

ORDINANCE NO. 09-13

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 2.88 – MEETINGS OF BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Board of Mason County Commissioners desire to establish Rules of the Board so Commission meetings are carried out with efficiency and uniformity and are responsive to the public; and


WHEREAS, these rules are designed to provide guidance to the Commission and do not amend statutory or other regulatory requirements;


NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Mason County Commissioners hereby establishes the following rules (Attachment A) for the conduct of Commission meetings, proceedings and business. These rules shall be in effect upon adoption by ordinance of the Commission and until such time as new rules are adopted by ordinance.

DATED this 19<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2013.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MASON COUNTY, WASHINGTON


ATTEST:

  
Shannon Goudy, Clerk of the Board

  
Randy Neatherlin, Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
Tim Sheldon, Commissioner

  
Tim Whitehead, Chief DPA

  
Terri Jeffreys, Commissioner

**Mason County Board of Commissioners**  
**Rules of the Board**

**2.88.010 Regular Meetings.**

Regular meetings of the Board of Mason County Commissioners are held at 9:00 a.m. each Tuesday, except for the fifth Tuesday (in those months that have five Tuesdays) in the Commission Chamber, 411 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Shelton, Washington to transact regular business, (RCW 36.32.080) provided that:

- 1) If a holiday recognized and observed by the county falls on a Tuesday, such regular meeting shall be held on the next business day, per RCW 42.30.070;
- 2) If, due to an emergency, it is unsafe to meet in the Commission Chambers, meetings may be held for the duration of the emergency at such place as is designated by the chairperson of the board;
- 3) The regular meeting of the board on the fourth Tuesday of the month shall commence at 6 p.m. in the Commission Chambers;
- 4) The regular working session (briefings) may be held on Mondays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., on Tuesdays following the regular Commission meeting until 5:00 p.m. and on Wednesdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. At these meetings, the Board is briefed by staff and discussion may occur with other agencies. These are generally not decision-making meetings, however, occasionally an action is taken;
- 5) The Board may hold continued meetings in accordance with requirements of the law and may conduct continued meetings in the evening.

Board members may participate in regular meetings via conference call or videoconference. All Board meetings shall be open to the public. However, the Board may retire to executive session by majority vote and in compliance with the law (RCW 42.23 and RCW 42.30.110). Nothing in this section shall prohibit the Board of County Commissioners from adjourning Tuesday meetings from time to time, or from calling special meetings in accordance with notice requirements of law (RCW 42.30), or from cancelling a Commission meeting.

**2.88.020 Special meetings.**

Special meetings may be called at any time by the Chair of the Board (RCW 42.30.080) or by a majority of the members of the Board by providing written notice personally, by mail, by fax, or by e-mail at least 24 hours before the time of the special meeting to each member of the Board, to each local newspaper of general circulation, and to each local radio or television station that has a written request on file with the governing body to be notified of special meetings.

Notice shall be posted at the entrance to the meeting room and posted on the County's web site. The notice shall specify the time and place of the special meeting and the business to be transacted. Final action shall not be taken on any other matter at such meeting.

Written notice to a member of the governing body is not required when a member files at or prior to the meeting a written waiver of notice or provides a waiver by telegram, fax or e-mail or the member is present at the meeting at the time it convenes.

**2.88.030 Emergency meetings.**

The notice required for special meetings may be waived in the event it is called to deal with an emergency involving injury or damage to persons or property or the likelihood of such injury or damage, when time requirements would make it impractical and increase the likelihood of injury or damage. An emergency meeting must be open to the public.

**2.88.040 Quorum.**

A quorum of the Board of Mason County Commissioners shall consist of two elected or appointed County Commissioners.

The Board shall not adopt nor discuss with each other any ordinance, rule, regulation, order or directive except in a meeting open to the public and attended by a quorum; except for executive sessions (RCW 42.30.110) and those proceedings exempted by RCW 42.30.140.

**2.88.045 Meetings outside the regular meeting place.**

The Board may schedule regular, continued, or special meetings at locations outside the regular meeting place, subject to provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act (Chapter 42.30 RCW).

**2.88.050 Officers of the Board.**

The elected officers of the Board are the Chair and Vice Chair. At their first regular meeting of the calendar year, the Board of Mason County Commissioners shall select one of its members to preside at its meetings as Chair of the Board and Vice Chair. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Chair for any reason, including succession, the position shall be filled by the Vice Chair and the election of a replacement for the Vice Chair shall be held to serve the unexpired portion of the term. The Vice Chair will serve as Chair when the Chair is unable to serve.

The Chair shall sign all documents requiring the signature of the Board, and the Chair's signature shall be as legal and binding as if all members had affixed their names, provided the signature is authorized by the Board. In case the Chair is absent at any meeting of the Board, all documents requiring the signature of the Board shall be signed by the Vice Chair.

**2.88.060 Clerk of the Board.**

The Board of Mason County Commissioners shall appoint, by resolution, a Clerk who shall attend its meetings and keep a record of its proceedings. The Board may appoint an alternate person to act as Clerk when the appointed Clerk is unable to attend meetings.

**2.88.070 Motions, seconds, and voting.**

Any member of the Board, including the Chair and Vice Chair may make motions and/or second the motions of other members and vote on matters before the Board. Any member may disqualify themselves if they have a conflict of interest or believe participation in a Board action may raise issues of appearance of fairness.

**2.88.080 Postponement of action.**

When only two members of the Board are present at a meeting of the Board, and a division takes place on any question, the matter under consideration shall be postponed until the next regular meeting.

**2.88.090 Agendas.**

Agendas for regular meetings of the Board of County Commissioners shall be available to the public no later than the working day prior to the meeting.

Agendas for adjourned or continued meetings of the Board of County Commissioners shall be available to the public no later than the working day prior to the meeting.

Additions or modifications to the agenda may be made by majority vote of the Board at any time during the regular meeting.

**2.88.100 Records of the Board.**

All records of the Board, except those which are not public records within the terms of RCW 42.56, as enacted or hereafter amended, shall be available for public inspection at the office of the Commissioners during regular working hours.

**2.88.110 Applicability.**

Nothing in this resolution or in Chapter 42.30 RCW prohibits Board members from travelling together or from gathering for other purposes than county business nor from individually discussing county business with other than Board members.