

**SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES  
SAN JUAN COUNTY (SJC), WASHINGTON  
COUNTY COUNCIL  
Monday, September 24, 25, 2007**

**Monday, September 24, 2007 - Council Conference Room**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Chair Bob Myhr called the special meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Council members Kevin Ranker, Rich Peterson, Howard Rosenfeld, Gene Knapp, and Alan Lichter; County Administrator, Pete Rose; Prosecuting Attorney, Randall Gaylord; Clerk to the Council, Laura Tuttle; Deputy Clerk, Valarie Graham; and interested members of the public were present.

**PUBLIC MEETINGS/WORK SESSIONS**

**10:00 a.m.** – The Council met for a Staff Meeting and Work Session.

**RECESS** - At 11:00 a.m., Council Chair Myhr recessed the meeting until 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, September 25, 2007.

**Tuesday, September 25, 2007 - Council Hearing Room**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Chair Myhr called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The flag salute was conducted.

**CITIZEN ACCESS TIME**

Doris Estabrooks addressed the Council asking for a ban on Styrofoam containers. Mr. Myhr suggested adding this topic to the staff discussion for next week.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/SCHEDULE CHANGES**

The Executive Session schedule was changed due to time constraints.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by Ranker, seconded by Knapp, to approve the Minutes of **September 17, 18, 2007**. Motion carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Moved by Lichter, seconded by Knapp, to approve the **Final Consent Agenda of September 25, 2007** as follows:

**A. Resolutions/Ordinances:**

1. **Resolution 37-2007 Resolution Accepting Bids for Legislative Building Remodel**
2. **Resolution 38-2007 Resolution Designating A Deputy Clerk of the County Council**

**B. Contracts/Agreements:**

1. Approve the Contract between San Juan County Juvenile Court Services and the State of Washington, Department of Social & Health Services, Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration (JRA)(SJC Agreement No. 07JV09), to provide additional funding to existing contract.

**C. Budget Items:** (No items.)

**D. Personnel:** (No items.)

**E. Appointments:**

Approve resignation of Councilman Kevin Ranker from the Board of Health and the appointment of Councilman Rich Peterson for the remainder of Mr. Ranker's term.

**F. Correspondence:**

1. Approve letter of support for nomination of Mike Sato as the San Juan Action Area representative to the Puget Sound Partnership's Ecosystem Coordination Board.

**G. Miscellaneous:** (No items.)

**H. Bid Openings:** (No items.)

**ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

**RES. NO. 37-2007** - Moved by Ranker, seconded by Knapp, to sign the **Resolution Accepting Bids for Legislative Building Remodel**

**RES. NO. 38-2007** - Moved by Ranker, seconded by Knapp, to sign the **Resolution Designating a Deputy Clerk of the County Council**

Motion carried.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS/MEETINGS/WORK SESSIONS**

COUNCIL DISCUSSION/UPDATES/OTHER ACTION ITEMS:

**1. Board of Directors Meeting for the Washington State Association of Counties** - Council Member Ranker attended and provided the Council with an update.

**2. Discuss LTAC Ordinance** - Mr. Myhr opened the discussion, stating that this would be an opportunity to consider LTAC issues. He asked Pete Rose, County Administrator, to give a quick summary and Randy Gaylord, Prosecuting Attorney, to add comments. Mr. Rose stated it was important to know the issues and understand the new legislation. He summarized 6 recommendations and 10 questions to be reviewed by Council to send to LTAC and said it would broaden eligibility to qualify for the funds. Previously, lodging tax facilities required some form of County ownership, but now the facilities can be non-profits. An annual report is now required to access the connection to tourism. The organizations to be funded include but are not limited to, tourism promotion facilities, special events, festivals, museums, theatres, and historical societies. Mr. Lichter asked Mr. Gaylord what was his definition of tourism. Mr. Gaylord responded that it was unchanged from the statute, anything designed to increase tourism. Mr. Lichter stated that on Orcas Island there are over 100 non-profit organizations and asked how closely are they supposed to be connected to tourism. Mr. Gaylord stated for the next 5 years there would be some leeway and the Council would provide policy in this regard. Mr. Rose stated that the Council should request from LTAC minimum qualifications to see who and what should be funded. Mr. Ranker expressed his concern for the time constraint involved, stating that if we don't get it to LTAC now we will run out of time. We should ask LTAC for recommendations and expedite the process. Mr. Myhr opened the discussion for public comment. Julie VanCamp from LTAC asked if we are to review and recommend funding, RFP's need to go out so that LTAC can receive a proposal in time. Jim Nelson asked for standards for disbursing funds. There was further commentary about standards and quality. Mr. Myhr reminded everyone that we only have 45 days. (See Sign-up Sheet #1 for public comment list, see proceedings file)

**EXECUTIVE/CLOSED SESSIONS**

**11:00a.m.** – (Commenced at 11:07am due to time constraints) Council Chair Myhr announced that the Council would be holding an **Executive Session** estimated to last approximately 15 minutes, to discuss Property Acquisition pursuant to the provisions of RCW 42.30.110(1)(b). Participants: Full Council; Pete Rose, SJC Administrator; Randall Gaylord, PA; Jon Shannon, Director Public Works. The session ended at 11:20 a.m. for an actual session time of 13 minutes. No action was taken.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

**11:20 a.m.** - A public hearing was held to receive early public input for 2008 Budget. Present: Full Council; Pete Rose, SJC Administrator; Milene Henley, SJC Auditor; Jose Domenech, Chief Deputy Auditor; Laura Tuttle, Clerk to the Council; Valarie Graham, Deputy Clerk; and interested members of the public. Mr. Myhr introduced those present and opened the public hearing. Mr. Rose welcomed an overview from the public, reminding them that there are many demands for County services. Public testimony was opened, submitted and closed. (See Sign-up Sheet #2 for public comment list, see proceedings file)

#### COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COUNCIL BRIEFING

County Administrator Council Briefing. Also present: John Manning, Director Health & Community Services; Barbara LaBrash, Human Services Coordinator and interested members of the public.

- 1. Presentation on Mental Health Sales Tax.** Mr. Rose informed the Council of the 2005 legislative 1/10 cent mental health tax which can be enacted by a Council vote. There are several counties, some our neighbors, who have enacted this tax. Mr. Manning recommended the Council pass this tax for the 300K year revenue that has the potential to increase over time and provide adequate funding for mental health programs presently underfunded and at risk. Mr. Manning stated he had met with the Law and Justice Council outlining programs in therapeutic court. Mr. Lichter asked, what is therapeutic court? Mr. Manning responded that if there is a drug or alcohol problem, the court will provide funding to get help and won't proceed with the court proceeding as long as the participants adhere to court-ordered therapeutic plans. It consists of a structure of early intervention before any further court action is taken. Mr. Knapp asked if there was a statute which defines this. Ms. LaBrash quoted statute 26.12.250; it is defined as special dependency cases. The Juvenile Court Administrator was asked to be the lead representative for the Law and Justice Council in exploring the development of a joint proposal. There are two requirements of RCW 82.14.460: 1) that the funds collected are used solely for the new or expanded mental health and chemical dependency services; 2) the operation or expansion of a therapeutic court. Mr. Rosenfeld asked whether our citizens would go for an additional 1/10% sales tax increase and noted that it had been a long time since a sales tax increase. Mr. Ranker stated this is the most appropriate way to go; prevention is always less expensive than treatment.
- 2. County Administrator Pro Tem Stipend.** Mr. Rose addressed the Council, stating that the value of having a stipend has been established. Mr. Knapp asked if there was money in the budget for this. Mr. Myhr questioned whether this should be Administrative budget or Community Development & Planning budget. Mr. Rose deferred to the Auditor. The following action was taken:

**Moved by Lichter, seconded by Knapp, to approve the Motion for a Monthly Stipend of \$500 for the Administrator Pro-Tem. Motion Carried.**

- 3. Termination of Island County Superior Court Contract.** Mr. Rose addressed the Council with a resolution to terminate the long-standing Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for the provision of Superior Court services. The San Juan County Council also thanks Island County judges and staffs for many years of high-quality service to the citizens of San Juan County in carrying out the terms of the agreement. The following action was taken:

**Moved by Lichter, seconded by Rosenfeld, to sign Resolution No. 39-2007 Terminating the Agreement with Island County for the provision of Superior Court Services. Motion carried.**

- 4. Changing Custodians of Juvenile Court Revolving Fund.** Mr. Rose addressed the Council with a resolution changing custodians of the Juvenile Court Revolving Fund due to a current change in staff. The following action was taken:

**Moved by Peterson, seconded by Lichter, to sign Resolution No. 40-2007 which changes custodians of the Juvenile Court Revolving Fund. Motion Carried.**

**2:30 p.m.** - A public discussion was held to consider the Introduction of Climate Change Policy. Present: Full Council; Pete Rose, SJC Administrator; Laura Tuttle, Clerk to the Council; Valarie Graham, Deputy Clerk; and interested members of the public. Mr. Myhr opened the discussion, stating the Council had received a copy of the resolution. Members Lichter and Ranker worked together to develop a proposal which would formally pledge

SJC to reduce its contribution to the causes of global warming. Lichter opened the discussion by quoting a recent article from National Geographic Magazine which concluded that, "The scientific evidence is clear" and that human activity is the main cause of the current global rise in temperature. Lichter's and Ranker's draft proposal enumerated twenty-six actions, each of which could potentially reduce the County's use of petroleum and fossil fuels and products. Peterson said he could not support the resolution with the "whereas" recital clauses in the draft resolution because he questions some of the science that forms the basis for the proposed actions. Knapp took issue with the number of "whereas" clauses; he also opposed those portions that added any further government costs. Ranker added that more than 500 cities and hundreds of counties have already adopted similar goals. Lichter added that we are just proposing some basic things to reduce the greenhouse effect, that it is our responsibility as members of the human community. The Council heard testimony supporting the climate change resolution from representatives of the San Juan Islands Conservation District, Friends of the San Juans, and private citizens. Ranker said he will revise the proposed resolution, incorporating input from the rest of the Council. Ranker and Lichter will bring the proposal back for further discussion at a future date. (See Sign-up sheet #3 for comment list, see proceedings file)

**ADJOURNMENT** - Moved by Lichter, seconded by Knapp, to adjourn the meeting at 3:45 p.m. Motion carried. Council Chair Myhr adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m. A Special Meeting was scheduled for Monday, October 1, 2007, and the next regular meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, October 2, 2007.

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**COUNTY COUNCIL  
SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

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Bob Myhr, Chair  
District 6, Lopez/Shaw

ATTEST: Clerk of the Council

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Howard Rosenfeld, Vice Chair  
District 3, Friday Harbor

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Valarie Graham, Deputy Clerk

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Kevin M. M. Ranker, Member  
District 1, San Juan South

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Rich Peterson, Member  
District 2, San Juan North

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Alan Lichter, Member  
District 4, Orcas West/Waldron

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Gene Knapp, Member  
District 5, Orcas East