

BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

December 2, 2014

1. Call to Order – The Chairperson called the regular meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Lynn Longan 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 2015 budget/levy information was submitted from Fire District 1, Fire District 5, Fire District 13, and the City of Shelton.
 - 4.1.2 Ports of Hoodspout and Grapeview submitted their final 2015 budgets.
 - 4.1.3 North Mason Fire District submitted their 2015 budget.
 - 4.1.4 James Naismith submitted an application for the TIP-CAP advisory board.
 - 4.1.5 FEMA sent a letter regarding map amendments to Special Flood Hazard Areas.
 - 4.1.6 The Dept. of Transportation sent a letter regarding funding projections and the culvert on SR 302 at Victor Creek.
 - 4.1.7 Timberland Regional Library sent notification that Robert Hall has been re-appointed for another term to the Board of Trustees.
 - 4.2 Invitation to join the Sewer Coalition: Mayor Cronce formally invited the Board to join the sewer coalition. He gave the Board a handout with the mission and background with an option to sign an interlocal agreement. Mayor Cronce is asking the Mason County Commissioners to join the coalition. Mayor Cronce said that he would like to make life easier for people of this County.

Cmmr. Neatherlin asked if they are looking for funding from the County.

Mayor Cronce said yes.

Cmmr. Sheldon said he thinks this is a good idea and they will take this for discussion.

Cmmr. Jeffreys said they could add unincorporated urban growth areas to the contract.
 - 4.3 Sheriff's Office Staff Recognition: Sheriff Salisbury said that people don't say thank you enough. He believes in giving awards to people who earn them.

Jail Officer David Sushak was recognized in appreciation of 36 years of service. The Sheriff said Officer Sushak is the longest serving employee of the Mason County Sheriff's Office and has served the citizens of Mason County with honor and distinction.

Detective Bill Adam was recognized in appreciation for his efforts in Oso. A thank you letter from Governor Inslee was sent to the Sheriff's office regarding services provided by Mr. Adam. The Governor's office thought they sent a whole group of people because Bill Adam acted in many needed capacities.

Animal Control Officer Cindy Brewer was recognized for her dog program. National Animal Care and Control asked for an article about Cindy and the services she provides to the community including schools. The article was about Cindy and her dog Jack.
 - 4.4 Michael MacSems read a news release regarding Mason County Heritage Grant Cycle. Applications are now being accepted for the 2015-2016 cycle.

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5. Open Forum for Citizen Input –
 - 5.1 Tom Davis spoke about a proposal discussed during the briefing regarding Mason Web TV. Mr. Davis suggested that they also include the briefings.
6. Adoption of Agenda - **Cmmr. Sheldon/Neatherlin moved and seconded to adopt the agenda as revised adding item 10.1. Motion carried unanimously. N-aye; S-aye; J-aye.**
7. Approval of Minutes – Approval of the October 21 and November 4, 2014 regular meeting minutes. **Cmmr. Neatherlin/Sheldon moved and seconded to approve the October 21 and November 4, 2014 regular meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously. N-aye; S-aye; J-aye.**
8. Approval of Action Agenda:
Approval of Warrants:
 - 8.1 Claims Clearing Fund Warrant #s 8015207-8015625 \$1,056,054.24
Claims Clearing Fund Warrant #s 8015701-8015741 \$ 105,051.00
Salary Clearing Fund Warrant #s 7000669-7000694 \$ 405,668.72
Direct Deposit Fund Warrant #s 17917-18298 \$ 606,787.93
 - 8.2 Approval to reappoint Martha "Marty" Harrell and Jamie Bariekman to the Mason County Historic Preservation Commission for new three year terms ending on November 30, 2017.
 - 8.3 Approval of authorize Public Works to select and enter into agreement for structural, geotechnical, hydraulic, archaeological and cultural resource consultant services as needed for 2015-2016 calendar years from the County Municipal Research Services Center (MRSC) consultant roster. The maximum pay-out for each agreement not to exceed \$50,000. Public Works will announce each consultant selection during a regular scheduled Commission meeting.
 - 8.4 Approval to allow the Environmental Health Manager to sign the professional services contract between Mason County Public Health and the Hood Canal Coordinating Council. This grant builds upon successful Hood Canal Pollution Identification and Correction Phase 1. There is no match requirement for this grant. The total award amount is \$170,000 over a two year time period from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2016. The 2015 portion has been included in the Public Health Budget.
 - 8.5 Approval to enter into an agreement with North Mason County Resource (NMCR) for the use of office space and facilities for Veterans Service Officers to provide Veterans assistance. The term is January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 for a total of \$600 per month to be paid from the Veterans Assistance Fund.
 - 8.6 Approval to set a hearing for Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. to receive public comment for the Private Line Occupancy Permit for Ricka Gerstmann/Washington Federal c/o Novastar Development on North Shore Road for sewer transportation line for parcels 3222-50-00025 and 32224-50-00925.
 - 8.7 Approval of the agreement with General Mechanical, Inc. to purchase and install a new boiler at the Mason County Jail including services and equipment to install, maintain and remove a temporary boiler from the jail. Estimated cost not to exceed \$60,737.81 and to be paid for with jail project contingency funds and additional unknown funds. The amount of unknown funds will be dependent on the amount of project contingency funds remaining at the conclusion of the jail project.
 - 8.8 Approval to reschedule the December 23, 2014 regular Commission meeting to 9:00 a.m. rather than 6:00 p.m.
 - 8.9 Approval of the Veterans Assistance Fund application for housing \$600.00 as recommended by the Veterans Assistance Committee.

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Questions:

Item 8.4 - Patricia Vandehey asked about item 8.4. She is concerned about the wording in the contract regarding personal information.

Debbie Riley said it is standard wording and it just protects personal information.

Item 8.3 - Chair Jeffrey's commented about how helpful the MRSC is.

Item 8.1 - Cmmr. Sheldon made a comment about how much is spent to keep the County running.
Cmmr. Neatherlin/Sheldon moved and seconded to approve action items 8.1 through 8.9. 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 2015 Budget Hearing continued from December 1, 2014. – Frank Pinter, Budget Manager.

Frank Pinter explained the history and the process to date.

Tom Davis asked why there are changes in IT and if there is a savings associated with the change.

Frank Pinter said it simplifies the process but there are no savings.

Cmmr. Neatherlin states he is concerned about this and is not in favor of the changes.

Cmmr. Sheldon said he likes this and it's a good idea and it makes it simple to understand.

Mary Jean Hrbacek said that non-departmental seems like a big black hole. She said it seems to mean there is less accountability. She asked if the levy shift is dead.

Chair Jeffrey's said she is not proposing that and it was never really alive but was discussed.

Tom Davis asked about the money budgeted for the courthouse security.

Testimony:

Chair Jeffrey's proposed an amendment to the budget just presented. She said she is concerned about a bow wave effect. She said a way to control the bow wave is to reduce FTEs. She said next year on the Criminal Justice Working Team there will be a discussions and a possible levy lid shift and it will be a criminal justice working team plan to reduce crime. She added that these four positions could possibly be part of that plan. She is concerned about doing this now during the fourth quarter and is concerned about the lack of funds to sustain them. She agrees Mason County needs to grow their deputy teams although she is concerned about doing it at this point in time. she proposes to reduce budget allocations by the 2 deputies and 2 corrections officers and she also made a proposal to increase the indigent defense budget to hire a public defender for district court; noting that they are under court order to limit caseloads. She added it will also have an overall decrease in the budget by \$25,910.00

Cmmr. Sheldon moves the amendment. He said he concerned about a bow wave effect. He added that they also need to re-negotiate seven labor contracts. He said that 2016 is looming as a tough year for Mason County. He added that in 90% of superior cases the taxpayer is paying the defendants lawyers. He said that is really expensive.

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Discussion:

Cmmr. Neatherlin said he has against this proposal because they have already agreed to the 2 deputies and 2 corrections officers. He said he is not in favor of removing them from the budget now. He said it is necessary to move forward with the plan to get the crime rate down.

Cmmr. Sheldon said it is not necessarily something he likes to propose but it really is about what the County can afford to do at this point.

Cmmr. Neatherlin said that is why he suggested the \$300,000.00 levy shift.

Cmmr. Sheldon/Jeffreys moved and seconded to approve the net decrease in the budget of \$25,950.00. Motion carried. N-nay; S-aye; J-aye.

Comments:

Mary Jean Hrbachek reiterated non departmental being a black hole. She said putting IT and others in "non departmental" hides the true costs it takes to do business. She added that it could hurt the County when it's applying for grants.

Frank Pinter stated that IT will stay in fund 500 and that will not change.

Tom Davis reiterated what he said yesterday at the budget hearing. He said even if taxes are unpopular it sometimes needs to be done. He said the County is between a rock and a hard place. He also reiterated that volunteers can assist the sheriff's department. It is primarily the presence that will be effective to keep crime down. He said it has to start somewhere and something needs to change. Mr. Davis also commented that he doesn't think so much court security is necessary especially during a fiscal crisis.

Ginger Brooks responded to the topic of the security issues at the courthouse. She said they have confiscated many weapons in the courthouse. She said it's not just about staff safety but about keeping the public safe. She stated the main priority is to keep the public as well as ourselves safe. She mentioned it's like having insurance, you may never need it but if you need it once, it's worth it and thank God you have it. She said she is in favor of courthouse security and asked that it not be reduced.

Theresia Ehrich told the Board that she wants to go on record on behalf of the Sheriff's office. She said it has been proven time and time again that having enough officers is effective. She said that even if they don't have enough money in the budget they still need to respond to calls to keep everyone safe. She said she doesn't think the citizens of this county want to pay new taxes but she does think they want to have a safe place to live.

Treasurer Lisa Frazier said she has concerns about passing this budget the way it is. This ending fund balance will not allow the County to have the resources it needs during the months when no property taxes are coming in. She added she would like to have metropolitan park district. She said it's very valuable. There needs to be a proactive a way of funding the short fall in the ending fund balance.

Cmmr. Sheldon asked Frank what he thinks the ending fund balance will be with the amendments. He also clarified that the corrections staff referred to have not already been hire so he is not talking about cutting positions.

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Frank stated it would be \$2,846,808.00 for the ending fund balance.

Cmmr. Sheldon asked the Treasurer if the County has ever been in a position to use registered warrants.

Lisa Frazier said she is obligated to pay anything that comes in. If no money is available, they are paid with registered warrants and are charged interest. She said she doesn't ever recall paying with registered warrants although they did take out a loan from ER &R. She said the cost of doing business is going up and without the Board being proactive to find different funding sources it's going to be hard.

Mike Dorsey, Prosecuting Attorney asked about the ending fund balance.

Frank Pinter explained it to him.

Testimony Closed.

Cmmr. Sheldon said he would like to see Mason County fiscally stable. He said they do more with less. He is worried that this budget will not be sustainable and revenues they hope for to offset expenditures will not be realized. He has a difficult moving forward with this preliminary budget and they still have work to do.

Cmmr. Neatherlin said he is not happy with the ending fund balance. He said there are a lot of things in the budget that he disagrees with but he does agree with having more officers on the street to protect this community and protect each other. He also agrees with having additional correctional officers. He is not in favor of moving forward with the budget at this time.

Cmmr. Jeffreys said back in 2009 jobs went away but the workload did not go away. She said when she came on board she noticed people were tired and a lot of distrust was present. She said the goals have been to build back what had been cut. She said this year the Sheriff's office received the bulk of the payback. She said to say that they don't prioritize public safety is not being honest. She fully supports public safety and officers on the street. She said is not saying she doesn't support public safety but she is concerned about how things will be paid for. She said they can't keep depending on the road fund. Roads are economic development and they have to get to developing roads to bring money into the County. She is willing to vote for this budget as it stands because she thinks it's as good as they can do. She said she is willing to sit down and go over it again.

Cmmr. Sheldon commented he thinks they still have work to do. He said there was a 1.68 COLA increase of almost \$88,000.00 allowing 78 non represented employees to receive pay increases. Cmmr. Sheldon also noted that Command staff received pay increases of \$175,000.00 for approximately 8-9 people. He said he thinks this is out of balance and he doesn't support it. He commented that he also feels roads are important.

Cmmr. Neatherlin said he would negotiate leaving the Sheriff's staff in the budget and changing the IT fund.

Chair Jeffreys asked Cmmr. Sheldon if he would be more amenable to this.

Cmmr. Sheldon said no. He said there needs to be a commitment to not increase property taxes because we do have additional revenue. He said by increasing FTE's in the budget will create a bow

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wave and it will haunt the County for a long time. He commented that perceived needs are greater than the revenue.

Cmmr. Sheldon said you cannot continue to spend beyond your means. He said some staff get 1.68 percent and some people get 26 percent raises. He feels that is not equitable and he didn't vote for it. He reiterated you cannot spend more than is brought in. He said to fix this would take more time and it can't just be done right now.

Cmmr. Neatherlin said that is the budget process.

Cmmr. Sheldon commented that he has always said you can't spend more than you make and don't count on a levy shift. He said he doesn't feel the budget process is deliberative. He said Frank has done a great job with the numbers but the process is not good.

The Board discussed when to have a continuation of this hearing and possible workshop on the Monday December 8, 2014 starting at 9 a.m. They agreed to continue this hearing at the next Commission meeting and said they will move things around to accommodate a budget workshop on Monday.

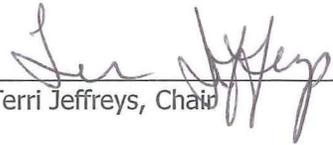
Cmmr. Neatherlin/Sheldon moved and seconded to continue this hearing to Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. and to leave the public comment open for input. Motion carried unanimously. N-aye; S-aye; J-aye

5 minute break

10. Other Business (Department Heads and Elected Officials) – Frank Pinter asked for approval to set a public hearing on Tuesday, December 23 at 9:30 a.m. to consider a budget transfer up to \$197,000 in the 2014 Sheriff's Current Expense budget for inmate medical costs in the jail.
Cmmr. Neatherlin/Sheldon moved to set a public hearing on Tuesday, December 23 at 9:30 a.m. to consider a budget transfer up to \$197,000 in the 2014 Sheriff's Current Expense budget for inmate medical costs in the jail. Resolution 70-14 (Exhibit A)
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 12:00 p.m.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MASON COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Terri Jeffreys, Chair



Tim Sheldon, Commissioner

ATTEST:



Clerk of the Board



Randy Neatherlin, Commissioner

RESOLUTION NO. 70-14
2014 BUDGET
BUDGET TRANSFER – NOTICE OF HEARING

WHEREAS, by reason of conditions which could not be reasonably foreseen at the time of making the budget for the year 2014, it is necessary to make provisions for a Budget Transfer to the budget as required by RCW 36.40.100 and RCW 36.40.195 for the following:

Current Expense- Sheriff's Office - \$197,000 budget transfer from Current Expense Ending Fund balance for inmate medical costs in the jail.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Board of Mason County Commissioners:

That the 23rd day of December, 2014 at the hour of 9:30 a.m. in the Mason County Commissioners Chambers in the Courthouse Building I, 411 North Fifth Street, Shelton, Washington, is hereby fixed as the time and place for a public hearing upon the matter of a Budget Transfer to the 2014 Budget as follows:

Current Expense - Sheriff's Care and Custody - \$197,000

The Clerk of the Board is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to cause notice of such hearing to be published as provided by law.

Dated this 2nd day of December, 2014

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MASON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

ATTEST:

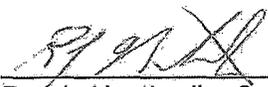

Clerk of the Board


Terri Jeffreys, Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Tim Sheldon, Commissioner


Tim Whitehead, Chief DPA


Randy Neatherlin, Commissioner