

**MEETING MINUTES
SAN JUAN COUNTY (SJC), WASHINGTON
COUNTY COUNCIL
November 3, 4, and 5, 2008**

Monday, November 3, 2008 - Council Hearing Room, Legislative Building, FH

CALL TO ORDER – REGULAR STAFF MEETING AND WORK SESSION

Council Chair Howard Rosenfeld called the staff meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Council members Kevin Ranker, Rich Peterson, Gene Knapp, Bob Myhr, and Alan Lichter; County Administrator, Pete Rose; Clerk to the Council, Ann Larson; Deputy Clerks, Lisa Brown and Maureen See; and interested members of the public were present.

CITIZEN ACCESS TIME

Nancy Brickman addressed the Council regarding SJC elections protocol.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Moved by Myhr, seconded by Lichter, to **excuse Pete Rose, County Administrator**, for personal family matters. Motion carried unanimously.

CLERK UPDATE / ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Clerk Larson noted special budget meetings scheduled for November 5 and 19, 2008 and reviewed logistics regarding the WSAC meeting. She also reported that draft minutes would be available on-line the Friday prior to the next meeting. Ms. Larson stated that the overflow screens had been corrected in the large and small conference rooms and that a speaker had been installed in the corridor outside for additional overflow listening.

Deputy Clerk See provided an update on committee vacancies and applicants, and the following action was taken:

Moved by Ranker, seconded by Lichter, to move the appointment of Dan Seaton and Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria to the Fair Board to consent for tomorrow. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Ranker, seconded by Myhr, to move the appointment of Bruce Orchid to the Planning Commission to consent for tomorrow. Motion carried unanimously.

Administrative Matters: Council schedules, agendas, and Minutes were reviewed. Mr. Myhr questioned an item for Consent regarding a reimbursement resolution for a local option for \$2.2 million. Mr. Peterson suggested pulling it from Consent for discussion. Mr. Ranker suggested Ms. Larson circulate back-up information on this and advise the council of any time constraints by e-mail. Mr. Myhr also inquired about the upcoming Essential Public Facilities (EPF) Ordinance hearing and why the Council hadn't had more touches on something of this significance. Council discussion took place and Mr. Lichter suggested a firm deadline on submitting documents for meetings. Mr. Rose explained that although the ordinance document is lengthy, there were minimal changes made to it, and that he would have Ms. Hale, CD&P Senior Planner, and Mr. Gaylord, Prosecuting Attorney, provide a briefing in the afternoon. He also noted that the hearing could be continued to November 18, 2008, should additional time be necessary. Mr. Peterson reported that the cell phone task-force would meet at noon on Thursday.

COUNCIL MEMBER UPDATES

Ferries/FAC/Ferry Subcommittee – Mr. Rosenfeld reported on Border Patrol activity on the Hood Canal Bridge which had outraged that community. He reported the customs situation, and the rudeness that our citizens recently encountered by a customs agent, to Mark Lehman, Customs Director in Anacortes, but couldn't get a straight answer as to whether or not SJC will need to publicize that citizens would be required to produce birth certificates for their children. **Legislative Priorities & Lobbying Efforts:** Mr. Myhr was informed by Scott Merriman, WSAC Deputy Director, that it will be important to go to the legislature with specifics on fully funding ferries and advised the Council to support the proposal that Mr. Mosely brings forward. Mr. Ranker reported the

only funding mechanism being seriously discussed, on the House side, is an earmark of .05% of the 27.5 cent gas tax, which is receiving push-back from the Senate. Mr. Myhr referenced the draft action agenda for the Sound Partnership (PSP) and draft action area priorities for SJC, sent by Tom Cowan, liaison to SJC for PSP. He reported that the leadership Council would be meeting on November 6th to reveal the Action Agenda for the PSP, and the official comment period would begin at that time. Tom Cowan's hope is that the SJ Action Agenda will be incorporated into the final results. In the meantime he will be holding informational meetings on the three major islands regarding the agenda for restoration of PS, but suggested waiting until after David Dicks' visit on November 18th to submit comments from SJC. Mr. Ranker was concerned that this would be too late and suggested that Mr. Myhr, as the Coastal Counties Caucus (CCC) advisor, send an e-mail to the CCC urging all coastal counties to add permanent funding for the rescue tug at Neah Bay and maintaining the Oil Spill Advisory Council to their priority lists, so 12 counties show the same requests, and named several other priorities as well. Mr. Myhr said he would bring this to the CCC and also bring the list to Mr. Cowan for inclusion in the Action Agenda. **General Government Subcommittee:** Mr. Knapp had nothing new to report, but commented on the two-hour meeting held on Orcas by the Assessor regarding property valuations on that island. He and Mr. Myhr commended Mr. Zalmanek for addressing property owners who were unhappy with increases in their valuations, to provide information to help them understand the three-year process. Mr. Rosenfeld then noted that the Budget Subcommittee should be listed under updates and there was no report regarding that.

EXECUTIVE/CLOSED SESSIONS

11:00 a.m. – (Commenced at 11:08 due to time constraints.) Council Chair Rosenfeld announced that the Council would be holding an **executive [closed] session** estimated to last approximately 60 minutes, pertaining to labor contract negotiations, pursuant to the provisions of RCW 42.30.140(4)(b). The closed session ended at 12:11 p.m. for an actual session time of 63 minutes. No action was taken.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION UPDATES/OTHER ACTION ITEMS

12:15 p.m. (Added item. Commenced at 12:27 due to time constraints.) **Briefing on Essential Public Facilities (EPF) Ordinance:** Present: Ron Henrickson, CD&P Director and CA Pro-tem; Randall Gaylord, Prosecuting Attorney; Shireene Hale, Senior Planner; and interested members of the public. Mr. Henrickson explained that the changes to the draft Ordinance recommended by the Planning Commission (PC) would be difficult to implement. He said he would endorse the adjustments made by Ms. Hale and Mr. Gaylord to correct this, and turned the floor over to them to present the changes. Mr. Gaylord explained that he discussed these items with Ms. Hale and approved of what she had proposed to the Planning Commission at the outset. He also referenced a memorandum, reversing his decision regarding adoption of the Ordinance as advertised, stating that there are some changes that would be appropriate and not require re-advertising of the Ordinance. Ms. Hale explained the basis of the Planning Commission recommendations, and gave recommendations from CD&P and the PA. Ms. Hale, Mr. Henrickson, and Mr. Gaylord answered questions from the Council regarding State and County EPF lists, and future alterability of those lists. Ms. Hale explained that the hearing scheduled tomorrow would be on the Ordinance advertised and submitted to the Council and that the Council could direct CD&P to make modifications to carry over to the hearing on the 18th of November if necessary. Mr. Myhr inquired whether the PC decision was based on a different version of the Ordinance. Mr. Gaylord said it was not and explained that it had become clear during his review that it would require two ordinances, one to address the Unified Development Code (UDC) and one related to changes in the Comprehensive Plan (CP). Mr. Gaylord said they are still working on the section related to UDC amendments and recommended adoption of the Ordinance addressing the CP changes, without going back to the PC. Zoning and limitations related to the Fair Grounds were also discussed.

1:00 p.m. - Review of 2009 Budget – Public Services & Environment: Present: Lincoln Bormann, Land Bank Director; Rev Shannon, Fair & Events Manager; Tom Schultz, WSU Extension Agent; Dona Wuthnow, Parks & Recreation Director; John Manning, Health & Community Services (HCS) Director; Ron Henrickson, CD&P Director; Milene Henley, Auditor; and interested members of the public.

1) 1:00 p.m. Land Bank Budget: Mr. Bormann provided a PowerPoint presentation with graphs showing revenue and expenditures over time. He is projecting a low rate (6.5 percent) of increase through 2014. Due to reduced income, the Land Bank Commission is reviewing and prioritizing acquisition projects and won't have any new money for acquisitions unless income comes from other sources, such as grants, conservation buyer

program sales, etc. He also referenced the option of across-the-board reductions and the negative impact it would have on his program related to stewardship and public access.

2) 1:12 p.m. Fair & Events Budget: Mr. Shannon provided an overview of his budget eliminating the operating transfer request of \$23 thousand, but including additional Information Services (IS) and insurance, for a total of \$321,634. He reviewed the reduction impacts, which relate to maintenance, facilities, grounds, and capital repairs, and ways to increase revenues through rentals. Mr. Shannon and Ms. Henley answered questions from the Council.

3) 1:21 p.m. WSU Extension Budget: Mr. Schultz noted that this is the most serious reduction he has encountered at SJC. He referenced the 10 percent reduction in 2002, and advised the Council that his staff, travel, and supply reductions had not been restored since then. He stated his 2009 budget is 13% less than 2008 and reflects reductions in 4H programs, collaborations with schools, enrichment, and at-risk outreach, some of which is grant funded. He also touched on increased liability with less 4H staffing. He said that the 4H position does have a relatively higher probability of getting outside funding than any other position, but if the program was lost due to that gamble, it would be tough to re-instate. He said he would wait to see what the Council decides prior to “rallying the troops.” Mr. Schultz then reported on the Agricultural Resource Committee (ARC), beginning with background from its inception in 2005, to advise the County and develop policy regarding agriculture. Membership consisted of a cross-section of 19 individuals, from farmers to restaurateurs. A coordinator was hired in June of 2006 and in 2007 the Council ranked agriculture among its highest priorities, funding the coordinator position for 2008. Mr. Schultz pointed out the reductions that would take place, should this position be lost, and answered questions from the Council.

4) 1:55 p.m. Parks and Recreation (P&R) Budget: Ms. Wuthnow acknowledged P&R Commission Members who traveled from other islands to attend, and the Parks Staff and P&R Commission for their help through this severe budget reduction process, noting that P&R had to carve out 30% of the proposed 2009 budget initially submitted. Ms. Wuthnow said they had to re-think every program, cutting those that couldn't support themselves, noting that the park system would not be sustainable beyond 2009. She reported that she had included fee increases and would look at further increases in 2010, noting that, even with these increases, there would not be enough funding to maintain the parks, which would be vulnerable to a major breakdown and/or incident. She also listed reductions in service, maintenance and operations, and facilities. Ms. Wuthnow answered questions from the Council.

5) 2:32 p.m. Community Development & Planning (CD&P) Budget: Mr. Henrickson reported that proposed cuts in his department total \$477,000, noting that this will slow progress toward Growth Management Act (GMA) compliance. He reviewed areas that would be affected by this reduction, including eliminating out-of-class pay, contract services, long range planning, and impacts to staff. Mr. Henrickson said building is reaching a 25-year low and some construction contractors don't have work scheduled for this winter. Mr. Henrickson and Ms. Henley answered questions from the Council.

6) 2:46 p.m. Health & Community Services (HCS) Budget: Mr. Manning provided an outline to the Council and reported on the difficulty in making reductions across the board. He referenced proposed changes from his preliminary budget, alternate sources of funding, services, and service levels. Mr. Myhr inquired about reductions related to seniors. Mr. Manning explained that Meals on Wheels would be maintained, but that there would be no social or off-island travel, except for emergencies. Mr. Manning answered questions from the Council.

ADJOURN – Moved by Lichter, seconded by Peterson, to adjourn the meeting at 3:02 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Tuesday, November 4, 2008 - Council Hearing Room – Legislative Building, FH

CALL TO ORDER

Council Chair Rosenfeld called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Council Members Kevin Ranker, Rich Peterson, Gene Knapp, Bob Myhr, and Alan Lichter; County Administrator Pro-tem, Ron Henrickson (Community Development & Planning (CDP) Director); Clerk to the Council, Ann Larson; Deputy Clerk, Lisa Brown; and interested members of the public were present.

The flag salute was conducted.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Moved by Lichter, seconded by Myhr, to **excuse Pete Rose, County Administrator**, for family bereavement time. Motion carried unanimously.

CITIZEN ACCESS TIME

Alan Rizatto informed the Council that the Elections Assistance Committee, created by Help America Vote Act (HAVA), passed a ruling on August 1, 2008, that barcode scanners must be certified before they can be used to count ballots. He understands the Prosecuting Attorney (PA) should monitor this, but believes Mr. Gaylord is not providing oversight and wanted to bring it to the attention of the Council.

Tim White addressed the Council regarding balloting, barcodes, secret ballots, and the inability to view the counting area in the elections office in SJC.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Lichter, seconded by Ranker, to approve the **Minutes of October 27, and 28, 2008**. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Lichter, seconded by Ranker, to approve the **Final Consent Agenda of November 4, 2008** as follows:

A. Resolutions / Ordinances:

1. A Resolution identifying a Fair Housing Officer and the Adherence of San Juan County to the Federal Fair Housing Act.
2. A Resolution to Appoint Alternate Director to the Washington Counties Risk Pool.

B. Contracts/Agreements:

1. A Contract for Professional Services between San Juan County and William H. Nielsen
2. First Amendment to Milagra Water Services Agreement

C. Budget Items: Approve Warrants:

- Warrants #53153-53261 in the amount of \$91,018.24 for County expenses
- Warrants #53135-53152 in amount of \$42,144.10 for Public Works claims

D. Personnel: (No items.)

E. Appointments

1. A letter reappointing Dan Seaton to the SJC Fair Board, Position #1, beginning November 1, 2008 and expiring on October 31, 2011.
2. A letter reappointing Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria to the SJC Fair Board, Position #9, At Large, beginning November 1, 2008 and expiring on October 31, 2011.
3. A letter appointing Bruce R. Orchid to the SJC Planning Commission, Member #8, beginning immediately and expiring on May 31, 2008. This term fills a seat vacated by the resignation of Teri Williams.

F. Correspondence: (No items.)

Motion carried.

ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

RES. NO. 76-2008- (Refer to CONSENT AGENDA of November 4, 2008, for details of action taken.)

RES. NO. 77-2008- (Refer to CONSENT AGENDA of November 4, 2008, for details of action taken.)

COUNCIL DISCUSSION/UPDATES/OTHER ACTION ITEMS:

COUNCIL MEMBER UPDATES

Veterans Advisory Board: Mr. Lichter pointed out that since the VAB was formed, requests for assistance have risen. He attributes this to SJC Veterans (nearly 2,500) learning that this assistance is available

DISCUSSIONS

10:20 a.m. - 1/10 of 1% SJC Mental Health Sales Tax: Tom Kearny reported on research over the past year to support the 1/10 of 1% sales tax increase authorized by the State Legislature in 2005. He began the review by asking the Council to take a moment to reflect on someone known personally to them with mental health or chemical dependency issues and to bring into mind their suffering and how they have impacted them, their families, and their community. He stated that there is not a community in the nation that doesn't have these issues and that each county that imposes this increase determines how they will address issues in their area. He added that every surrounding County to San Juan has already instituted this measure and pointed out that anyone shopping in Mount Vernon or Burlington is already paying the tax. He explained that the Therapeutic Court, a required component of this program, is specifically designed to deal with child abuse and neglect by allowing the parent to opt-in to a system of treatment and counseling. This system has shown success in having children return safely home, a greater likelihood of being reunited with parents, and parents more likely to enter into and complete treatment. Mr. Manning introduced the task force members present, Barbara LaBrash, Tom Kearny, Barry Jacobson, Catherine Ellis, Bill Evans, Joan Pedrick, Bill Cumming, Celia Markus, Sage McLeod, and George Rupp, representing a cross section of the SJC professionals that are involved in correcting or impacted by mental health issues. He reported on their work in determining the need in SJC and developing a plan. He referenced the report submitted by the task force, outlining their study in attachment A, "Opportunity and Challenges." Mr. Manning and Mr. Kearny answered questions from the Council and the following action took place:

Moved by Lichter, seconded by Ranker, to hold a public hearing regarding the 1/10 of 1% SJC Mental Health Sales Tax on December 2, 2008. Council discussion took place. Mr. Ranker stated that he was present when Whatcom County passed this tax with the idea that mental health can be funded on the front end, or through the emergency room, and law and justice at nearly 10 times the cost. The Council was interested in seeing a cost and impact analysis over time. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Jim Cole, Emergency Management Services (EMS) Chief, stated there is no good time to pass a tax, but noted there is a shocking inadequacy [in SJC] in dealing with issues of drugs and alcohol, primarily with youth.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COUNCIL BRIEFING

11:45 p.m. County Administrator (CA) Council Briefing. Present: Ron Henrickson, CA Pro-tem; and interested members of the public.

Update on the Grown Management Hearings Board (GMHB) Meeting in Eastsound: Mr. Henrickson explained that the designation of Eastsound as an urban growth area (UGA) in 2000 was appealed and struggled with for 8 years over several issues. He reported that the only two real issues that remain are whether there is sufficient land for commercial development and sewer service in the UGA. Mr. Henrickson believes the commercial land is sufficient, but the sewer service expansion, not related to an environmental health safety issue, is a concern. Mr. Henrickson answered questions from the Council.

Fee Increases: Mr. Henrickson pointed out that the CD&P budget presentation was contingent on an increase in fees that would be brought forward on December 2nd, 2008. The Ordinance is forthcoming and will include the Parks and Fire Marshall fee increases as well.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

10:50 a.m. - A public hearing was held to consider the Essential Public Facilities (EPF) Ordinance. Present: Full Council; Admin pro-tem; Ron Henrickson, County Administrator (CA); Shireene Hale, Senior Planner; Randall Gaylord, PA; Ann Larson, Clerk to the Council; Lisa Brown, Public Hearings Specialist; and interested members of the public. Ms. Hale presented her Staff Report and PowerPoint. She pointed out that EPFs are necessary to meet community needs, but are typically difficult to site, i.e. airports, jails, solid waste facilities, etc. She explained that under the GMA, the Comprehensive Plan and Development Codes can't

preclude the siting of EPFs, but that the SJC codes are written in a way that makes it nearly impossible for some facilities to get permitted and needs to be adjusted to meet the requirement of the GMA. Ms. Hale explained that this is the first step to amend the underlying policies as part of the docket of code amendments, and would be followed by amendments to the development codes, which the Planning Commission is currently reviewing. She noted that some of these comprehensive plans are joint policies with the town. She also cited case law supporting her recommendation. Ms. Hale and Mr. Gaylord answered questions from the Council. Public Testimony was opened, submitted by five individuals, and closed with the right to reopen if necessary. The Council reviewed edits to the Ordinance with Ms. Hale and Mr. Gaylord and the following action was taken:

Moved by Peterson, seconded by Ranker, to move the Ordinance forward, with changes, and continue the public hearing to November 18, 2008. Mr. Lichter submitted a friendly amendment that the full and final document, to be considered at the continued hearing, be conveyed to the Council one week prior to the hearing on November 18, 2008. The friendly amendment was accepted by Mr. Peterson and Mr. Ranker. Motion carried with Myhr abstained.

Mr. Myhr noted that he was not opposed to this action, but unhappy with the process.

1:30 p.m. – (Commenced at 1:35 due to time constraints.) A public hearing was held to consider Revenues of the County. Present: Council Chair Howie Rosenfeld; Council members Kevin Ranker, Rich Peterson, Gene Knapp, and Bob Myhr; Ron Henrickson, County Administrator (CA) Pro-tem; Milene Henley, Auditor; Ann Larson, Clerk to the Council; Lisa Brown, Public Hearings Specialist; and interested members of the public. Ms. Henley explained that this review of revenues is required prior to passing the Ordinance in December and provided a report showing percent changes in revenue figures included in the 2009 preliminary budget. Ms. Henley speculated on property and sales tax revenue, confident that the year-end would close with an increase over projection in the general property tax revenue of 5 percent, or \$55,000, but noting a decrease in both taxes for the 2009 budget projections. Ms. Henley stated that property tax cannot increase by more than one percent without a vote of the people. Ms. Henley reviewed expectations for various departments, noting that she would have a more reliable estimate for ending cash at the end of the month. Ms. Henley answered questions from the Council. Ms. Henley provided a PowerPoint and explained the difference between Cash on Hand (unencumbered cash) and Reserves (cash held for a specific purpose and only to be used for that purpose) and provided cash flow charts demonstrating comparisons. She noted that each year SJC ends with less in reserves than it began with and expressed her recommendation to budget more accurately with the dire economic outlook. Ms. Henley answered questions from the Council. Public testimony was opened, submitted by one individual in favor of raising taxes, and closed with the right to reopen if necessary. No action was required.

2:00 p.m. (Commenced at 2:09 p.m. due to time constraints.) - A public hearing was held to consider a Stormwater Ordinance. Present: Council Chair Howie Rosenfeld; Council members Kevin Ranker, Rich Peterson, Gene Knapp, and Bob Myhr; Ron Henrickson, County Administrator (CA) Pro-tem; Ann Larson, Clerk to the Council; Lisa Brown, Public Hearings Specialist; and interested members of the public. Mr. Peterson provided background related to the stormwater ordinance and the citizens advisory committee recommendations, noting that the original ordinance and recommendation was based on the 50/50 funding mechanism. Mr. Knapp inquired why he changed the recommendation. Mr. Peterson explained that the stormwater subcommittee met last week and decided that imposing fees at this time is counterproductive. They reviewed what the affect would be with the absence of capital fees this year and determined that what had been collected previously would cover projects this year and were recommending the adoption of the Ordinance minus the 50/50 funding, but to include a five dollar uniform fee. Council discussion took place and Ms. Henley answered questions from the Council. Public testimony was opened, submitted by four individuals, and closed, with the right to reopen if necessary. The Council asked additional questions of staff. Mr. Shannon and Mr. Henrickson answered their questions regarding suggestions for appropriate alternatives with similar outcomes. Deliberations were held and the following action was taken:

Moved by Peterson, seconded by Ranker, to adopt the Ordinance establishing the Citizens' Stormwater Advisory Committee, amending Sections 13.04 of the San Juan County Code regarding the definitions and providing for the establishment, exemption, administration, and appeals of storm water service and charges, with the changes indicated on page 6, to reduce the capital service charges by 90% to 1/10th of what is displayed. Mr. Myhr specified that four of the five charges result in rounding up, with Shaw being the exception. Mr. Henrickson pointed out that the Council may also want to include verbiage changes on page 5.

Mr. Peterson added that the error in paragraph B, page 5 would need to be corrected to read “may include,” and not “shall include,” which was accepted by Ranker, who asked if he would also consider including “one or more of,” after may include, which was accepted by Mr. Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Myhr, seconded by Ranker, to adjourn the meeting at 2:54 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

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| Wednesday, November 5, 2008 - Council Hearing Room – Legislative Building, FH |
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CALL TO ORDER

Council Chair Rosenfeld called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Council Members Kevin Ranker, Rich Peterson, Gene Knapp, Bob Myhr, and Alan Lichter; County Administrator, Pete Rose; Clerk to the Council, Ann Larson; Deputy Clerk, Lisa Brown; Randall Gaylord, Prosecuting Attorney; Bill Cumming, SJC Sheriff; Milene Henley, Auditor; Charles Zalmanek, Assessor; Jan Sears, Treasurer; and interested members of the public were present.

BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

10:05 a.m. Prosecuting Attorney’s Office: Mr. Gaylord explained that his 2009 department budget reflects the best estimate he can make, due to the uncertainties the nature of the work his department brings, but knows that if necessary, he would have to come back for appropriations as needed. He stated that work loads don’t decrease, but decisions whether to prosecute or not may need to be made and gave an example of a current case and hypothetical situations for judgment calls. He commented on other facets of his department and how they are impacted by reductions. Mr. Gaylord and Ms. Henley answered questions from the Council.

10:20 a.m. Sheriff’s Department: Sheriff Cumming reported on the four budgets he oversees in his department; 1) Law Enforcement, 2) Jail, 3) Dispatch, and 4) Department of Emergency Management, and expressed concern regarding reductions proposed for 2009, which would hamper delivering even basic services. Sheriff Cumming explained that the staffing level needed to carry the call [911] load, which impacts each of the four areas, has been reduced while the call volume is increasing, over 29 calls per day with each call generating many hours of staff time. He shared courtroom security concerns with the reduction in the correctional officer position, a program that pays for itself. Sheriff Cumming and Fire Chief Marler answered questions from the Council. Sheriff Cumming concluded by stating that public safety is the most important issue that government provides.

11:34 a.m. County Administration: Mr. Rose reviewed the reconfiguration of staffing of the Communications Coordinator position, noting that part of that position relates to IS, in website support, and PW, in the way of public outreach, and the proposal to eliminate the application support position. He reported that direct-mail would be eliminated, employee computer training would be scaled down, half of the computer replacement would be removed from the 5-year rotation cycle, and professional services would be reduced. Mr. Rose and Ms. Henley answered questions from the Council.

12:00 a.m. County Council: Ms. Larson distributed information on the Council budget. Mr. Myhr commented on the outline regarding Council reductions, stating that with six Council members instead of three, advisory committees involving citizens in the government process, reduced support during meeting days, are all problematic with the proposed staffing reduction in the Council office. Ms. Larson concurred, stating that it is important to have the office open and someone available five days per week and without that position, the office would be empty on meeting days. Mr. Peterson said he didn’t disagree, but wanted Council concurrence prior to releasing a statement in that regard. Council discussion took place with Ms. Larson and Ms. Brown answering questions and providing input. Mr. Ranker said that each department head had an opportunity to come before the Council to present their requests and suggested they extend their Clerk this same courtesy and asked Ms. Larson to study the need and come back with her request. Council discussion took place regarding lobbying and travel funds, with Mr. Rose and Ms. Henley weighing in.

[1:36 p.m.] Following the lunch recess, Ms. Larson referenced the Stormwater Ordinance, adopted in session yesterday, and pointed out that the table, section 5A, had been updated to be consistent with the action taken at 5/23/2016

the public hearing, several typos corrected, and circulated the Ordinance for review and signature at the end of the session.]

1:40 p.m. SJC Auditor: Ms. Henley reported that the Orcas Island licensing office would be closing due to reductions in her budget, and that the staff person from that office on Orcas would commute to Friday Harbor to fill a position vacated there. Every other area of the budget possible had been trimmed and/or shifted to earmarked funds where available, and she reported on centralizing procurement activities for supplies, small tools, and equipment, for more economic purchasing power and efficiency of utilization. Ms. Henley answered questions from the Council.

1:48 p.m. Elections: Ms. Henley stated there was not a lot of flexibility in this budget due to certification requirements, but is taking a 25 percent reduction to the elections assistant position because of the biennial schedule, and answered questions from the Council. Discussion and questions followed regarding establishing concise County-wide and departmental FTE counts and position budgeting.

2:00 p.m. Assessor: Mr. Zalmanek explained that the biggest hurdle for the Assessor's office in 2009 is the transfer to the new Assessor/Treasurer software system, not knowing how much staff time this will take to implement. He also shared concerns about delays in processing notices and picking up new construction assessments, which would generate revenue for the County. Mr. Zalmanek and Mr. Rose answered questions from the Council.

2:42 p.m. Treasurer – Ms. Sears reported that as of the end of October property tax collections were at 94 percent and believes the year-end collections should come in as anticipated at 97 percent. She reviewed reductions in her department noting that the most difficult loss is the .5 FTE foreclosure deputy, as staff has not been increased in 18 years, while all mandates continue. Ms. Sears answered questions from the Council.

3:08 p.m. General Budget Review: Mr. Rose pointed out to the Council that they had heard from each of the County Current department heads, who illustrated their biggest difficulties related to the budget reductions. He acknowledged requests from the Council, and suggested providing a multi-department list of how things might be added back into the budget if possible. He noted that it is the Council's decision, but wanted to be sure he had provided all possible information to be prepared for good discussions and deliberations. Ms. Henley answered questions from the Council.

ADJOURNMENT - Moved by Myhr, seconded by Peterson, to adjourn the meeting at 3:13 p.m. Motion carried. The next regular meeting was scheduled for Monday, November 17, 2008, and the next regular Tuesday meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, November 18, 2008.

These Minutes were approved and signed on Tuesday, November 18, 2008. The original document is retained in the Council's permanent proceedings file. Attest: Lisa J. Brown, Deputy Clerk.