

**MEETING MINUTES
SAN JUAN COUNTY (SJC), WASHINGTON
COUNTY COUNCIL
July 22, 2009**

Wednesday, July 22, 2009 - Council Hearing Room, Legislative Building, Friday Harbor

9:00 AM CALL TO ORDER – SPECIAL MEETING

Council Chair Peterson called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. and the flag salute was conducted. 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, Lisa Brown; Milene Henley, SJC Auditor; and interested members of the public were present.

9:15 AM DISCUSSION: (Commenced at 9:02 a.m. due to time constraints.) Review of Draft Preliminary 2010 Budget - Milene Henley, Auditor

Mr. Rose explained issues and concerns related to the 2010 Budget, including the Phase 2 reduction process for the 2009 budget year, and the option of a levy lift to take effect in 2010. Ms. Henley provided a summary and explanation of her recommended Phase 2 reductions, and two additions in the Assessor's budget, which she believes will be recovered by capturing new construction assessments, to arrive at the million dollar reduction. She explained several options to be considered at the upcoming Budget Workshop on July 27, 2009. Mr. Rose and Ms. Henley answered questions from the Council and the following motion was made:

Moved by Pratt, seconded by Rosenfeld, that the Council hold a public hearing on the [2009] Phase 2 budget reductions on August 11, 2009. Motion carried unanimously.

9:45 AM DISCUSSION: Cost Reduction Options for Balancing the 2010 Budget and Options for a Property Tax Levy Lift Ballot Measure - Milene Henley, Auditor

Ms. Henley provided a PowerPoint presentation and explained the projection basis and staff input used in the preliminary 2010 budget of approximately 12.6 million dollars, noting that reductions from this year were carried into the 2010 budget. She reviewed cost of living adjustments and reduction areas. Ms. Henley explained options related to a Levy Lift and the funding that could be generated through a Levy Lift. She provided a list of "add-back" options, noting that it would be the Council's choice whether to have a Levy Lift, how much of a Levy Lift to seek, and which programs to target for adding back. Ms. Henley answered questions from the Council. The following staff and members of the public provided input: Marion Melville, District Court Administrator; Sharon Kivisto, San Juan Island resident; Judge Linde, Superior Court Judge; Charles Zalmanek, Assessor; John VanLund, County Engineer; Randall Gaylord, Prosecuting Attorney; and Joan White, Superior Court Clerk. Additional Council discussion took place regarding holding a public hearing, publicizing reductions, and the idea of a levy lift, its duration, and funding restrictions. Mr. Gaylord answered questions from the Council.

11:15 AM CORRESPONDENCE: (Commenced at 10:29 a.m., due to time constraints.) Thank you letter to Coast Guard Captain S.E. Englebert regarding the temporary allowance of touring-watches and overnight mooring of two Washington State Ferries in Friday Harbor.

Moved by Myhr, seconded by Fralick, that the letter be sent to Captain Englebert. Motion carried unanimously.

ADDED ITEM: PROCLAMATION: National Parks Service Sesquicentennial Celebration

Council Chair Peterson explained that the National Parks Service is celebrating its Sesquicentennial Ceremony this weekend and presented a proposed Council Proclamation. Discussion regarding taking action on non-agenda items took place.

Moved by Pratt, seconded by Myhr, to approve the Proclamation for the National Parks Service. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn: Council Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

These Minutes were approved and signed on Tuesday, July 28, 2009. The original document is retained in the Council's permanent proceedings file. Attest: Lisa J. Brown, Deputy Clerk.