

**MEETING MINUTES  
SAN JUAN COUNTY (SJC), WASHINGTON  
COUNTY COUNCIL  
December 1 and 2, 2008**

**Monday, December 1, 2008 – Lopez Fire Hall, 2228 Fisherman Bay Road, Lopez Island**

**FIELD TRIP**

**9:45 a.m.** Councilman Bob Myhr led Washington State Representatives Jeff Morris and Dave Quall; Council members Rich Peterson, Gene Knapp, Alan Lichter, and Council Chair Howard Rosenfeld; County Administrator, Pete Rose; and Clerk to the Council, Ann Larson, and interested members of the public, on a tour of Odlin South property, proposed for the Trust Lands Transfer Program.

**CALL TO ORDER – REGULAR STAFF MEETING AND WORK SESSION**

Council Chair Howard Rosenfeld called the staff meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. Council members, Rich Peterson, Gene Knapp, Alan Lichter, and Bob Myhr; County Administrator, Pete Rose; Clerk to the Council, Ann Larson; and interested members of the public were present.

**EXCUSED ABSENCES**

Moved by Lichter, seconded by Myhr, to **excuse Mr. Ranker** for County business. Motion carried unanimously.

**CITIZEN ACCESS TIME**

**Scott Meyers** expressed his dismay with the lack of opportunity for public participation regarding the cell phone task force issue.

**Celia Marcus** noted that there had been a decrease in contributions to the Kids Summer Workshops and requested a \$5000 contribution, as in prior years, as there is no park and recreation district on Lopez. She also spoke in support of the Mental Health Tax.

**Bill Evans**, Lopez Island School District Superintendent, spoke in support the mental health tax. He provided a handout and requested that it be entered as testimony for the hearing tomorrow.

**Jean Peterson** requested that Mr. Peterson make the draft ordinance for the cell phone ordinance available to the public.

**Michael Peterson** requested clarification on the Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting and teleconference.

**Gregg Blomberg** urged the Council to be cautious and remember the safety of their citizens as they consider changes to the Cell Tower Ordinance.

**Larry Hendel** also urged caution regarding health issues related to the Cell Tower Ordinance and added that property values will go down if they are next to a cell tower.

Mr. Peterson responded to the question regarding the meeting on December 3, 2008, stating that it is a national seminar scheduled from 10:00-11:30 and proposed attendees arrive 30 minutes early and plan on staying 30 minutes after this time for discussion. He also recommended Mr. Gaylord, SJC Prosecuting Attorney, and Allen Shayo, SJC Permit Coordinator be present. He said there would be opportunity for public comment on the drafted ordinance at this time and added 80% of the public would like better access. Mr. Rosenfeld suggested stating the intent of the scope of meetings to ensure the public is aware of any ordinance being written in the future.

**CLERK UPDATE / ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**Clerk Larson** reported on the recommendation from the San Juan Island Library Board approving Susan Rosenberg as an appointee. She also noted that Pierrette Guimond had submitted a letter of interest in

continuing her term on the Orcas Island Library Board. The council agreed to add Ms. Rosenberg's appointment to the San Juan Island Library Board to the Consent Agenda and consult the Orcas Island Library Board for approval prior to appointing Ms. Guimond. Ms. Larsen also noted that the first week of January is a scheduled off-week for the Council. She referenced the proposed proclamation for Jane Willis Barfoot-Hodde and the Council concurred to add this to the Consent Agenda. A draft welcome letter to Peter Goldmark, Public Lands Commissioner-Elect, was approved and added to Consent for tomorrow.

Council schedules, agendas, and Minutes were reviewed and amended.

#### COUNCIL DISCUSSION/UPDATES/OTHER ACTION ITEMS

#### **COUNCIL MEMBER UPDATES**

**Trust Land Transfer Update – Odlin South:** Mr. Myhr reported on a successful meeting with Representatives Morris and Quall and believes they now have a better understanding of the property after this morning's tour and that this will continue to move forward.

A resolution denying the application for right of way was discussed to be placed on the Consent Agenda, upon approval of changes.

**Council Subcommittee Updates:** Cell Phone Task Force was covered under Citizen Access Time.

**Legislative Priorities:** Legislative priorities were discussed during the field trip. A complete packet of the material is retained as part of the permanent proceeding file, dated December 2, 2008.

**Ferries:** Mr. Rosenfeld reported that the State authorized the high bid on the Island Home ferry. Mr. Myhr inquired about further discussion with Mr. Moseley. Mr. Rose said that Mr. Sutton, FAC Chair, needed more time to meet with the other FAC Chairs to consider the Cedar River Group recommendations. Mr. Myhr noted that Josh Brown, Coastal Counties Caucus (CCC) Chair would be scheduling an emergency CCC meeting regarding this.

**Town Meeting on Annexation.** Mr. Rosenfeld reported that the Town of Friday Harbor believed that the County will not build a connector road, which would challenge the home trust project. However, he stated the County could not guarantee this. Mr. Peterson asked if timing was an issue, or if this would be more appropriate to discuss with the new Council seated. Mr. Rosenfeld said that Nancy DeVeaux was quoted as saying the project was not threatened by time. Mr. Rosenfeld stated that the County put the Connector Road in the 6 Year Road Plan, adopted by resolution, to say that it is the intent of the County. Mr. Knapp said the Council would need to follow-through with their intent as stated. Mr. Rosenfeld said the TFH had threatened to block the Turn Point Road access to Town in the past because of heavy traffic on Warbass.

**Review of 2009 Budget:** Mr. Myhr asked if any new information was available pertaining to the budget and if they would be able to make add-backs. Mr. Rose suggested at this late juncture that the Council consider items one by one. Mr. Rosenfeld asked if there would be \$100,000 available. Mr. Rose said possibly more than that. Mr. Myhr noted the importance of including projects that leverage volunteer support – even if it causes operating reserves to drop below 1.5 million.

#### EXECUTIVE/CLOSED SESSIONS

**12:00 p.m.** – Council Chair Rosenfeld announced that the Council would be holding an **executive session**, estimated to last approximately 30 minutes, to discuss Labor Contract Negotiations pursuant to RCW 42.30.140 (4) Participants: Pamela Morais, Human Resource Manager, Pete Rose, CA, and Adina Cunningham, Deputy Administrator. The session ended at 12:34 p.m. for an actual session time of 34 minutes. No action was taken.

**ADJOURN** – Moved by Peterson, seconded by Myhr, to adjourn the meeting at 12:35 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

**Tuesday, December 2, 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, Alan Lichter, and Bob Myhr; County Administrator, Pete Rose; Clerk to the Council, Ann Larson; Deputy Clerk, Lisa Brown (remotely); and interested members of the public were present.

The flag salute was conducted.

**CITIZEN ACCESS TIME**

**Tom Munsey**, manager of Public Access TV, reported that his network is back on the air with his existing equipment which has been rehabilitated, and improved to play double density DVDs. He explained that he had returned the camera and would not be using any of the equipment ordered for him due to the language in the final contract through which the equipment was to be released under. He requested a DVD of the session and said he would post it by 6:00 p.m.

**Barbara Fleming**, SJC Board of Health (BOH) Chair, expressed, on behalf of the BOH, that the Mental Health Tax is absolutely necessary.

**Sam Jacobson**, a San Juan Island resident, requested an update on the Climate Change Resolution adopted by the Council. He expressed interest in knowing what steps had been taken towards implementation.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by Myhr, seconded by Lichter, to approve the **Minutes of November 17, 18, and 19, 2008**. Motion carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Moved by Lichter, seconded by Myhr, to approve the **Final Consent Agenda of December 2, 2008**, as follows:

**A. Resolutions/Ordinances:** (No items.)

**B. Contracts/Agreements:**

1. An Interagency Agreement between the State Department of Health and San Juan County Health & Community Services

**C. Budget Items:** Approve Warrants:

- Warrants #53583-53594 in the amount of \$12,485.78 for Land Bank
- Warrants #53595-53706 in the amount of \$103,448.78 for County Claims
- Warrants #53707-53771 in the amount of \$158,3987.75 for Public Works
- Warrant#53959 in the amount of \$825.00 for Veteran's Assistance
- Warrants#53960-53987 in the amount of \$8,851.59 for Medical Reimbursements
- Warrant #54027 in the amount of \$6,801.37 for Public Works Excise
- Warrants #54256-54402 in amount of \$258,762.81 for County expenses
- Warrants #53988-54026 in the amount of \$36,748.32 for Public Works
- Warrant #54493 – 54545 for County claims in the amount of \$40,783.75
- Warrants #54455 - 54491 for Public Works claims in the amount of \$173,082.56
- Warrant #54492 Veteran's Assistance claim in the amount of \$200.00
- Warrant #54596 in the amount of \$76.68 for Elections Claim

**D. Personnel** (No items.)

**E. Appointments**

1. A letter appointing Susan Rosenberg to a new term on the San Juan Island Library Board, beginning January 1, 2009 and expiring December 31, 2013.

**F. Correspondence:**

1. A letter to Peter Goldmark, Public Lands Commissioner-Elect, welcoming him as the new administrator for Department of Natural Resources.

**G. Miscellaneous:**

1. Revisions to the San Jan County Homeless Plan to include rental subsidies for extremely low income seniors
2. A Proclamation announcing December 8, 2008 as Jane Willis Barfoot-Hodde Day.

Mr. Myhr questioned denial of a right of way and was informed that it was pulled to be placed on Consent for next week. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS

**ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS**

**ORD. NO. 53-2008-** (Refer to PUBLIC HEARINGS, 10:20 a.m., for details of action taken.)

**ORD. NO. 54-2008-** (Refer to PUBLIC HEARINGS, 11:00 a.m., for details of action taken.)

**ORD. NO. 55-2008-** (Refer to PUBLIC HEARINGS, 1:30 p.m., for details of action taken.)

**ORD. NO. 56-2008-** (Refer to PUBLIC HEARINGS, 1:30 p.m., for details of action taken.)

**ORD. NO. 57-2008-** (Refer to PUBLIC HEARINGS, 1:30 p.m., for details of action taken.)

**RES. NO. 80-2008-** (Refer to BOARD OF HEALTH, November 19, 2008, meeting minutes, for details of action taken.)

COUNCIL DISCUSSION/UPDATES/OTHER ACTION ITEMS

**COUNCIL MEMBER UPDATES**

**Washington DC – Federal Stimulus Package / Washington State Ferries (WSF) / Mitchell Hill:** Mr. Ranker reported on meetings with staffers for our congressional delegation in Washington DC last week regarding the federal stimulus package, WSF, and Mitchell Hill. The Obama transition team is putting together a 300 billion dollar transition plan to create 2.5 million new jobs in the US. He mentioned that WSF was not included in the House version of the stimulus package that passed, but that individual states would be responsible for distribution of the funds. Mr. Ranker noted that Governor Gregoire and Paula Hammond are putting together the list of items for funding through this package, primarily focused on transportation. He questioned Marie Cantwell's staff regarding the exclusion of ferries and was directed to work with the State. Mr. Ranker said he believed public entity jobs could be created in health and other sectors as well, and questioned staffers regarding broadening the range of the stimulus package. He encouraged constituents to contact federal delegation to ensure the stimulus package isn't just about roads and bridges, but also encompasses other important areas in communities. Mr. Ranker said it will be important to align projects that are ready to implement and reported that he submitted the Anacortes terminal project for inclusion on the list, noting that project alone will create 2,100 jobs within a five year period. Mr. Ranker reported that Mitchell Hill is moving forward as Rick Larsen's top environmental priority. The federal appropriations that purchased property will be going to committee for votes in July and an interior appropriations bill would follow. Mr. Ranker said this is great news for the citizens of SJC. Mr. Ranker then reported on his meeting with David Moseley, WSF Director, yesterday, regarding strategy to ensure ferries are included on the State list that Ms. Hammond submits. Mr. Ranker reported a 3.4 billion dollar shortfall in operations and capital over the next few biennials, in addition to State deficits of 6 billion dollars in general operations and 1.4 billion in education. He said the Governor did recognize that continuing to raise ferry fares was not a solution. Mr. Ranker suggested sending a joint letter with other coastal counties requesting no more than a 2.5 percent increase in fares in the next biennium.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COUNCIL BRIEFING**

**1:00 p.m.** (Commenced at 1:07 due to time constraints.) Present: Pete Rose, County Administrator; Ron Henrickson, CD&P Director; Allen Shayo, Permit Coordinator; John Shannon, Public Works Director; Ed Hale, Solid Waste Utility Manager; and interested members of the public.

**ADU Lottery Procedures:** Mr. Rose reported that Mr. Shayo was available to present proposed procedures related to the ADU lottery, as part of the amendment made to the ADU Ordinance adopted on November 18,

2008. Mr. Shayo provided draft procedures and referenced Exhibit A. He noted that it should read remaining applications will be placed on a “conversion wait-list” as opposed to a “new wait-list.” He added that this is a second touch giving the Council opportunity to review and suggest any alterations prior to the hearing scheduled for December 16, 2008. Mr. Shayo and Mr. Henrickson answered questions from the Council.

**Proposed 2009 Solid Waste Fees:** Mr. Hale referenced his staff report and noted that typically rate increases occur in April and explained notification times required following approval of the increase. He provided information regarding prior fee rate increases; 6.9 percent in April of 2008, and 9.4 percent in 2007. The current request is an across-the-board rate increase of 5.66 percent, which follows the downward trend in requests. Mr. Hale and Mr. Shannon answered questions from the Council. **The Council then reached consensus to move the fee increase forward to public hearing.**

#### PUBLIC HEARINGS

**10:20 a.m.** – A public hearing was held to consider a Mental Health Tax Ordinance. Present: Council Chair Rosenfeld, Council Members Kevin Ranker, Rich Peterson, Gene Knapp, Alan Lichter, and Bob Myhr; County Administrator, Pete Rose; John Manning, Health and Community Services (HCS) Director; Barbara LaBrash, Human Services Manager; Tom Kearney, Juvenile Court Administrator; Clerk to the Council, Ann Larson; Public Hearings Specialist, Lisa Brown (remotely); and interested members of the public. Mr. Manning explained that this tax would provide support for mental health and dependency courts and introduced task force members Barbara LaBrash and Tom Kearney. Ms. LaBrash noted that with difficult times comes stress causing an increase in needs for mental health and chemical dependency services. She stated that the impact of this tax is negligible and urged the Council to pass it. Mr. Kearney pointed out that the process of the task force was thorough, open, and diligent, and that enacting the tax would provide local direction and control for solutions and provide an opportunity to be impactful in three identified need areas – school aged children, uninsured citizens facing problems in this area, and abusive parents. He encouraged the Council to move forward and take action to adopt the Ordinance approving this tax. Mr. Peterson inquired about implementation of the Therapeutic Court component required through RCW 26.12.250 and the demand in SJC for such a court. Mr. Kearney explained that by passing the Ordinance, the County commits to making this available. He has researched implementation of Therapeutic Courts in other counties and would be prepared to determine policies and procedures that would fit SJC’s structure and needs to implement a Therapeutic Court here. Mr. Peterson repeated the question for Judge Linde, who entered the room after the question was posed to Mr. Kearney. Judge Linde said there is no Therapeutic Court or Drug Court currently in place. He explained that Therapeutic Courts through this act deal primarily with cases involving juveniles who would be separated from their parents and cases where the family of a juvenile may be chemically dependent, thus causing the juvenile problems and would involve parents participating in a therapeutic court program. He stated that if the Council directed him to formulate a Therapeutic Court, he could do so, and explained how it would operate, involving intensive judicial supervision and an opportunity for the defendant to take an alternative to the strict criminal path. Mr. Linde, Mr. Kearney, and Mr. Manning answered additional questions from the Council. Mr. Rosenfeld then opened public testimony. Comments were submitted by 24 individuals, all in favor of the tax. Mr. Rosenfeld then closed public testimony, reserving the right to reopen. Mr. Manning, Mr. Kearney, and Ms. Pedrick, SJC Juvenile Public Defender, answered questions from the Council regarding funding and case-load, and deliberations followed. Mr. Myhr, Mr. Ranker, and Mr. Lichter spoke in favor of the tax, citing the seriousness of the consequences of not providing better service in this regard. Mr. Peterson felt the Therapeutic Court idea was designed for larger communities than ours and that it should go to ballot. The following action then took place:

**Moved by Lichter, seconded by Myhr, to adopt the Ordinance imposing 1/10 of 1% sales and use tax for the purpose of providing funds for new and expanded chemical dependency or mental health treatment services and for the operation of new or expanded therapeutic court programs.** Mr. Rosenfeld thanked those who provided testimony showing the need for this and illustrating that it tends to get neglected in this community. This tax gives SJC an opportunity to provide a very much needed service. Mr. Knapp commented that the County could pay a little now, or a lot later, but was in favor of this tax primarily because he feels it is the humane thing to do. **Motion carried with Peterson opposed.**

**11:00 a.m.** – (Commenced at 11:34 due to time constraints.) A public hearing was held to consider a Fee Ordinance. Present: Council Chair Rosenfeld, Council Members Kevin Ranker, Rich Peterson, Gene Knapp, Alan Lichter, and Bob Myhr; County Administrator, Pete Rose; Clerk to the Council, Ann Larson; Public Hearings

Specialist, Lisa Brown (remotely); Ron Henrickson, Community Development and Planning (CD&P) Director, Dona Wuthnow, Parks Director, Bob Low, Fire Marshal, and interested members of the public. Ms. Wuthnow reviewed the Eastsound Village Green fee increase, affecting Farmers' Market participants, noting that if she receives lodging tax money that she has applied for, she will be able to reduce the fee. Ms. Wuthnow answered questions from the Council. Public Testimony was opened and submitted by Shannon Hoffman, SJC Stormwater Technician, who commented on the stormwater guidelines and fees, and the negative affect it will have on her and the County if the fee is adopted at the proposed rate of \$245. She also noted that Clarke County's fee is \$750, Island County's is \$550, Pierce County's is \$748, plus \$119 per inspection. She explained her extensive workload, noting that processes would move slower with the proposed reduction in her time, and urged the Council to support a reasonable fee increase to sustain the only full-time employee hired to protect the environment. Public testimony was then closed. Mr. Henrickson and Mr. Rose answered questions from the Council regarding this fee, proposing future incremental increases. Deliberations took place and the following motion was made:

**Moved by Lichter, seconded by Knapp, to change the fee for rental of the Eastsound Village Green to come before the Council for final consideration. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Henrickson answered questions regarding permit application numbers and staffing levels. Mr. Low also commented on increases in response to a question posed by Mr. Lichter. The following action was then taken:

**Moved by Peterson, seconded by Ranker, for approval of the 2009 fees for CD&P, Parks Department, and the Fire Marshal.** Mr. Rose inquired about adding the commercial kitchen hood. **Mr. Peterson amended his motion to add the commercial kitchen hood fee to the ordinance, which was accepted by Ranker. Motion carried unanimously.**

**1:30 p.m.** – A public hearing was held to consider adoption of an ordinance for SJC setting the property tax levy for SJC Current Expenses for 2009, adoption of an ordinance for SJC, Washington, setting the property tax levy for land conservation futures for 2009, adoption of an ordinance for SJC, Washington, setting the property levy for county roads for 2009, and adoption of an ordinance for the adoption of the 2009 SJC Budget. Present: Council Chair Rosenfeld, Council Members Kevin Ranker, Rich Peterson, Gene Knapp, Alan Lichter; and Bob Myhr; County Administrator, Pete Rose; Clerk to the Council, Ann Larson; Public Hearings Specialist, Lisa Brown (remotely); SJC Auditor, Milene Henley; and interested members of the public. Ms. Henley explained that under consideration first are the ordinances authorizing levies for the Current Expense Fund and Conservation Futures. She provided background stating that state law requires jurisdictions to adopt, by ordinance or resolution, any increase over property tax levies of the previous year, noting that we are limited to a 1% increase, plus any increases occasioned by new construction or state assessed properties. Ms. Henley said that given the economic condition, she was requesting the full 1% increase and referenced the ordinances before them, showing a 1% increase in Current Expense as \$37,396, and Conservation Futures as \$2,577. She noted that these figures do not include increases due to new construction, prior year refunds, or increases in state assessed properties. Public testimony was opened, none submitted, closed, reserving right to reopen and the following action took place:

**Moved by Ranker, seconded by Lichter, to adopt an ordinance for SJC setting the property tax levy for SJC Current Expenses for 2009. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Rosenfeld reopened public testimony on the property tax levy for conservation futures, and setting the property tax levy for county roads. No testimony was submitted. Public testimony was closed with the right to reopen, and the following action took place:

**Moved by Ranker, seconded by Myhr, to adopt an ordinance for SJC, Washington, setting the property tax levy for land conservation futures for 2009. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Ranker, seconded by Myhr, to adopt an ordinance for SJC, Washington, setting the property levy for county roads for 2009. Motion carried unanimously.**

**2:00 p.m. (Resumed)** – The public hearing was re-opened to consider the ordinance adopting the SJC budget for 2009. Present: Council Chair Rosenfeld, Council Members Kevin Ranker, Rich Peterson, Gene Knapp, Alan Lichter; and Bob Myhr; County Administrator, Pete Rose; Clerk to the Council, Ann Larson; Public Hearings

Specialist, Lisa Brown (remotely); SJC Auditor, Milene Henley; interested department heads; and interested members of the public. Mr. Rose referenced the 2009 budget ordinance, thanked the Council and staff for their participation, and shared comments regarding the economic downturn, both locally and nationally. He reviewed details regarding reductions. Ms. Henley provided an update with her best prediction of a year end cash balance at 1.616 million including add-backs by the Council. She stated that reductions are unfortunate, but absolutely essential for the County to get into a sustainable budget, and noted that with sales tax down and Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) figure of \$40,000 for the month of November, down from \$68,000 in 2007, and \$134,000 in 2006, and that she supports the budget as originally submitted by the administrator. Mr. Rosenfeld opened public testimony, which was submitted by 16 individuals regarding parks, preservation, agriculture, reductions in staffing, offers for assistance with parks by SJ Leos and the Trails Committee, and closed, with the right to reopen. Mr. Rose provided information on timelines for putting a lid lift on the ballot and answered questions from the Council. Mr. Rosenfeld referenced one speaker who suggested volunteers in different programs and Mr. Rose cautioned careful planning due to possible impacts with the bargaining units. Mr. Ranker stated that the Council needs in-depth discussion on the decisions ahead and to hear from additional staff. Mr. Rosenfeld invited department heads to speak. Sheriff Cumming noted that his department is turning in \$100,000 in unspent funds for budget-year 2008, and reviewed the cuts his department faces. He asserted that public safety is paramount and urged the Council to restore basic services in his “essential” department prior to funding other areas that are “good” for the community. Mr. Zalmanek expressed hardships his department faces with staffing, being faced with a surge in property assessment appeals (314), the uncertainty of time it will take to implement the new software, and assessing new construction in a timely manner. Deliberations began and Ms. Henley was asked for clarification on the latest estimates. She explained that the downward trend continues with the gap in revenues increasing each month and that reduction in ending cash or working reserves would place SJC in serious danger of not being able to meet payroll. She answered questions from the Council regarding ending cash. Mr. Myhr stated that he understands SJC is facing difficult times and gave an historical account that in 1983 SJC had no reserves and operated on bank warrants, in 2005 reserves were under one million, and 1.5 million is projected for 2008, adding that he believes SJC may need to go below that figure to maintain staff that coordinates volunteer efforts that provide tremendous leverage to programs. Mr. Peterson expressed his hesitation on add-backs, absent some commitment to go to the voters asking them to support additional funding through a levy lid lift, noting that under any scenario laid out by the Auditor, that there will come a time that the County runs out of money. If the measure is turned down, he said the “marching orders,” to shrink our government, are clear. Mr. Rosenfeld concurred that a lid-lift would be necessary, adding that he learned at WSAC that several counties’ levies didn’t pass initially and had to be reintroduced. Mr. Rosenfeld suggested a motion. Mr. Myhr stated it is clear that the Council must begin budgeting for 2010 and 2011 in the beginning of 2009 and plan for that possibility, but need to put this budget together first. Mr. Lichter asked for votes on specific items. Mr. Ranker asked to comment first regarding the levy lid lift, stating that it was premature to introduce this in a motion without public dialogue. He said the \$200,000 difference, give or take, doesn’t make a difference, and if the Council doesn’t do something in the next 6-8 months to raise revenue, there will be serious cuts. He has heard from many constituents that the levy lid lift is not only the best scenario, but may be the only scenario and needs to be considered. Mr. Knapp stated the Council has two jobs before them – next year’s budget and the downturn over the coming years – and suggested finalizing the budget for next year and agree that solving the long-term sustainability be the top priority for next year. The following action then took place:

**Moved by Ranker, seconded by Lichter, to retain the juvenile probation officer position. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Ranker commented that 50% of County budget cuts came from the Health and Community Services (HCS) budget. He noted that the Council was seeking restoration of 25K for senior transit and that Mr. Manning pointed out today that if he had the rest of his department assistant, it would allow the Public Health Nurse (PHN) time for required field services. The following action took place:

**Moved by Lichter, seconded by Myhr, to add \$25,000 for senior transit. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Lichter, seconded by Myhr, to restore \$25,000 for the HCS Department Assistant, to free up PHN staff. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Myhr, seconded by Lichter, to increase the County Council Department Assistant to .75 FTE, due to additional legally mandated committee responsibilities. Motion carried with Peterson opposed.**

**Moved by Ranker, seconded by Myhr to restore .5 Department Assistant to County Parks. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Ranker, seconded by Lichter, to maintain the ARC coordinator position at full-funding of \$35,000. Motion carried with Peterson opposed.**

Moved by Myhr, seconded by Ranker, to restore the dispatcher position in the Sheriff's Office to .4 FTE. Mr. Knapp said the Sheriff listed four cuts that he was unhappy with and suggested that if the Council was not going to restore the budget fully, to provide an allotment and allow the Sheriff to determine how it would be divided. Mr. Myhr amended his motion to restore \$18,531 and this was seconded by Mr. Lichter who offered a friendly amendment to increase this to an even \$20,000, which was accepted by Mr. Myhr. Mr. Knapp stated that the number one job of government is protecting the public and suggested increasing the amount to \$25,000. Mr. Peterson suggested \$32,000 which was what the Sheriff indicated that he needed. Mr. Lichter said he would support \$25,000, Mr. Knapp said he could support \$32,000 also. Mr. Peterson made a friendly amendment to increase the amount to \$32,000, which was accepted by Mr. Myhr, but not accepted by Mr. Lichter. Mr. Rosenfeld offered the figure of \$25,000, as a friendly amendment, which was accepted by Mr. Lichter, but not by Mr. Myhr. Motion failed with Peterson, Knapp, Myhr, and Ranker opposed. Moved by Lichter, seconded by Ranker, to restore \$25,000 to the Sheriff's budget. The motion failed with Peterson, Knapp, and Myhr opposed, then the following action was taken:

**Moved by Peterson, seconded by Myhr, to restore \$32,000 to the Sheriff's budget. Motion carried with Lichter opposed.**

**Moved by Ranker, seconded by Myhr, to restore \$5,000 as a line-item for the Council professional services, lobbying, and travel budget.** Discussion took place regarding allocations in these areas for a total of \$17,000, noting that there would be a related presentation next week. Mr. Knapp asked to hold on this until after the presentation. Mr. Myhr suggested including it and making expense determinations as they arise. **Motion carried with Mr. Peterson and Mr. Knapp opposed.**

**Moved by Ranker, seconded by Myhr, to retain the Department Assistant in Long Range Planning, Motion carried with Knapp abstained, as he was absent last week when this was discussed.**

**Moved by Myhr, seconded by Lichter, to support the Lopez/Orcas recreation program with \$15,000.** Mr. Peterson was opposed to this and stated that they could self fund like SJI. Discussion followed regarding establishing a junior taxing district of their own and Ms. Henley pointed out that they could choose to annex themselves into that district and monies would be collected and used jointly. **Motion carried with Peterson opposed and Ranker abstained.**

Mr. Knapp brought up the assessor request, noting that he is lacking staff to collect \$300,000 in revenue. Mr. Peterson suggested waiting to see if the person doing the appraising and running the new software is able to handle the load. Mr. Rosenfeld said a mid-year correction could be made if necessary.

Moved by Myhr, seconded by Lichter, to adopt the 2009 budget with the changes made today. Council discussion took place and the motion failed with Knapp, Peterson, Ranker, and Rosenfeld opposed. The Council asked the administrator to provide a finalized budget, incorporating changes decided upon today, by the end of the week.

**ADJOURNMENT** - Moved by Lichter, seconded by Peterson, to adjourn the meeting at 4:05 p.m. Motion carried. The next regular meeting was scheduled for Monday, December 8, 2008, and the next regular Tuesday meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, December 9, 2008.

**These Minutes were approved and signed on Tuesday, December 9, 2008. The original document is retained in the Council's permanent proceedings file. Attest: Lisa J. Brown, Deputy Clerk.**