

**Board of County Commissioners
Board Time Minutes
February 20, 2013**

Commissioner Steve Stuart called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Attendees: Steve Stuart, David Madore, Bill Barron, Kelly Sills, Holley Gilbert, Axel Swanson, Bronson Potter, and Stephanie Rice of the Columbian newspaper.

The minutes for Board Time meetings of January 30, 2013, February 6, 2013, and February 13, 2013 were distributed but not approved pending an opportunity for further review at the next meeting.

The Board directed the County Administrator to alter the weekly work session schedule to provide for one half-hour breaks between work sessions.

Under Old Business:

1. Chris Horne has been delayed in the development of the more detailed open public process matrix for the Board. He should be ready for next week's meeting.
2. The 2013 Board Rules of practice, including inclusion of the Board's Code of Ethics, was approved by the Board (2 to 0).
3. The retreat documents, specifically the project list will be reviewed for approval at next week's meeting. Bill Barron reviewed the miscellaneous retreat follow-up list with the Board for updates.
4. Review of DES vacancies (2) were deferred until the next meeting.
5. The Board approved (2 to 0) the filling of the Railroad Coordinator position vacancy after the County Administrator confers with Commissioner Mielke on his views regarding this matter.

Under New Business:

Bronson Potter briefed the Board on the ability of the county to place an advisory vote on the CRC on a county-wide ballot. Mr. Potter advised the Board that there is no statute that authorizes or prohibits advisory votes for a board of county commissioners, but there are three Attorney General (AG) opinions which could have a bearing on this issue. In essence, any questions submitted by the Board for an advisory vote to the public must be within the purview of the Board's authority. This authority to go to the people is not broad; the Board must have explicit authority over the issue. There is no authority to just ask the people whether they support the project. There may well be authority if the question is tailored to include the expenditure of public funds within the purview of County government.

The Board requested Mr. Potter to memorialize this discussion. Mr. Potter will draft a sample ballot measure for Board review at the next meeting.

Under Customary Matters:

1. Public Works vacancy reviews (2) submitted last week were approved.
2. Work session requests were approved as submitted.
3. The Board discussed the following issues:
 - a. Commission Madore is interested in discussing the Fire Marshal inspection program and the possibility of not charging fees in certain instances.
 - b. Commissioner Madore reported on his Convention and Visitors Bureau meeting. He stated the importance of getting a copy of the Board's Resolution on the Pearson Air Museum to our Congressional delegation.
 - c. Commissioner Stuart noted that next week will be a critical time for state legislation. There should be a legislative conversation with our lobbyist at next week's Board Time.
 - d. On behalf of Commissioner Mielke, Bill Barron stated that the Commissioner would like to discuss having an opening prayer at future Board meetings. This will be discussed at next week's Board time.
 - e. Next, Commissioner Madore requested that the County Administrator schedule a public hearing to eliminate park fees and that the loss in revenue be made up from the General Fund. Commissioner Stuart did not support this proposal. Barron was directed to seek Commissioner Mielke's position. (upon being contacted by Barron, Commissioner Mielke was not supportive of Commissioner Madore's request).
 - f. Commissioner Madore requested that Traffic Impact Fees be eliminated. Barron suggested that this is best discussed at an upcoming scheduled work session. The Board agreed.
4. Staff brought for the following issues:
 - a. Kelly Sills provided a draft of a "Buy Local Campaign" strategy. The Board will review this. The Board requested information on the City of Bellingham "Buy Local Campaign" be provided to them.
 - b. Axel Swanson reported on legislative activities and constituent issues that are in progress.

- c. Bill Barron requested approval of draft transmittal letters for the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce letter, the CRC resolution, and the Pearson Air Museum resolution. The Board approved the Chamber letter (with one slight revision) and the Pearson Air Museum letter. Commissioner Madore will review the CRC letter.
- d. Bill Barron also presented election information for 2013 for the Commissioner's future reference.
- c. He also requested approval to have the county lobbyist support pending legislation that would cap tort damage for counties. The Board approved.

Adjournment was at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Barron", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bill Barron
County Administrator