

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 51
FRANKLIN COUNTY
Commissioners' Proceedings for March 14, 2012

The Honorable Board of Franklin County Commissioners met on the above date. Present for the meeting were Brad Peck, Chairman; and Rick Miller, Chair Pro Tem; Fred Bowen, County Administrator; and Mary Withers, Clerk to the Board. Robert E. Koch, Member, was absent on county/Ben Franklin Transit business to attend the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) meeting in Washington, D.C.

Meeting convened at 9:00 am.

CORONER

Coroner Dan Blasdel met with the Board. Present in audience: Roger Lenk, Jim Follansbee, Lester Storms, L. R. Lahtinen and Tri-City Herald Reporter Kristi Pihl.

Inter Budget Transfer

Mr. Blasdel asked for approval of a supplement of \$1163.98 to the Coroner's 2011 budget in order to pay a bill he received from Benton County morgue in February for 2011 expenses and answered the Board's questions.

Motion – Mr. Miller: Since we have to pay these bills, I move approval of inter budget transfer of \$1163.98 from the 2011 Current Expense Non-Departmental Budget Number 001-000-700, line item 519.90.00.0001 (Contingency Reserve) to 2011 Current Expense Coroner Budget Number 001-000-220, line item 563.20.49.0001 (Autopsies). Second by Mr. Peck. 2:0 vote in favor.

Mr. Blasdel answered the Board's questions about the amount budgeted for autopsies in 2012. Mr. Miller asked Mr. Blasdel to provide budget information from past years.

OFFICE BUSINESS

Administrative Assistant Toni Fulton met with the Board. Present in audience: Roger Lenk, Jim Follansbee, Lester Storms, L. R. Lahtinen, Tri-City Herald Reporter Kristi Pihl and Troy Woody.

Auditor Matt Beaton met with the Board.

Vouchers

Motion – Mr. Miller: Mr. Chairman, I move the approval of the fund expenditures in the total amount of \$183,362.92 as listed. They have been certified by Matt Beaton and audited by Julie Jordan. They are for miscellaneous expenses: Current Expense, Veteran's Assistance, Ending

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Homelessness Fund, Boating Safety Fund, Jail Commissary, TRAC Operations Fund, RV Park and Auditor O&M. Second by Mr. Peck. 2:0 vote in favor.

<u>Fund Expenditures</u>	<u>Warrants</u>		<u>Amount Issued</u>
Current Expense	62822	62825	\$2,538.86
Veteran's Assistance	62826	62827	\$1,274.58
Ending Homelessness Fund	62828	-	\$11,717.25
Current Expense	62829	62830	\$5,886.45
Boating Safety Fund	62831	-	\$112.26
Jail Commissary	62832	62833	\$2,076.73
TRAC Operations Fund	62834	62871	\$38,400.62
RV Park	62872	-	\$774.00
TRAC Operations Fund	62873	-	\$360.00
Current Expense	62937	62977	\$49,897.39
Auditor O & M	62978	-	\$47.79
Current Expense	62979	63032	\$39,298.25
Current Expense	63033	63043	\$30,978.74

(Exhibit 1)

Motion – Mr. Miller: I move for approval of vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer, funds of Salary Clearing payroll, Emergency Management payroll and Irrigation payroll. The grand total of all the payrolls is \$621,840.10, and that has been signed by Jeff Burckhard from Auditor Matt Beaton's office and also Connie Curiel, payroll preparer. Second by Mr. Peck. 2:0 vote in favor.

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Warrants</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Salary Clearing Payroll:		
Payroll	55593-55698	173,970.07
Direct Deposit		342,478.03
		<hr/> 516,448.10
Benefits	55699-55703	81,503.35
	Total	<hr/> \$597,951.45 <hr/>

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Emergency Mgmt Payroll:

Payroll	62772-62778	\$3,199.53
Direct Deposit		7,464.47
		<hr/> \$10,664.00
Benefits	62779-62782	1,602.91
	Total	<hr/> \$12,266.91 <hr/>

Irrigation Payroll:

Payroll	62754-62767	\$6,334.51
Direct Deposit		3,540.30
		<hr/> \$9,874.81
Benefits	62768-62771	1,746.93
	Total	<hr/> \$11,621.74 <hr/>

(Exhibit 2)

Chief Accountant Thomas Westerman met with the Board.

Voucher correction

Mr. Westerman explained two incorrect amounts on vouchers approved by the Commissioners on March 7, 2012. Mr. Peck asked Mr. Beaton and Mr. Westerman to provide further information prior to Board approval.

Consent Agenda (9:17 am)

Motion - Mr. Miller: I move for approval of the consent agenda items one through five. Second by Mr. Peck. 2:0 vote in favor.

1. Approval of Resolution 2012-095, payment of Franklin County's portion (\$5424.59) of an invoice accrued by The Landfill Group to Aspect Consulting LLC for professional services
2. Approval of Resolution 2012-096, authorizing contractor Hi-Line to perform flare system servicing work at the Pasco Sanitary Landfill for a cost to Franklin County not exceeding \$4000
3. Approval of Resolution 2012-097, Independent Contractor Agreement #FCDC1212NP001 to provide legal representation to indigent persons charged with crimes in the courts of Franklin County, Washington, between Franklin County and Attorney Nicole Preszler, effective February 29, 2012, through May 31, 2012

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4. Approval of Resolution 2012-098, Standard Service Contract between Benton and Franklin Counties Superior Courts, Juvenile Division, and Desertgreen Lawn and Tree Care, LLC
5. Approval of Franklin County Commissioner Proceedings for February 29, 2012

TRAC (9:18 am)

TRAC Manager Troy Woody met with the Board. Present in audience: Roger Lenk, Jim Follansbee, Lester Storms, L. R. Lahtinen and Tri-City Herald Reporter Kristi Pihl.

Legal Fees for bond information report (9:20 am)

Mr. Woody said that bond requirements may limit the amount of money that can be obtained by TRAC from companies for sponsorships or naming rights. There was discussion about whether it would be worthwhile to hire a bond attorney at a cost of \$10,000 to \$15,000 to compile the information that is needed to determine how much money TRAC can receive before facing a requirement to buy out tax-free bonds.

Mr. Peck said it sounds like a worthwhile piece of information to have although it's costly and it's not one we have to have right now unless we have someone on board right now to spend money for naming rights at TRAC. Mr. Woody said we don't have someone on board now but he can't solicit anyone either without the answers from an attorney. He said there was some interest in naming rights last year. He said an important part is to have the base work done by an attorney so we don't have to do this work again. It will have to be done once and then would only take a few minutes when needed through the next approximately 20 years.

Mr. Woody estimates a company may pay \$1 million to \$2 million for a multi-year deal for naming rights to the total TRAC facility.

Mr. Miller would like to get more information and study it more before making a decision.

Mr. Woody will ask the bond attorney to prepare a more detailed scope of work of what he expects to accomplish and what are going to be the outputs. Maybe we can do that in a phased approach. Maybe we can simply ask what the buyout cost would be.

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Mr. Peck said his observation is that he is not convinced that TRAC still is a viable model for county ownership. He thinks it has largely served its intended purpose. His preference would be to see an organization, maybe like the regional public facilities district (PFD), come in and take it over and convert it into a regional family recreation center with ice arenas, softball fields, soccer fields, indoor courts, and aquatics facility, and package that all together. If that's the case, he is hoping to see something like that sooner rather than later. The reason he brings it up is because it runs counter to the notion of the value of naming rights over an extended period of time. If the calculations are only beneficial over a 10- or 20-year payback for these naming rights, that really is completely inconsistent with what he is trying to do, which is find a better, more productive use so that frankly TRAC doesn't cost the city and the county a net loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars a year. So while I appreciate the fact that you're looking for every possible opportunity to make an extremely difficult business model work, I am not convinced that what is essentially a long-term solution fits with what I'm hoping is a short-term window. He wants to study it some more. He said if it costs \$15,000, he is inclined to say that's a pretty good chunk of taxpayer money for an answer that we very well might not need or use.

Mr. Peck said after spending some time to study it more, the Commissioners can respond to Mr. Woody's request through the County Administrator.

TRAC 2011 Year End Final Profit and Loss (9:30 am)

The TRAC 2011 year-end financial report was reviewed (Exhibit 3).

Mr. Peck said that facilities such as TRAC are sometimes constructed and operated for an actual or perceived public benefit and despite solid leadership and management they still have a tendency to lose money. At some point, the question is does the benefit to the community justify that cost? As I look at these numbers, it suggests to me that while your percentage has improved, meaning you've lost less per dollar of revenue, the total revenue flow is up and therefore the total loss is up. Mr. Woody said correct, in raw dollars. Mr. Peck said it's one of those situations where you're doing good things requested by the community but the more of it you do, the more money it costs the community and the more you lose.

Mr. Peck said there have been discussions in the past about picking and choosing events and only doing the ones that are likely to break even or even make a profit. The expense of that

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is there are events that don't pay for themselves that the public desires to have. He asked Mr. Woody do you have any sense of which kind of events we would need to stop doing to break even? Mr. Woody said he doesn't think there is a good answer to that question. He said assume an event doesn't make a ton of money but I don't have to bring in any extra employees so it helps offset the overhead costs. He gave an example. Mr. Woody talked in general about other facilities.

Mr. Miller said some money comes back to the county from nearby stores and hotels and asked can you measure that? Mr. Woody said if you believe the state tourism numbers, TRAC easily pays for itself over and over. There is no way to know how much goes to the county. Mr. Miller agreed that it would be difficult to measure.

Mr. Peck said the real concern for him is that in about two years when our agreement with the City of Pasco runs out, the \$400,000 net loss this year which will be split between the city and the county, two years from now it will all belong to the county.

Mr. Peck said one issue for 2012 is to discuss what the future of TRAC looks like. He has already had information discussions with a variety of people. He said we requested a formal commercial appraisal to get a value on TRAC to see about possibly selling it and thinks that still may be an option. He asked Mr. Bowen and Mr. Woody to discuss the topic of the future of TRAC and said he will join those discussions because we need to think this through carefully and then present it to the public and get some feedback as to whether or not they want to continue footing the bill or they want to see us do something else with the facility. Mr. Peck said it is still my hope that a regional PFD will take TRAC on as a family regional recreation facility because he thinks that is its greatest potential.

Mr. Peck told Mr. Woody you folks do a superb job. I don't really know what else I would offer you in the way of suggestions or advice. You're the expert and it looks to be a good, clean type operation. The recent banquet I attended there was perfect from what I could see, very, very well done, with lots of positive feedback. He is just not sure that the model pays and then the question becomes can we afford it and for how long.

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OFFICE BUSINESS

Mr. Miller presented a report on the National Association of Counties (NACo) 2012 Legislative Conference he attended in Washington, D.C. He currently is on the Environment, Energy and Land Use (EELU) Committee, serving as the Vice Chair of the Water Quality Committee.

Recessed at 9:47 am.

Reconvened at 9:52 am.

AUDITOR and INFORMATION SERVICES (IS)

Auditor Matt Beaton and Information Services Director Kevin Scott met with the Board. Present in audience: Jeff Burckhard, Robin Stanco, Tom Westerman, Liz Cupples, Roger Lenk, Jim Follansbee, Lester Storms, L. R. Lahtinen and Kristi Pihl.

Handling of inventory

Mr. Beaton said we're asking for guidance from the Board on development of policies regarding inventory. He gave the Board the Capitalization Policy dated in 1994 and several memos.

Mr. Peck said county policies are being reviewed currently and asked Mr. Bowen to add the inventory policy to the review.

Mr. Scott told the Board about some inventory control issues including management of copiers and purchases of computer equipment by departments other than IS. He does not feel anyone is trying to be underhanded but requested some clarity and direction about what IS should manage and should not manage. IS uses a bar coding system and does bar code copiers for tracking purposes.

Mr. Peck asked Mr. Beaton to work with Mr. Scott to formulate a policy and also do some initial vetting and coordination with other departments and elected officials to get some of their input so we're creating a system that works and serves their needs.

Mr. Beaton said the auditor's office is doing preparation for migration to new accounting software that would include the inventory process. Mr. Peck noted that the Board has not actually approved contracting for new software although he thinks it is long overdue and he hopes we do it soon.

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COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR (10:08 am)

County Administrator Fred Bowen met with the Board. Present in audience: Roger Lenk, Jim Follansbee, Lester Storms, L. R. Lahtinen and Kristi Pihl.

Executive Session at 10:09 am for contract negotiations on the agreement between the city and county per RCW 42.30.140 (4) expected to last up to 10 minutes. The people in the audience left the room.

Open Session at 10:19 am.

Kristi Pihl joined the audience.

PROSECUTOR

Prosecutor Shawn Sant and Deputy Prosecutor Janet Taylor met with the Board.

Executive Session at 10:19 am per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) regarding potential litigation and legal risks of a proposed action expected to last up to 45 minutes.

Open Session at 11:08 am.

Kristi Pihl joined the audience.

Adjourned at 11:09 am.

This document is a summarized version of the Board of Commissioners proceedings. Access to an audio recording of the meeting is available upon request.

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There being no further business, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned until March 21, 2012.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Brad Peck, Chairman

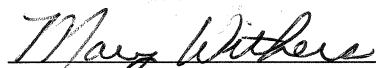


Rick Miller, Chairman Pro Tem



Robert E. Koch, Member

Attest:



Clerk to the Board

Approved and signed March 28, 2012.



FRANKLIN COUNTY AUDITOR

Matt Beaton, Auditor

3/14/2012

Franklin County Commissioners:

Vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer by RCW 42.24.080, expense reimbursement claims.

Action: As of this date, 3/14/2012

Move that the following warrants be approved for payment:

certified by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing, which has been sent to the board members.

<u>FUND Expenditures</u>	<u>WARRANTS</u>		<u>AMOUNT ISSUED</u>
Current Expense	62822	62825	\$2,538.86
Veteran's Assistance	62826	62827	\$1,274.58
Ending Homelessness Fund	62828	-	\$11,717.25
Current Expense	62829	62830	\$5,886.45
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Auditor O & M	62978	-	\$47.79
Current Expense	62979	63032	\$39,298.25
Current Expense	63033	63043	\$30,978.74

In the amount of

\$183,362.92

The motion was seconded by

Brenda Leck

And passed by a vote of 2 to

1 ABSENT

The attached vouchers have been approved by Auditor or Deputy

Vouchers Audited By



FRANKLIN COUNTY AUDITOR

Matt Beaton, Auditor

March 14, 2012

Franklin County Commissioners:

Vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer by RCW 42.24.080, expense reimbursement claims certified by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing, which has been sent to the board members.

Action: As of this date, March 14, 2012 *[Signature]*,
move that the following warrants be approved for payment.

<u>FUND</u>	<u>WARRANT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Salary Clearing Payroll:		
Payroll	55593-55698	173,970.07
Direct Deposit		342,478.03
		<u>516,448.10</u>
Benefits	55699-55703	81,503.35
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		<u>\$10,664.00</u>
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	Total	<u>\$12,266.91</u>
Irrigation Payroll:		
Payroll	62754-62767	\$6,334.51
Direct Deposit		3,540.30
		<u>\$9,874.81</u>
Benefits	62768-62771	1,746.93
	Total	<u>\$11,621.74</u>
Grand Total All Payrolls		<u>\$621,840.10</u>

In the total amount of **\$621,840.10**

(\$597,951.45+\$12,266.91+\$11,621.74)

The motion was seconded by *Bruce Red* and passed by a vote of 2 to 0.
1 ABSENT

Jeff A. Buckland

The attached payroll has been approved by Auditor or Deputy

Conrado Ciri
Payroll Prepared By

[illegible]

J:\Troy\Excel\2011Actuals