

**MEETING MINUTES
SAN JUAN COUNTY (SJC), WASHINGTON
COUNTY COUNCIL
October 7, 2009**

Wednesday, October, 2009 - Council Hearing Room, Legislative Building, Friday Harbor

8:34 AM CALL TO ORDER – SPECIAL MEETING

Council Chair Peterson called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. Council members Howard (Howie) Rosenfeld, Gene Knapp, Bob Myhr, Lovel Pratt, and Richard Fralick; County Administrator, Pete Rose; Clerk to the Council, Ingrid Gabriel; Deputy Clerk, Maureen See; Milene Henley, SJC Auditor; and interested members of the public were present.

8:36 AM DISCUSSION: Deliberations of the 2010 Budget

Mr. Rose explained issues, problems, and concerns related to the 2010 Budget, chronicling employee cutbacks, affects on departments, capital needs, external factors, and the need for a new paradigm.

Milene Henley, Auditor, echoed Mr. Rose's remarks. She pointed out that they have taken flexibility and humanity out of the budget. In the near future, we will need to make choices, eliminate services, eliminate programs; the process in reductions is piecemeal without a strategic plan that will require a concerted effort.

Discussion continued with areas that included: juvenile court, big picture issues, the need to preliminary approve two different budgets, need to create an ordinance that moves two budgets forward, timeline on budget approval, Lopez Senior Services, and possible outcome from November election.

Marion Melville, Administrator of District Court, addressed the Council with her concern about losing a .25 in employee services from the reductions. District Court services would be greatly impacted by this reduction.

Reorganization of judicial branch was then discussed and how to add back into the court budget. It was agreed that the court managers are better able to adjust their own budget numbers.

Motion by Rosenfeld that the Council expresses the need to draft a resolution to send to the courts that would ask them to determine how best to reduce Juvenile Court and Superior Court by \$13,759 through personnel changes in order to offset a reduction in District Court (this is a budget shift, not a reduction in the court budgets). Pratt seconded. Motion Carried unanimously

Budget discussion continued with particular attention to departments that addressed the Council with requests.

Moved by Fralick to direct the County Administrator to prepare two ordinances, one that reflects a preliminary budget with a levy lift and one without a levy lift, and that a form of those ordinances be available on November 3 for discussion, and afterward schedule a public hearing for November 10 to determine which budget will be adopted as determined by the election results. Pratt seconded. Motion carried with Myhr opposed

Discussion continued. **Myhr moved to put \$40,000 back into the budget for Lopez Senior Services. No second, Motion failed**

11:30 AM CLOSED SESSION: Relating to Labor Negotiation according to RCW 42.30.140(4)(b) - Pamela Morais, Human Resources Manger

12:56 PM ADJOURN

**COUNTY COUNCIL
SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Rich Peterson, Chair
District 2, San Juan North

ATTEST: Clerk of the Council

By: _____
Maureen See, Deputy Clerk

Richard Fralick, Vice-Chair
District 4, Orcas West/Waldron

Level Pratt, Member
District 1, San Juan South

Howie Rosenfeld, Member
District 3, Friday Harbor

Gene Knapp, Member
District 5, Orcas East

Bob Myhr, Member
District 6, Lopez/Shaw