

FULL COUNCIL
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 9, 2011

ATTENDANCE

BOARD MEMBERS: Bob Bromley, Deb Lambert, Barry Buchanan, Pete Kremen, Dan Pike, Gary Jensen, Tom Jones, Pat Alesse, Sam Crawford, Jack Weiss, Scott Korthuis, Andy Rowlson, Bonnie Onyon

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

Guests: Skagit County Commissioner Ron Wesen; Henry Hash, Skagit County Public Works Director; Hector Maldonado, Census Bureau

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m. and introductions were made.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jensen stated that each of the jurisdictions should have a presentation by SSA Marine about the proposed facility at Cherry Point. The presentation to his council lasted approximately 15 minutes.

C. MINUTES

MOTION: Crawford moved, Kremen seconded, to approve the minutes from December 15, 2010.

MOTION PASSED

D. BUDGET/CLAIMS

D.1 Budget Report

Miller reviewed the budget report for December 2010. The report for January 2011 will be distributed at the March Executive Board meeting.

D.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, February 9, 2011, the Council approves for payment those vouchers included in the above list and further described as follows: voucher numbers 2010476 through 2010557 in the total amount of \$252,656.54.

MOTION: Korthuis moved, Pike seconded, to retroactively approve vouchers 2010476 - 2010557 in the amount of \$252,656.54 for December 2010 and January 2011.

MOTION PASSED

E. NEW BUSINESS

E.1 Non-Member Fee Schedule

Each year the Board adopts a non-member fee schedule. The fee schedule outlines what is charged to non-Full Council Members for photocopies and for staff time.

MOTION: Crawford moved, Jones seconded, to approve WCOG charging non-Full Council members \$88.00 per hour for staff time and \$0.15 per photocopied page.

MOTION PASSED

E.2 Small Cities Elections to Executive Board

NOMINATIONS: Jones nominated, Pike seconded, Sumas, Ferndale, and Everson as the small cities on the Executive Board.

NOMINATIONS CLOSED

NOMINATIONS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

E.3 Board Officers

NOMINATIONS: Crawford nominated, Kremen seconded, Bromley as Chair.

NOMINATIONS CLOSED

NOMINATIONS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

NOMINATIONS: Jensen nominated, Rowlson seconded, Pike as Vice-Chair.

NOMINATIONS CLOSED

NOMINATIONS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

NOMINATIONS: Jensen nominated, Pike seconded, Crawford as Secretary/Treasurer.

NOMINATIONS CLOSED

NOMINATIONS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

F. OLD BUSINESS

F.1 Census Bureau Presentation

Mr. Maldonado distributed information packets targeted to each city, Whatcom County and census designated areas. The data reflected statistics from the American Community Survey (ACS) and Census 2010.

G. REPORTS

G.1 Washington Intergovernmental Review Process

O'Shaughnessy reported that there were two WIRPs that have completed the review process. The WIRPs and comments received were:

#73-11-01-01, City of Ferndale, Water Well Supply Project

1 - Additional Writer Comments Are Included

Whatcom County Planning & Development Services wrote: "We are unable to make any comments as Ferndale has not submitted a copy of their water system plan for review by PDS per WAC 246-20-108." Ferndale was notified of this comment and they will contact the County to address their comment.

#73-11-01-02, SONO, Inc. DBA Sourcing Northwest, Restructure Manufacturing/Wholesale Provider of Potpourri Products

2 - No Comment. Project Does Not Affect Activities Of This Agency.

H. BOARD MEMBER OPEN FORUM

Jensen said that SSA Marine hopes to have their permits done by 2013 and will be in operation by 2015. This will probably be the last dock built in Washington. The problem that people have is that the product to be shipped is coal. Coal is currently passing through Whatcom County on the way to a shipping facility in Canada.

Pike stated that SSA has said they are going to address all the environmental concerns and are going to use union labor so they would be good paying jobs. There is a lot of concern about the coal trains and the dust. Those trains are already moving through the community to some degree. The Port in Vancouver BC is trying to get the long term contract for those trains. We have more input if they stop here than if they just pass through. Some issues that can be discussed are rail improvements and how they manage the commodities that might have some downsides. The opportunity we have right now is if the project goes through we have more conversations over the issues.

Kremen stated that the commodities are going to be going through our community regardless of whether the project happens here. We might as well get some economic benefit from it. This has potential for considerable revenue generation and job generation. There is a coalition now of the private sector, public sector, and labor in support of this. The Governor's office has also demonstrated a lot of support. Everyone at the State level has expressed mild to moderate to extreme support for this except for Department of Ecology. Ultimately this is a real opportunity for Whatcom County. The alternative to this development at Cherry Point is more urban sprawl. He would like to have SSA come to the WCOG and give a presentation.

Onyon would like to invite SSA to speak to the WCOG Board. One way of looking at the project is that it's part of our transportation system. Do we stop certain commodities from moving on the freeway? Economically this will be astounding for the County.

Weiss asked what staff thinks the impact of the commodity trains will be to the passenger train.

Miller replied that we are currently in the middle of a rail study that was funded through the legislature. The draft study is showing that it's very compatible.

The study is looking at the addition of three passenger train roundtrips per day - one from Seattle to Vancouver the other two will be Seattle to Blaine. The question now is how to pay for the rail improvements. You look at a public/private partnership that includes Burlington Northern.

SSA will be invited to the March 9th meeting to give a presentation.

Korthuis reported that Lynden has two roundabouts on Badger/Depot Roads and Badger/Bender Roads that are proposed. He would like support for this project from Board members.

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Robert Bromley
Chair

James G. Miller
Executive Director