

**SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES
SAN JUAN COUNTY (SJC), WASHINGTON
COUNTY COUNCIL
JANUARY 23 AND 24, 2006**

Monday, January 23, 2006 - Council Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

Council Chair Lichter called the special meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Council member Ranker and the Interim Clerk of the Council were present. Council Member Myhr was excused for a planned vacation.

WORK SESSIONS

10:00 a.m. – The Council met for a weekly Staff Meeting and Council Work Session regarding pertinent County business. Also present were the Administrator Pro-Tem, David Goldsmith, and the Interim Administrator Pro-Tem/Auditor, Si Stephens. No action was taken.

RECESS - At 11:00 a.m., Council Chair Lichter recessed the meeting until 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 24, 2006. (Clerk's Note: At 11:00 a.m., the Council and staff attended a meeting with available Elected Officials and Department Heads in the Council Hearing Room to welcome David Goldsmith, County Administrator Pro-Tem.)

Tuesday, January 24, 2006 - Council Hearing Room

CALL TO ORDER

Council Chair Lichter called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Council member Ranker and the Interim Clerk of the Council were present. Council Member Myhr was excused for a planned vacation. The Flag salute was conducted.

CITIZEN ACCESS TIME

Chuck McCarty and Dwight Lewis – Regarding a request for the Council to consider allowing the use of electric cars (NEV's) on roads in SJC that have speed limits exceeding their allowed use.

Mike Kaill – Speaking as the Chair of the SJC Solid Waste Committee (SWAC) regarding recommendations by SWAC for solid waste facility needs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/SCHEDULE CHANGES

The posted Council Agenda and Discussion/Other Action Agenda were revised

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Ranker, seconded by Lichter, to approve the minutes of **January 9, 10, and 12, 2006**. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Ranker, seconded by Lichter, to approve the **Final Consent Agenda of January 24, 2006** as follows:

A. Contracts/Agreements:

1. **Agreement No. 06AU01A** – Sign Amendment No. 1 to SJC Agreement No. 05AU2 between SJC and Hart/Intercivic, Inc., correcting arithmetic errors in Schedule A "Equipment and Pricing," for a revised total purchase price of \$131,431.49 as described in Attachment A, with all other terms and conditions of the original agreement to remain in effect.

B. Appointments:

1. Approve the appointment of Julie Miller to the SJC Agricultural Resources Committee as a representative of the farming community, to fill the unexpired term of Stephen Guy which will expire in March of 2009.

C. Correspondence:

1. Sign the letter to Julie Miller confirming her appointment to the SJC Agricultural Resources Committee as a representative of the farming community, to fill the unexpired term of Stephen Guy.
2. Sign the letter to Sandy Playa accepting her resignation from the SJC Lodging Tax Advisory Committee; and, sign the Certificate of Recognition for her service.
3. Sign the letter to John Warsen accepting his resignation from the SJC Lodging Tax Advisory Committee; and, sign the Certificate of Recognition for his service.

Motion carried.

ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

1. Update on SJC Hearing Examiner Search – Present: Becky Rusnak, Human Resources Manager, and interested citizens. Ms. Rusnak reported that the screening committee for candidates for this position consists of Jon Shannon, Public Works Director; Matt Zybas, Solid Waste Manager and former Community Development and Planning (CDPD) Interim Director; Ron Henrickson, current CDPD Director; and Karen Vedder, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. She stated that the screening process should be completed by the end of this week and interviews scheduled within the next couple of weeks. The Council stated they wanted to conduct the interviews as they will make this appointment.

2. Eden System Implementation Update – Present: David Goldsmith, County Administrator Pro-Tem; Si Stephens, SJC Auditor; Eden Coordinator Search Committee members Dave Zeretzke, Administrative Services Director; Becky Rusnak, Human Resources Manager; Jon Shannon, Public Works Director; Matt Zybas, Solid Waste Manager; and interested citizens. Mr. Goldsmith stated he was aware that Mr. Stephens had generously offered his services to again act as the Eden Accounting System Implementation Coordinator; and, that he had reviewed the cost of having an outside consultant do this work. He recommended that it would be in the best interest of the County to have the work done in-house with Mr. Stephens' available expertise. However, he also recommended a caveat. He suggested completing as much work as possible while Mr. Stephens is employed as the County Auditor through the end of 2006, and to have in place a back-up for any work that is not completed. He stated that this could be an in-house individual or external consultant. Mr. Zeretzke added that the cost of using external assistance is very expensive. Mr. Stephens had requested to the Council that he be compensated at the rate of \$500 per month for this work. Outside entities had proposed compensation in the neighborhood of \$52,000 and \$58,000 for the same work. Mr. Goldsmith added that SJC internal staff "comp" time/overtime for work on this project will be dealt with through the normal personnel process. Because a resolution established payment for duties performed by Mr. Stephens as the Interim Administrator Pro-Tem, the Council requested a resolution be prepared to call out compensation for the work Mr. Stephens will do as the Eden Project Coordinator. Speaking for the members of the Committee, Mr. Zeretzke agreed with this recommendation.

3. Legislative Rally Report – Council Member Ranker began by stating that he and Council Member Lichter had a very productive week in Olympia. He said he had met with the Governor, her Policy Director, and others regarding marine issues that have been discussed in SJC for some time. He repeated prior statements that there is a commitment of \$60,000 currently from one private foundation, a potential for \$250,000 in funding through Shared Strategy, and a new commitment of another \$50,000 from the Puget Sound Action Team. These are all related to the Critical Areas Ordinances updates and associated community education process. The Council's meetings with Representatives Jeff Morris and David Quall were productive as was a separate meeting with Senator Harriet Spanel. He reviewed several of the pertinent bills that are before the legislature. One of these is a bill to mandate the participation of oil refineries in WA State to participate in unannounced drills. The bill was introduced by the Department of Ecology because one refinery in Bellingham refused to participate in the past. He reported that the proposed bill to allow a subscription helicopter emergency service is progressing well and should be approved. Council Member Lichter elaborated on this proposal by adding that the bill went through the Senate unopposed and should go through the House the same way. The question will be how much this service will cost. That can only be determined when a carrier is selected. He stated that the former service available to SJC residents cost \$100 per year for a family. The new service could be as high as \$400 a year, but this would be far lower than the current cost of \$8,000 per trip. He then stated that the Governor had shared her priorities with her constituents and itemized them. The first is to provide money and investment incentives for alternative

fuel sources; the second is for early childhood education; the third is the restoration of the Puget Sound marine ecology; the fourth is investment in security, sustainability, and safety measures in case of any storms, terrorist attacks, etc.; and lastly, to consider amendments to the Growth Management Act. Mr. Lichter noted that the economy in WA is growing steadily and this may affect affordable housing. He added that Representative Morris had shared his concerns about the new Charter Government in SJC because since Whatcom County became a Charter Government, their part-time council members no longer travel to Olympia to lobby for issues important to their constituents. Both Mr. Ranker and Mr. Lichter commented that the Governor is doing excellent work and is putting aside some of the expected surplus for growth issues and other upcoming concerns rather than spending all of it.

4. Introduction of an Ordinance Regarding a SJC Citizen's Salary Commission – Present: Randall Gaylord, Prosecuting Attorney; Becky Rusnak, Human Resources Manager; and Si Stephens, Auditor. Mr. Ranker stated that he would like to request that Council Member Myhr be present for this discussion. He added that he had also requested information from the Municipal Research and Services Center of WA (MRSC) and read a portion of their reply for the audience. He then stated that it is his opinion that the County Administrator will appoint four members of the Commission; however, they must be confirmed by the Council. Mr. Gaylord had no objections to waiting another week to review the draft, but cautioned the Council that there is a time frame which must be adhered to in order for adoption of the Ordinance, for actual appointments to be made to this Commission, and for them to complete their work prior to the filing date for elected officials' offices. Mr. Ranker stated he had spoken to other counties that have Salary Commissions and was informed that it takes about six weeks to two months to complete the work to be done. Mr. Stephens informed the Council that the primary election filing date may be moved up one month due to proposed legislation. **By consensus, the matter will be discussed next week.**

5. North Sound Mental Health Association (NSMHA) Conference Report – Council Chair Lichter reported that he attended the conference held at the Skagit Valley Resort. There were approximately 250 health care providers in attendance. The renowned speaker, Peter Feigel, addressed mental health issues including depression and bipolar disorders and the effects of these mental health diseases on the sufferers, their families and communities. Mr. Lichter stated he would like to engage Mr. Fidel if he comes back to the Puget Sound area to have a work session in SJC, as he is an extraordinary speaker.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

11:00 a.m. - A meeting was held with Karen Vedder, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, and John Manning, Health and Community Services Director, regarding review of the draft affordable housing documents. Also present: David Goldsmith, County Administrator Pro-Tem, and interested citizens. Ms. Vedder presented the draft of two ordinances resulting from the many work sessions and community meetings held regarding restructuring the Affordable Housing Commission into the SJC Housing Bank and repealing Ordinance 5-1994; and, an ordinance adding a new Chapter to Title Three of the County Code establishing the collection and disbursement of one-half of one percent Real Estate Excise Tax for the development of affordable housing in SJC. She requested that the Council schedule a public hearing to consider both documents. Mr. Manning added that he had met with the Town of Friday Harbor Council and there were no additional comments. Ms. Vedder addressed suggestions posed in an email from the OPAL Executive Director, Lisa Byres, and stated they could be incorporated into the draft ordinance in time for submission to the legal paper for publication. That was acceptable to the Council. Chair Lichter invited comments from the audience which were submitted along with questions. The Council and Ms. Vedder addressed all questions that arose. Council Member Ranker noted that it is important for this matter to go forward as it has been a long process which began while Commissioner Rhea Miller was still with the County. He stated he had some questions and comments; however, he will pose these during the public hearing. As a side note, he informed the audience that the WA State Association of Realtors has an ad campaign on television stations conveying that voters should not approve any Real Estate Excise Taxes that would support affordable housing and other issues. He expressed his concerns because the ads were very carefully crafted to communicate this message in a believable fashion. At the end of a lengthy discussion, **it was the consensus of the Council to move forward with scheduling a public hearing regarding this matter. The Council Interim Clerk stated that it is scheduled for February 14, 2006 at 2:30 p.m.**

1:30 p.m. - The Council sat as the Board of Health (BOH) for their regularly scheduled monthly meeting. Present: Tom Locke, MD, SJC Deputy Health Officer; John Manning, Health and Community Services Director; JoAnne Campbell, Personal Health Manager; and interested citizens. Agenda:

1. Oral Health Program Grant and Susan B. Komen Grant Updates – Ms. Campbell reported that a grant has been received for the "Access to Baby and Child Dentistry (ABCD) Program." She related the available statistics for the State and SJC regarding the care of children's teeth and the benefits of this program to babies and

children here in the County. The grant will run for three years. After the third year, it is not yet known what costs will be associated with the program. Ms. Campbell also reported that the Susan B. Komen Grant for travel expenses related to treatment for breast cancer patients has been renewed. She thanked the San Juan "Eagles" for their assistance in offering free flights to patients going to the mainland for treatment of other forms of cancer.

2. New Board of Health – Mr. Manning introduced Tom Locke, Clallam County Health Officer, and Deputy SJC Health Officer, who addressed the issue of the continuation and/or formation of the Board of Health under the new Charter. He explained that he is the Health Officer for Clallam County and that they are also a Charter Government. Clallam had their Council members (former commissioners) remain as the BOH when their charter was adopted, and this was perfectly legal according to the Attorney General. However, in 2001, Clallam and Jefferson Counties independently decided to expand their respective Boards of Health. He recapped what each county came up with, and noted that representatives from cities, towns, hospital districts, as well as physicians, are excellent candidates to sit on a BOH. Council Member Ranker stated that he would like to have Council Member Myhr participate in this discussion before any decision is made to keep the present structure of the BOH or to consider any changes. **It was agreed by consensus to place this item on the discussion agenda for January 31, 2006. Mr. Manning will provide background material for review.**

ADJOURNMENT - Moved by Ranker, seconded by Lichter, to adjourn the meeting at 2:00 p.m. Motion carried. A special meeting was scheduled for Monday, January 30, 2006 and the next regular meeting was scheduled for January 31, 2006.

These minutes were approved and signed on January 31, 2006. The original document is retained in the Council's permanent proceedings dated January 23, and 24, 2006. Attest: Carolyn K. Morrison, Interim Clerk.