

FULL COUNCIL
MINUTES
December 16, 2009

ATTENDANCE

BOARD MEMBERS: Jack Louws, Tom Hadd, Gary Jensen, Andy Rowilson, Bonnie Onyon, Louise Bjornson, Barbara Ryan, Tom Jones, Bob Aitken, Sam Crawford, Pete Kremen, Dan Pike, Pat Alesse, Steve Swan

GUESTS: Laverne Lamoureux, Bob Putich, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke (by phone)

STAFF: Jim Miller, Gordon Rogers, Ron Cubellis, Leslye O'Shaughnessy

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:37 p.m.

B. PRESENTATION

B.1 2010 Census

Ms. Lamoureux and Mr. Putich gave a presentation on the upcoming 2010 Census and talked about the assistance local jurisdictions can and have agreed to give.

U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke called in and gave further information on the upcoming Census and thanked board members for supporting the effort.

Census forms will be mailed March 15, 2010 with April 1, 2010 as the designated "census day".

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

Alesse reported that he has a friend that just returned from Beijing and he rode a bullet train that went 200 mph.

D. MINUTES

MOTION: Jensen moved, Pike seconded, to approve the minutes from September 16, 2009.

MOTION PASSED

E. BUDGET/CLAIMS

E.1 Budget Report

The November 2009 budget report was in the packet. Miller reviewed the budget reports and claims. He stated that we will end up the year in good shape.

E.2 Claim Voucher Listing

Vouchers audited and certified by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing which has been made available to the Council.

As of this date, December 16, 2009, the Council approves for payment those vouchers included in the above list and further described as follows: voucher numbers 2009407 through 2009449 in the total amount of \$123,203.48.

MOTION: Kremen moved, Ryan seconded, to retroactively approve vouchers 2009407 - 2009449 in the amount of \$123,203.48 for November 2009.

MOTION PASSED

F. OLD BUSINESS

F.1 2010 Budget

Miller stated that the average of the jurisdictions' COLA is 1.66 percent. This is the number that will be used for the salary COLA. As requested by board members this draft includes the dues remaining at the 2009 budgeted amount. The travel budgeted amount has been reduced by approximately 10 percent this year with a 31 percent decrease over the past two years. Copies of the updated draft budget (draft #4) and Attachment 1 Capital Expenditures by Category were distributed.

MOTION: Kremen moved, Alesse seconded, to approve the 2010 budget draft #4 as presented.

MOTION PASSED

G. NEW BUSINESS

G.1 2010 Meeting Schedule

The Executive Board recommended approval of the calendar in the packet.

MOTION: Pike moved, Jones seconded, to adopt the 2010 Meeting Schedule as presented.

MOTION PASSED

G.2 2009 Budget Amendment

Cubellis stated that this is the annual budget amendment. The amendment brings the actual expenditures to what are authorized per line item.

MOTION: Hadd moved, Kremen seconded, to approve amending the 2009 Budget as presented.

MOTION PASSED

H. REPORTS

H.1 Board member acknowledgement

Chairman Louws thanked Barbara Ryan and Louise Bjornson for their years of service on the Bellingham City council and on the COG.

Executive Kremen thanked Jack Louws for his years of service as Mayor of Lynden and on the COG as a member and chairman.

H.2 Washington Intergovernmental Review Process

O'Shaughnessy updated the board on the comments received on the WIRPs. The comments were as follows:

WIRP #73-09-11-01, North Fork Community Library - Utilities Only, Friends of the North Fork Community Library

1 - Project is consistent with policies, plans or programs of the agency

1 - No comment

WIRP #73-09-11-02, Expanding Markets for Whatcom County Family Farms Through Value-Added Food Processing, Hopewell Farm

4 - Project is consistent with policies, plans or programs of the agency

WIRP #74-09-11-03, Refinancing Existing Debt, Black
Rock Cable Inc
3 - No comment

In April 2009 the board members agreed to trying the process of the Chair signing the letter certifying that the project has gone through the process rather than waiting for a board meeting. O'Shaughnessy will be asking the board to formally adopt this process in January 2010 if there was no objection.

H.3 Executive Director Report

Handouts: Miller distributed copies of the WCOG produced Whatcom County Bike Map and Car Free Travel in the North Sound pamphlet.

Transportation Funding: There is a possibility that the legislature may look at another gas tax funding package in the 2011 session. The project list that is approved by the Policy Board will be used in seeking funds from the legislature.

Senator Haugen has stated that there is \$100,000,000 additional funds available from the gas tax packages because of projects coming in under budget. We have not heard of this funding from WSDOT. Miller believes that the legislature will determine where these funds will be spent.

Reauthorization and Jobs Bill: Miller distributed handouts provided by Larry Ehl. We don't have a transportation bill and have been operating under a continuing resolution since October 1. It looks like there will be a continuing resolution attached to the defense bill that will take us through February 28, 2010. Another thing that could happen in January 2010 is the new Jobs Bill. If the Jobs Bill is passed the transportation bill will be attached to that and then will be extended for one year.

The new Jobs Bill is funds that were left over from the TARP financial bill -- \$200 billion is available. The House is probably passing the legislation today and the Senate in January 2010. The breakdown is \$70 billion for infrastructure and \$27.5 will go to highway projects that will impact us. The distribution will be 30% local government 70% WSDOT. The State will have to obligate 50% of their money within the first 90 days and the balance within the first year with projects needing to be completed within 3 years. We don't know about the guidelines for local funds yet.

TransportationTown: WCOG received an award for our TransportationTown.com website and the TR News published an article about the website and award. Copies of the article were distributed.

H.4 Puget Sound Regional Council Transportation
Planning Efforts Presentation in February

Crawford is on the Transportation Improvement Board and they had a presentation from Charlie Howard of the Puget Sound Regional Council that Crawford found very interesting. He would like to ask Charlie Howard to give the presentation to the Whatcom Transportation Policy Board. Board members would like to hear the presentation. Staff will make arrangements.

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Bob Bromley
Vice-Chair

James G. Miller
Executive Director