

**SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES  
SAN JUAN COUNTY (SJC), WASHINGTON  
COUNTY COUNCIL  
MAY 15 AND 16, 2006**

**Monday, May 15, 2006 - Council Conference Room**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Chair Lichter called the special meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Council Members Ranker and Myhr; County Administrator Pro-Tem, David Goldsmith; Prosecuting Attorney, Randall Gaylord; and Interim Clerk of the Council, Carolyn Morrison, were present.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/SCHEDULE CHANGES**

Council Members Lichter, Myhr, Ranker, and the Council Clerk, Carolyn Morrison, attended the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) meeting at the Islander's Bank administrative building from 12:00 Noon until 2:15 p.m., at the invitation of County Administrator Pro-Tem, David Goldsmith. The purpose of the meeting was to hear the presentation of the consultants who will plan a long-term solution to the solid waste issues for San Juan Island.

**PUBLIC MEETINGS/WORK SESSIONS**

**10:00 a.m.** – The Council met for a weekly Staff Meeting and Council Work Session regarding various County business. No action was taken

**RECESS** - At 11:30 a.m., Council Chair recessed the meeting until 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 16, 2006.

**Tuesday, May 16, 2006 - Council Hearing Room**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Chair Lichter called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Council members Ranker and Myhr; Administrator Pro-Tem, David Goldsmith; and the Interim Clerk to the Council, Carolyn Morrison were present. The flag salute was conducted.

**CITIZEN ACCESS TIME**

No matters were brought before the Council.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/SCHEDULE CHANGES**

1. The Council allowed Councilman Ranker to participate in approval of the minutes of May 8 and 9, 2006 even though he was excused from attending the May 9 session.
2. The posted Council Agenda, Consent Agenda and Discussion/Other Action Agenda were revised.
3. Councilman Myhr will attend a portion of a meeting of the WA State Oil Spill Advisory Council (WSOPAC) meeting, co-hosted by WSOPAC member and fellow Councilman Kevin Ranker, scheduled to be held on Lopez Island on Thursday, May 18, as an observer.
4. The scheduled 2:30 p.m. presentation and briefing by WA State Ferries and Cocker & Fennes representatives (Project Managers/Project Team) for the Anacortes Ferry Terminal Project; the Draft Long Range WA Ferry System Plan; and the Draft Friday Harbor Master Plan, was cancelled by WA State Ferries due to transportation problems.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by Myhr, seconded by Ranker, to approve the minutes of **May 8 and 9, 2006**. Motion carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Moved by Ranker, seconded by Myhr, to approve the **Final Consent Agenda of May 16, 2006** as follows:

**A. Appointments:**

1. Approve the extension of the term of office for the SJC Planning Commissioners Jim Nelson, Ri Warren, and Larry Hendel through June 19, 2006 for the purpose of maintaining a quorum for upcoming Planning Commission Hearings.

**B. Miscellaneous:**

1. Sign the proclamation declaring the week of August 13 through 19, 2006 as San Juan County Fair Week.
2. Sign the proclamation declaring the week of May 20 through 26, 2006 as National Safe Boating Week.
3. Sign the proclamation declaring June 30, 2006 as Thomas R. Cowan Day in San Juan County.

Motion carried.

**ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

**RES. NO. 24-2006** - (Refer to PUBLIC HEARINGS/WORK SESSIONS 1:30 p.m., for details of action taken.)

**RES. NO. 25-2006** - (Refer to PUBLIC HEARINGS/WORK SESSIONS 1:30 p.m., for details of action taken.)

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

**1. Council and Panel “Session” Procedures for Interviews with the Candidates for the Position of County Administrator** – Councilman Myhr reported to the audience that of the six finalists selected last week, two had withdrawn their candidacy. He then related the proposed new schedule being considered. On Wednesday, June 7, a panel consisting of seven selected citizens will interview the candidates on a rotating basis with the panel of three Elected Officials, three appointed Department Heads, and David Goldsmith, County Administrator Pro-Tem. A luncheon will be held for these participating groups after the last interview. The Council hopes to have feedback from each panel later that afternoon through a spokesperson for the citizens’ panel and government panel. In the evening, a social event is now being planned from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. This timeframe affords for those who travel to other islands the ability to meet and greet the candidates in Friday Harbor and still be able to take the Interisland ferry home. It was agreed that these sessions would be “open”. The location has yet to be selected for the social; however, a press release will be sent out for the formal announcement. The Council then discussed whether or not the interviews they will conduct with the candidates on Thursday, June 8, 2006, would be in open or executive session. Councilman Myhr favored an open session with specific times for each candidate to spend with individual Council members. Council Chair Lichter favored holding the interviews in Executive Session as recommended by Waldron & Company. Councilman Ranker stated he could proceed either way but was in favor of the Executive Session and following the advice of Waldron & Company. **It was the consensus of two Council Members to hold the Council interviews in Executive Session as provided for by RCW 42.30.110(1)(g).** Councilman Myhr ended the discussion by stating that he hoped to be able to meet individually with some of the candidates. He again noted to the audience that these were highly qualified individuals being considered.

**2. Hearing Examiner Decisions Appeal Process to the Council Update** – Also present: Karen Vedder, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. Councilman Ranker stated that the Council had asked for a digital copy of the proposed document presented by Prosecuting Attorney, Randall Gaylord, after the last work session in order to provide their comments, but that it had not been received. He noted that Ms. Vedder was present to assist and would probably be taking over this task. He suggested to the Council that an outside entity familiar with this process assist the Council in crafting this ordinance under a Professional Services Contract. He estimated that it would not cost more than \$1,000 and offered that he had a couple of qualified people in mind. He added that he would need to speak with them before discussing their names and would need permission from the Council first. Ms. Vedder and the Council discussed the work load in both offices and agreed that a single qualified individual, who could consolidate all the Council’s comments and bring them to Ms. Vedder for further processing, would enable this task to move forward more smoothly. Ms. Vedder noted that the consultant should have a planning background and be familiar with the appeals process. Because the Council had related to citizens that this process was moving toward completion in order to provide an avenue for future appeals, **it was agreed by consensus of the Council that Mr. Ranker should speak with qualified consultants regarding engaging an appropriate individual to assist with this process.** Mr. Ranker will report back to the Council.

**3. County Administrator Pro-Tem Council Briefing** - Also present interested citizens. Mr. Goldsmith began with an apology to the Council with regard to a press article that had suggested he had made a facial gesture at a comment made by the Council. He added that he did not feel this was correct and that he totally supports the Council and their decisions. He also noted that he is only beholden to the citizens of the County and not any special person or organization. The Council appreciated his comment. Agenda:

**A. Public Facility Financing Assistance Funding (HB 2260) Update** – Mr. Goldsmith noted that the 2006 applications packets were prepared and sent out on Monday by the Council Clerk. There is approximately \$400,000 available; however, the money may be held over as well. The deadline for applications is June 16, 2006. All applications received will be taken to the caucus committee for review and recommendation and from which the 2006 Economic Plan will be developed for approval by the Council. He noted that his emphasis this year is for Public Works and for Information Technology (IT). The Town of Friday Harbor has funding in place. He stated that he has asked all County and public entities to look for the economic factor. He also explained that if these funds could be used for IT, capital funds could be preserved for other projects. There is also a storm water issue in Eastsound, Orcas Island, that these funds would also be well suited for under the Public Works Department.

**B. Town of Friday Harbor Meeting Thursday May 18, 2006** – Mr. Goldsmith said he would attend the meeting and will speak to the Town Council regarding fiber optics being routed across the street to the Carlson building. There is an existing issue with other entities that have halted progress on this task. He stated that he will ask for an Inter-local agreement as in interim solution. He will also address the issues surrounding the San Juan Island transfer station.

**4. Letters from San Juan County Chambers of Commerce and Windermere Realty Regarding Tourism in the Gulf Islands** – Council Chair Lichter wanted to inform the public that letters had been sent to some of the Gulf Islands in the Trust saying, “Send us your tourists if you don’t want them.” He explained that these letters caused a huge turmoil. He noted that the SJC Council will discuss the issue on June 14 and 15 when we visit the Gulf Island Trust for the annual joint meeting. He added that he has spoken with their Council Chair concerning the issue. Councilman Ranker noted the importance of maintaining relationships with the Gulf Islands, and that this recent correspondence is not in best interest of our County as written. He added that the letters were very insensitive. Councilman Myhr stated that he had read an article from a Gulf Island’s newspaper that stated that they were very offended by the letters from San Juan County.

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS/MEETINGS/WORK SESSIONS**

**11:00 a.m.** - A continued work session was held from May 9, 2006 regarding a proposed “vesting” ordinance. Present: Ron Henrickson, Community Development and Planning Director, and interested parties. The Council reviewed the changes they had recommended and discussed each section. Mr. Henrickson noted that this proposed document must go to the WA State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED) prior to being published for a public hearing before the Planning Commission and the Council. He added that this will also have to go through the SEPA process. After discussion, **it was the consensus of the Council to go forward with the proposed ordinance to CTED, the SEPA process, and public hearings when ready.**

**11:30 a.m.** - A public hearing was held to consider the SJC Land Bank’s proposed 2006 Amended Expenditure and Acquisition Plan. Present: Lincoln Bormann, Land Bank Director; and Lisa Lawrence, SJC Land Bank Commission Chair; and interested citizens. Mr. Bormann presented the Staff Report dated May 10, 2006 which detailed the proposed amended plan. Each property was explained in depth and discussed with the Council. Public testimony was opened, none submitted, and closed. Deliberations were held and the following action was taken:

**Moved by Myhr, seconded by Ranker, to approve the SJC Land Bank’s proposed 2006 Amended Expenditure and Acquisition Plan as presented. Motion carried.**

**1:30 p.m.** - A public hearing was held to consider a road vacation and abandonment of portions of County Road Right-of-Way in Government Lot 4 of Section 1 and Government Lot 1 of Section 2, Township 34 North, Range 2 West, W.M., known as a portion of Lopez Hill Road, Lopez Island. Present: Guard Sundstrom, Public Works Office Engineer; and interested citizens. Mr. Sundstrom explained the staff report dated April 19, 2006 from the County Engineer and two proposed resolutions and answered the questions of the Council. Public testimony was opened, none submitted, and closed. Deliberations were held and the following action was taken:

Moved by Myhr, seconded by Ranker, to adopt **Resolution 24-2006**, a resolution to vacate and abandon a portion of unused County Road Right-of-Way, located in Government Lot 1, Section 2, Township 34 North, Range 2 West, W.M., Lopez Hill Road No. 265, Lopez Island. Motion carried.

Moved by Myhr, seconded by Ranker, to adopt **Resolution 25-2006**, a resolution accepting a dedication deed from Louis A. Washburn, Lopez Hill Road No. 265, in Government Lot 4, Section 1, and Government Lot 1, Section 2, Township 34 North, Range 2 West, W.M. Motion carried.

**2:30 p.m.** – The scheduled public meeting for a presentation and briefing by WA State Ferries and Cocker & Fennes representatives for the Anacortes Ferry Terminal Project; the Draft Long Range WA Ferry System Plan; and the Draft Friday Harbor Master Plan was cancelled by WA State Ferries due to transportation problems. It will be rescheduled at a later date.

**ADJOURNMENT** - Chair Lichter announced the session was adjourned at 1:48 p.m. A Special Meeting was scheduled for Monday, May 22, 2006 and the next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 23, 2006.

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**These minutes were approved and signed by the Council on May 23, 2006. The original document is retained in the permanent proceedings file dated May 15 and 16, 2006. Attest: Carolyn K. Morrison, Clerk.**