

**Minutes**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS – GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

**December 2, 2013**

The Commissioners met in regular session in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Administration Building, Montesano, Washington, on Monday, December 2, 2013, at 2:00 p.m. Commissioners Wes Cormier, Frank Gordon and Herb Welch were present. Jenna Amsbury, Deputy Clerk of the Board, was present to record the meeting. James Baker, Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney was also present.

**CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE**

**BIDS:**

None

**HEARINGS:**

**1. Regular Property Tax Levy for 2014 collection for the General Fund, Road Fund and Miscellaneous Fund including a 1% increase, and consideration of a road levy shift:**

There was a public hearing on December 2, 2013 to consider the Regular Property Tax Levy for 2014 collection for the General Fund, Road Fund and Miscellaneous Fund including a 1% increase, and consideration of a road levy shift. Notice of this hearing was published in *The Montesano Vidette* on November 21 and 28, 2013. Commissioner Gordon called for a staff report and asked the following people to speak:

Ron Strabbing, Treasurer, discussed the current cash balance. He stated he would recommend budget option number six, that includes a \$500,000 road levy shift. He recommends being conservative when budgeting. He explained cash receipts for November will be less than in years past due to some payments for property taxes being received in October. He stated in the last two years the budget depended on a \$750,000 road levy shift. Completely getting rid of the levy shift could be problematic. He explained offices staffing is slim and the work still needs to get done. He explained his office is responsible for other special districts' money, as well as the county and cities.

Brenda Sherman, Budget Director, stated she recommends conservative budgeting. When asked by Commissioner Gordon for her opinion on the options, she stated she would recommend option number six.

Sheriff Rick Scott stated he has a number of concerns for the 2014 budget. He explained his department will have unbudgeted costs throughout the year due to five retirements. This will create overtime costs, training costs and equipment costs that are not all known figures. He encouraged the Board to keep a levy shift in order to help the fund balance for such unknown expenses that departments will have in 2014.

Commissioner Gordon called for public comment.

Teri Franklin, Elma, stated she is against the levy shift. She explained her road has not had lines painted on it for three years and she considers this is a safety problem. She stated she worked for the county years ago and a survey was done that showed natural resources and quality of life was important to citizens. She stated a comprehensive road plan should be created.

Commissioner Gordon responded, speaking for himself, he considers it is more important to have a Sheriff Deputy able to respond when called than for there to be lines painted on a road. He stated when he balances the budget he is taking safety into consideration.

There was no further comment and the hearing was closed.

**ACTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Gordon and seconded by Commissioner Welch to choose option number six for the budget and approve Resolution No. 2013-125 authorizing a shift of \$500,000 from the Road Fund Levy to the General Fund for the 2014 Budget. Motion was passed by Commissioners Welch and Gordon with Commissioner Cormier voting against.**

Commissioner Welch stated he is relying on the budget and finance people from the County to help give him information. He stated he knows this is unpopular but does not see an alternative.

Commissioner Cormier stated he is fulfilling a campaign promise to not vote for a levy shift. He would choose option number two.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Gordon, seconded by Commissioner Welch and passed to approve Resolution No. 2013-123 for a property tax increase for the General Fund 2013 Tax Levy for 2014 collection and Resolution No. 2013-124 property tax increase for the Road Fund 2013 Tax Levy for 2014 collection. Commissioner Cormier voted against.**

Commissioner Welch stated he has spoken with other counties regarding the one percent increase allowed by law for yearly property tax levies. Most counties do this increase and those that have not wished they did.

Commissioner Cormier stated this will result in a zero dollar change to the General Fund Levy.

Paula Bednarik, Assessor's Office, explained the higher levy amount for the Road Fund is due to the levy shift last year.

**2. 2014 Budget and consideration of increases in the General Fund, Miscellaneous Fund and Road Limit Factors: Resolution adopting the 2014 Annual Road Construction Program and a Resolution adopting the 2014 Budget for the General Fund and Miscellaneous Funds:** There was a public hearing on December 2, 2013 to consider the

Resolutions approving the 2014 Budget for the General Fund and Miscellaneous Funds and a Resolution adopting the 2014 Annual Road Construction Program. Notice of this hearing was published in *The Montesano Vidette* on November 21, 2013. Commissioner Gordon called for a staff report. Brenda Sherman, Budget Director, stated the County is still in the process of finalizing the budget. Currently the budget does not balance and she recommends postponing a decision.

Commissioner Gordon called for public comment. Hearing none, he left the hearing open and requested a continuance.

**ACTION:** A motion was made, seconded and passed to continue the hearing to December 9, 2013.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Commissioner Gordon called for public comment on county-related items. He announced comments and statements would be accepted and limited to three minutes. Questions should be submitted in writing.

Robert Criswell, Montesano, made comments regarding the budget.

James O'Hagen, Cranberry Road, provided a handout and discussed a bankruptcy fraud.

### **COMMISSIONERS:**

- Prosecutor Position:** A motion was made, seconded and passed to appoint Gerald Fuller as Interim Prosecutor. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve a letter to the Democratic Party requesting a list of three names for the vacant position of Prosecuting Attorney. The Commissioners Office received a letter from Vini Samuel on November 27, 2013 declining the appointment of Prosecuting Attorney.
- Resolution – Certify levies for Cities and Junior Taxing Districts:** A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve **Resolution 2013-126 Certification of Junior Taxing Districts 2013 Tax Levy for year 2014 collections.**
- Road Use Request – December 7, 2013, Wenzel Slough Road and Vance Creek Park – Elma FFA Fun Run:** A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the road use request for December 7, 2013 for the use of Wenzel Slough Road and Vance Creek Park for the Elma High School FFA Fun Run.
- 2014 Teamsters Criminal Division Collective Bargaining Agreement, including 3 Washington Teamsters Welfare Trust Subscription Agreements:** A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the 2014 Teamsters Criminal Division Collective Bargaining Agreement, including 3 Washington Teamsters Welfare Trust Subscription Agreements.

### **Convene as Drainage District No. 2:**

Commissioner Gordon announced the Commissioners were moving out of the Regular Meeting and into the meeting for Drainage District No. 2.

### **Hearings:**

1. **2014 Assessment Role:** A public hearing was held on December 2, 2013 to consider the 2014 Assessment Role for Drainage District 2. Notice of this hearing was published in the *Montesano Vidette* on October 31, November 7 and November 14, 2013 and notices were sent to each property owner. Ron Strabbing, Treasurer stated the assessment role was kept at the 2013 rate for a total anticipated roll of \$4,000. He stated the cash balance builds up for a few years in order for the drainage ditch to be cleaned out. He explained the total assessment is split up between the 39 properties in the district by property value.

Commissioner Gordon called for public comment. There was no public comment and the hearing was closed.

**ACTION:** A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve Drainage District 2 Resolution No. 2013-01, adopting the 2014 Assessment Roll for the Grays Harbor County Drainage District 2.

2. **2014 Budget Hearing:** A public hearing was held on December 3, 2012 to consider the 2013 budget for Drainage District 2. Notice of this hearing was published in the *Montesano Vidette* November 21 and 28, 2012. The budget for 2014 includes the expenditure of \$7,500 for repairs and maintenance for the drainage ditch.

Commissioner Gordon called for public comment and hearing none, closed the hearing.

**ACTION:** A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve Drainage District 2 Resolution No. 2013-02, adopting Grays Harbor County Drainage District 2 budget for 2014.

Commissioner Gordon stated the Drainage District No. 2 meeting was closed and moved back into the Regular Board Meeting.

### **DEPARTMENTS**

#### **Management Services:**

1. **Request Approval, Resolution – Budget Transfer, Stadium Fund, \$2,853:** A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve Resolution No. 2013-127 transferring items in the Grays Harbor County Stadium Fund in the amount of \$2,853. This resolution will authorize

budget for a transfer out to the LOCAL Program Financing Debt Service Fund #206 for a portion of the energy retrofit project interest payment.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**STAFF MEETINGS**

There was no regular morning meeting on Monday, December 2, 2013.

**RECAP OF APPROVED RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES, AND  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS:**

**RESOLUTIONS:**

<b>No. 2013-123</b>	<b>Property tax increase for the General Fund 2013 Tax Levy for 2014 collection</b>
<b>No. 2013-124</b>	<b>Property tax increase for the Road Fund 2013 Tax Levy for 2014 collection</b>
<b>No. 2013-125</b>	<b>Authorizing a shift of \$500,000 from the Road Fund Levy to the General Fund for the 2014 budget</b>
<b>No. 2013-126</b>	<b>Certification of Junior Taxing Districts 2013 Tax Levy for year 2014 collections</b>
<b>No. 2013-127</b>	<b>Transferring items in the Grays Harbor County Stadium fund in the amount of \$2,853</b>

**Drainage District No. 2  
Resolutions:**

<b>No. 2013-01</b>	<b>Adopting the 2014 Assessment Roll for the Grays Harbor County Drainage District 2</b>
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**No. 2013-02**

**Adopting Grays Harbor County Drainage  
District 2 Budget for 2014**

**ORDINANCES:**

None

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS:**

None

The meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
For Grays Harbor County  
This \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013

\_\_\_\_\_  
FRANK GORDON, Chairman, District 2

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WES CORMIER, Commissioner, District 1

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HERB WELCH, Commissioner, District 3

ATTEST:

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Donna McCallum, Clerk of the Board