Neatherlin; Commissioner District 2 – Tim Sheldon; Commissioner District 3 – Terri Jeffreys.
4. Correspondence and Organizational Business
 - 4.1 Correspondence
 - 4.1.1 Port of Dewatto submitted their 2015 budget.
 - 4.1.2 North Mason School District #403 submitted their 2015 budget.
 - 4.1.3 Fire Districts 3, 4 and 17 submitted their budgets for 2015.
 - 4.1.4 Educational Services District 113 sent the certification of excess levies for the 2015 collection.
 - 4.1.5 Barbara Robecker sent a letter of opposition regarding the formation of the LMD at Lake Nahwatzel.
 - 4.1.6 Office of the Treasurer submitted a list of approved depositaries.
 - 4.1.7 Philip Wolff submitted an application for the Transportation Improvement Committee.
5. Open Forum for Citizen Input –
 - 5.1 Tom Davis told the Board he appreciates all the time and effort the Commission have put into the Budget.
6. Adoption of Agenda - **Cmmr. Neatherlin/Sheldon moved and seconded to adopt the agenda as amended changing the order of the public hearings. Motion carried unanimously. N-aye; S-aye; J-aye.**
7. Approval of Minutes – November 10, 17 and 24, 2014 briefing minutes and the November 18 and 25, 2014 regular meeting minutes
Cmmr. Sheldon/Neatherlin moved and seconded to approve the November 10, 17 and 24 briefing minutes and November 18 and 25 regular meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously. N-aye; S-aye; J-aye.
8. Approval of Action Agenda:
 - 8.1 Approval to re-appoint Linda Woytowich to the Mason County Parks and Trails Advisory Board.
 - 8.2 Approval of the Veterans Assistance Fund applications for: Food \$300.00, Utilities \$479.30 and Housing \$1,050.00 for a total of \$1,829.30 as recommended by the Veterans Assistance Committee.
Cmmr. Neatherlin/Sheldon moved and seconded to approve action items 8.1 and 8.2. Motion carried unanimously. N-aye; S-aye; J-aye.
9. 9:30 a.m. Public Hearings and Items Set for a Certain Time –
 - 9.1 Public Hearing to consider the request from Mason County Facilities and Parks to declare certain County owned property as surplus property. Staff: John Keates.

There was no public testimony.

Tom Davis said he would like to see the property listed on the website under surplus property instead of going to Richard Beckman website.

John Keates said that is a good point and it probably can be listed on the website.

Tom Davis asked if the sales will go in front of the Board for approval.

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The Board answered yes.

Discussion:

Cmmr. Sheldon asked where the money from selling the timber went.

Frank Pinter said it goes to current expense fund and the costs were budgeted in 2014.

Cmmr. Sheldon said the million dollars from timber sale is already spent.

Cmmr. Neatherlin said it's money in and money out to pay for County expenses.

Chair Jeffreys asked Cmmr. Neatherlin about real estate.

Cmmr. Neatherlin said the County should use good sound investing practices.

Cmmr. Neatherlin/Sheldon moved and seconded to approval to declare 34 parcels of real property to be surplused to the needs of Mason County and approving their sale by established procedure and process. Motion carried unanimously. Resolution 71-14 (Exhibit A)

9.2 Public Hearing - 2015 Budget Hearing continued from December 2, 2014. Staff: Frank Pinter, Budget Manager.

The projected Beginning Fund Cash Balance is \$7,872,730, less \$637,826 (13th month expenditures), for a balance of \$7,234,903.00 The budget comprehends a \$4,057,114 operating reserve leaving \$3,177,790 as the available beginning 2015 General Fund Balance. The 2015 General Fund Budgeted Revenues are at \$28,963,413 with Expenditures projected to be \$28,568,474. Mr. Pinter said the increase in staffing will create a bow wave in expenditures in the future. Without looking at increasing the revenue streams, some things will be unsustainable.

Tom Davis asked about the four positions proposed for the Sheriff's office.

Frank answered that it was reduced by one deputy and reiterated these are new positions.

Testimony:

April Hanson said her greatest concern is regarding the Sheriff's Office. She said the Sheriff's Office is included in everything in the County. She commented that they work 365 days a year and 7 days a week. She said they have a safety risk factor in their jobs and it's increasingly dangerous. She asked the Board to continue to focus on adding deputies.

Tom Davis said the decisions the Board make today are going to have effects on the future. He said the lesson is that we need to generate more income. Tom Davis said he hopes they can possibly add revenue with real estate.

Testimony Closed.

Cmmr. Sheldon asked Frank Pinter if the \$500 dollars Mayor Cronic asked for last week for the Sewer Coalition was included in the budget.

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Franks said yes.

Cmmr. Neatherlin thanked Frank Pinter for his hard work on this budget and for his knowledge and ability to explain the process.

Cmmr. Jeffreys said she is in favor of building a criminal justice system. She added they are in favor of increasing economic growth. She thanked all the County employees. She said this budget is ugly on the bow wave although they have met the goals. She said she is happy with how the budget turned out.

Cmmr. Neatherlin stated that Deputies are a necessity. He added that they were able to reduce the deficit spending.

Cmmr. Sheldon said he thinks this has been transparent and a lot of effort has been put forth. He thinks they are sticking to expenditures without firm revenue. As a County we pay 90 percent of defense funds. He said a bow wave is created by this budget and this will carry on into the next years as well. He said they also have seven new labor contracts to do next year. He is worried about the future. He said he doesn't want to spend now and then ask the voters to bail us out later. Cmmr. Sheldon stated that he cannot vote for this budget but is optimistic about Mason County.

Cmmr. Neatherlin asked Cmmr. Sheldon what he wants to cut in the budget. He asked if there is something he is missing.

Cmmr. Sheldon told Cmmr. Neatherlin he is missing the concept that expenditures cannot exceed revenues and the concept of living within your means. He stressed that the budget has to be sustainable. He said the process used in the past is not the same as what was used this year.

Cmmr. Neatherlin/Jeffreys moved and seconded to adopt the 2015 budget as presented. motion carried. N-aye; S-nay; J-aye.

10. Other Business (Department Heads and Elected Officials) – Theresia Ehrich thanked the Board for their work with the Sheriff's office. They appreciate the support and understanding. She also hopes to continue to look forward to long range needs.
11. Board's Reports and Calendar - The Commissioners reported on meetings attended the past week and announced their upcoming weekly meetings.
12. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MASON COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Terri Jeffreys, Chair



Tim Sheldon, Commissioner

ATTEST:



Anni Almany
Clerk of the Board



Randy Neatherlin, Commissioner