

1MEETING MINUTES

SAN JUAN COUNTY (SJC), WASHINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL October 5, 2009

Monday, October 5, 2009 - Council Hearing Room, Legislative Building, Friday Harbor

10:01 AM CALL TO ORDER - Monday Work Session

Council Chair Peterson called the staff meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Council members Howard (Howie) Rosenfeld, Rich Peterson, Gene Knapp, Bob Myhr, Lovel Pratt, and Richard Fralick; County Administrator, Pete Rose; Clerk to the Council, Ingrid Gabriel; Deputy Clerk Maureen See; and interested members of the public were present.

10:02 AM CLERK UPDATE & ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS: Ingrid Gabriel, Clerk to the Council; Maureen See, Deputy Clerk

Ms. Gabriel reminded the Council that there is a Special Meeting on Wednesday, October 7 to deliberate recommendations on the budget. A Closed Session is also scheduled relating to labor negotiations.

Mr. Peterson brought the matter of cell phone allowances to the Council's attention. During budget reductions in late Spring, cell phone allowances were eliminated from the Council's budget. Mr. Peterson questioned whether it was the intention of the Council to do so. Currently, Mr. Rosenfeld is the only Council member who submits his cell phone costs for reimbursement as a taxable benefit. The Council agreed that they wish the cell phone allowance to be re-entered as a line item on the Council budget, Mr. Rosenfeld's costs to be reimbursed, and they directed staff to do so.

Mr. Peterson then reported that all proceedings files have been removed from the Council office and courthouse storage for the purpose of archiving. Milene Henley, Auditor, contracted with a company to scan the material and eventually convert to Helion software. Indexing the material will be done in the future.

Committees: Ms. See gave a committee update that included four new applicants. The Council agreed to appoint Roger Ellison to the Agricultural Resource Committee. Two of the other applicants will need to submit their County advisory committee applications.

Discussion followed regarding the committee rules of appointment to the Planning Commission. The Council agreed to review the enabling Ordinance during recess and re-open the discussion in the afternoon.

Minutes and Agendas: Will be discussed after lunch

10:30 AM DISCUSSION: Council Review of Marine Resource Committee (MRC) Report

Mr. Rose gave a brief introduction on the Marine Resource Committee's Report to the Council, and reviewed his comments to the Council which included a synopsis of the MRC recommendations.

Discussion opened and the Council began a review of the issues, and a preliminary formulation of a response to NOAA. Mr. Rosenfeld suggested that the Council make a statement, and attach both the MRC and the Prosecuting Attorney's reports to their comments. Final comments are due to NOAA by October 27.

Issues covered in this discussion included: enforcement and locally based enforcement regulations, exemptions, prey protection, toxins, treaty concerns, boat launch replacement costs, and education. It was agreed that Stan Matthews would draft a statement, and the Council would reopen this discussion in the afternoon.

11:07 AM DISCUSSION: Visitors' Bureau 2010 Marketing Plan - Deborah Hopkins, Executive Director, San Juan Island Visitors Bureau

Mr. Peterson began the discussion by explaining that the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee was tasked to make recommendations to the Council regarding the 2010 Marketing Plan. Because there was no quorum at the last meeting, those present discussed the Plan and it has been moved ahead for the Council's approval.

Ms. Hopkins reviewed the Marketing Plan, pointing out some of the cutbacks which included the impact of the Rosario closure on the budget. All of the programs that may be eliminated in 2010 are in red in the Marketing Plan. Discussion followed regarding the differences between County and Town lodging tax. 2% of County hotel/motel tax is given to the Visitors' Bureau for visitor promotion, and the amount includes allocations to all the Chambers of Commerce. The Town of Friday Harbor grants the second two percent of lodging tax monies for specific projects.

Discussion of scenic byways followed.

Myhr moved to approve the San Juan Islands Visitors Bureau 2010 Marketing Plan. Rosenfeld seconded. Motion carried unanimously

11:20 AM Council Calendar Items Continued: Mr. Rosenfeld asked that two new appointments of his be added to the calendar, Solid Waste Advisory Committee, and Town and County Affordable Housing Steering Committee. Mr. Myhr asked that his name be added to the North Sound Mental Health Administration and Northwest Regional Council.

The question of who would cover the Board of Health Meeting on November 18 was discussed again. Mr. Knapp indicated he may be available.

Fralick moved that Gene Knapp be appointed Pro Tem for the Board of Health Meeting on November 18. Myhr seconded. Motion carried

11:23 AM COUNCIL MEMBER UPDATES & DISCUSSION ITEMS

The Council commented collectively on the announcement that San Juan County is in GMA compliance.

Ferries/FAC/Intermodal: Mr. Rosenfeld noted there were no significant things to report at this time. Mr. Myhr commented on the problem Shaw Islanders are having trying to get home when the last daily ferry leaves Anacortes at 6:30 pm.

Budget Subcommittee: Mr. Fralick said the committee continues to meet and would meet again this afternoon.

General Government Subcommittee: Mr. Knapp noted there was nothing to report.

Additional Updates & Discussion Items:

Ms. Pratt reported on the group tour of bulkheads and rockeries organized by Bob Levinson and Amy Windrope. Ms. Pratt found the tour very informative and was pleased that there seemed to be agreement among the group regarding baseline information. Mr. Myhr requested a review of our bulkhead policies and suggested that a moratorium on bulkhead construction may be needed until we finish our Shoreline Master Program Update.

Mr. Fralick commented that there was a large variability from one sight to another, making it difficult to accommodate into regulations. He noted the challenges ahead in coming up with regulations that will be appropriate, and that can be administered.

Mr. Peterson reported that the tour was very educational, and gave a unique perspective to each case. He was particularly interested in the final stop on the tour, and the creative way the site was designed in spite of county code issues, and to satisfy the environmental concerns.

11:37 AM DISCUSSION: Legislative Priorities for 2010

The Council first reviewed the list prepared by Mr. Myhr. Ms Pratt asked if the Council wished to generate white papers on certain priorities, and volunteered to prepare the drafts, such as small Farm Interns/Volunteers and the Department of Labor and Industries priorities. Discussion continued on the 2010 Priorities List to include enhanced orca protection. Ms. Pratt was tasked to share the list with Senator Ranker and report back to the Council.

11:47 AM STAFF REPORT: Friday Harbor Marina Leasehold Excise Tax Refunds - Charles Zalmanek, Assessor, and Randall Gaylord, Prosecuting Attorney

Discussion focused on the Department of Revenue's (DOR) inquiry into refunds of leasehold excise tax payments billed by the Port of Friday Harbor to moorage tenants of the marina. DOR informed the Assessor's office that the refunds would be funded by reducing future leasehold excise tax revenues paid to the State of Washington, Town of Friday Harbor, and San Juan County.

This discussion continued for informational purposes, no action was required.

12:00 PM RECESS FOR LUNCH

1:02 PM Reconvene

Mr. Peterson announced that the NOAA Meeting scheduled for this evening has been moved from the Grange to the Friday Harbor High School Commons.

Committee Update re-opened: Discussion continued on the application of John Lackey to the Planning Commission. This appointment would expire in December, 2009 in accordance with the Charter. The appointment will be put on the Consent Agenda.

Moved by Peterson to appoint John Lackey to the Planning Commission in accordance with the terms stipulated in the Charter update, seconded by Fralick. Motion Carried with Pratt and Myhr opposed.

1:05 PM DISCUSSION: 2010 San Juan County Budget

Mr. Rose gave an update on the 2010 budget, emphasizing we are at a precarious point in the budget process. He discussed revenue, staffing cutbacks, two budgets - one with a levy lift, the other without a levy lift, reserve policy, expenditure forecast, department efforts in managing reductions, and thanks to staff (Milene Henley, Jose Domenech, Debbie Emery and Stan Matthews) for their efforts in this process.

Milene Henley, Auditor, gave a report on current revenue projections.

Mr. Rose indicated to the Council he would be putting a pay and staffing plan before them for approval.

The Council began their discussion of the 2010 Budget which included senior services, levy lift implications, and the two preliminary budgets before them.

2:45 PM Re-Open Council Discussion of Draft Response to NOAA

Stan Matthews placed a draft before the Council as a response to NOAA recommendations. The goal is to have some comments ready for tonight's meeting by NOAA at the Friday Harbor High School Commons. The Council commented and edited the proposed draft response.

Moved by Myhr, seconded by Howie, to accept the proposed draft response to NOAA. Motion carried unanimously.

3:19 PM ADJOURN

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

Lovel 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