

Board of Clallam County Commissioners and City of Forks
Joint Meeting Minutes Special Session
City Council Chambers
March 25, 2019 5:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Soha led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Fletcher then called the meeting to order. Mayor Fletcher turned the meeting over to Commissioner Ozias to chair.

ROLL CALL

Clallam County commissioners present: Mark Ozias, Bill Peach, Randy Johnson. Council members present: Preston, Brager, Soha, Weissenfels, and Mayor Fletcher. Staff present: Grafstrom, Clerk/Treasurer, Rowley, Police Chief, Hampton, Public Works Director, and Fleck, Attorney/Planner.

AGENDA TOPICS

1. Emergency Management

Commissioner Peach stated that work is being done to assist Emergency Management and ham radio communications. A citizen has informed Commissioner Peach that Title II monies from the USFS totaling \$9,550 have not yet been utilized, and asked him for his recommendations as part of the USFS's Olympic Peninsula Resource Advisory Committee. Undersheriff Ron Cameron is providing guidance, and Commissioner Peach offered his further assistance in the matter.

Commissioner Ozias noted the upcoming public comment period regarding the Hazard Mitigation Plan. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 27, 2019 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Forks High School cafeteria. Input on the Plan the County has been refining for the past several months would be greatly appreciated.

Commissioner Peach has been networking in Jefferson County, and recently met with the newly elected commissioner. He feels that there is opportunity for some collaboration with Jefferson County on Emergency Management.

Council Member Soha asked for clarification regarding the building of a new Emergency Operations Center in Port Angeles. Discussion regarding possible locations for the new EOC and a possible joint dispatch/EOC, at the Skills Center and land near the airport, ensued. Aspects such as existing facilities and characteristics of locations will be considered in the decision. He expressed his concern that Forks and the West End be fairly and adequately considered and represented in terms of Emergency Management resources given the fact that we are part of the County and do contribute funds.

Central Emergency Management is currently working with five primary regions to develop and ensure coordination and consistency between area commands. Commissioner Ozias will have Undersheriff Cameron make a presentation at a future Forks City Council Meeting.

Joe Wright, local Amateur Radio Emergency Service Assistant Emergency Coordinator, said that an Emergency Management meeting for our area is held at 1:00 p.m. on the

last Thursday of every month at the local Sherriff's substation. These meetings are open to the public. One of the topics on the agenda for the upcoming meeting is review of the Small Community Emergency Response Plan (SCERP), which is a multi-agency chart that lists various resources and contact information, as well as the chain of command in the event of an emergency. It will be located in all emergency locations. Wright also noted that ARES would be holding an exercise simulating a shift in emergency command.

Forks has specified the fire station or community center and pool buildings to serve as the EOC, the airport to receive and store supplies, the school for emergency response and shelter, the Olympic Natural Resources Center as the media and/or political center, and the Transit Center as the place where information will be posted in the case of an emergency. The hospital is still trying to identify a triage location, but communication with the County has been an issue in the past.

Commissioner Ozias summarized the discussion by stating that Emergency Management is a work in progress, and that the commissioners will have Undersheriff Cameron, who is spearheading the County's Emergency Management planning, speak to Forks City Council and hear local concerns, ideas, priorities, etc.

2. Department of Natural Resources Performance

Commissioner Peach said that Commissioner Johnson has been looking at numbers and how information flows through the system. Commissioner Peach has been continuously requesting hard data regarding the impact of the murrelet protection plan on junior taxing districts, so far to no avail despite the fact that he sits on the Board of Natural Resources. He is currently working with the State Treasurer's office to follow the paper trail left by wire transfers from the State to the County to learn, for example, how much timber revenue has been received by the Forks Community Hospital over the past 20 years, and how much they can expect to receive in the future. He began a discussion regarding Attorney/Planner Fleck's arguments regarding Environmental Justice.

Attorney/Planner Fleck explained the Environmental Justice protocol and stated that the DNR has clearly and knowingly bypassed requirements. The junior taxing districts have repeatedly raised this issue, only to be put off. It will be a topic of the April BNR meeting. He stated that it appears the Clallam Bay block of special murrelet habitat area could reduce revenue 40–80% with 40% based on actual data and 80% a worst-case scenario based on a literal interpretation of the plan as it is written.

Commissioner Peach noted that a Dean of the BNR is interested in looking at the murrelet protection plan in spatial terms. That is, has murrelet protection been spread equally across the state or concentrated in certain areas? Commissioner Johnson stated that he and Commissioner Ozias have written letters to the DNR expressing the fact that a \$30-million drop in revenue is significant to this county and very significant to the junior taxing districts. He expressed his appreciation to the local DNR office for their cooperation, but fails to understand why the DNR is unable, or fails, to explain its shortfalls and variation from forecasts. He indicated that the DNR should manage the County's assets as a business.

Attorney/Planner Fleck referenced the quarterly meeting the DNR holds with West End communities, noting that the form varies from that used in County meetings. They use a finance form for the County meeting that shows where money might come in, but the West End demands a volume form. The West End requires both because volume corresponds to jobs while value corresponds to monies flowing to the County and junior taxing districts.

Commissioner Ozias noted the importance of sharing information within the County, as well as with other timber counties. Council Member Brager thanked the commissioners for tackling this issue with Attorney/Planner Fleck.

3. Animal Control

Commissioner Peach opened the discussion by explaining that he recently met with Friends of Forks Animals and sees a clear need for greater support on the West End, but that the major issue is budget restrictions. He hopes to re-evaluate at mid-year when revenues are higher.

Council Member Weissenfels said that there is still no animal control coverage by the County on the West End. West End residents are paying the same taxes for animal control service as those residing in Port Angeles, but getting nothing in return. The County takes two weeks to respond to animal control calls from Forks.

Commissioner Ozias asked for statistics from FOFA and other rescue organization regarding animals and animal control that they can use to argue with the Sheriff for more animal control support and/or resources on the West End. Council Member Weissenfels is unsure whether rescue organizations keep track of such information. Clerk/Treasurer Grafstrom noted that the subject of pooling City and County resources was raised at the last Council meeting. Her research shows that the number of animals from outside the City limits is much higher than anyone realized, and recommends adoption of a billing mechanism the City could use to recoup expenses from the County. Commissioner Peach suggested asking Sheriff Benedict for data regarding the number of animals handled from elsewhere in the County as opposed to municipalities and the cost for each animal to get an idea of how much should be budgeted for the West End. Chief Rowley said that Deputy Brian King notified him that there were some funds available for animal control, but the amount available and the amount needed are unclear.

[Council Member Hillcar arrived at the meeting.]

Attorney/Planner Fleck noted that Forks is successfully handling animal control within the City. The issue is with animals coming from the County and even as far away as Amanda Park. Clerk/Treasurer Grafstrom suggested that for the time being, the County beef up their response to calls from the West End, and that an agreement between the City and the County for the use of the shelter be formalized. Discussion on the topics of funding and assisting with animal control, code compliance, response times, etc., ensued with input from Commissioner Peach, Council Member Preston, and Council Member Weissenfels. Commissioner Ozias suggested that existing data, and any possible data that can be developed by the rescue organizations, be used to develop a reimbursement agreement for use of the Forks shelter by the County. Council Member

Hillcar suggested a search for similar agreements between other rural communities and counties. A tentative deadline of 60 days for a draft of the agreement between the City and County was decided upon for finalization prior to the June budget review.

The discussion of animal control on the West End ended with the suggestion by Chief Rowley, and supported by Council Member Weissenfels, that a regular animal control officer presence would be noticed and would make a difference, and a note by Council Member Hillcar that the officer check in with someone local so that they do not patrol aimlessly simply to establish a presence. Commissioner Ozias promised continued work on this issue.

4. Climate Change Week

Commissioner Ozias has been working with other commissioners over the past year on how to engage local governments and citizens on the subject of climate change.

Commissioner Peach will speak with Bernard Bormann and the Olympic Forest Collaborative organized by Congressman Kilmer about timber harvests. They would like to put together an event at the ONRC to inform people. Commissioner Peach will be listening openly to conversations regarding realistic, socially acceptable, and sustainable proposals. He feels that forest management is our greatest opportunity to contribute to carbon dioxide sequestration.

Commissioner Ozias noted that there has been enough interest that more than a week may be required. He mentioned events similar to that proposed for the ONRC throughout the county, including one in the Port Angeles area in conjunction with the National Marine Sanctuary, and visits by the Board to the future site of the Dungeness Off-Channel Reservoir, which is a significant climate change adaptation project for the County, and Pacific Northwest National Laboratories for a presentation on the work being done by that organization with regard to climate change. The commissioners, as the local policy makers, want to get an idea of how climate change is, or is expected to, impact significant industries in the County, and also to better understand how local governments and citizens would like the Board to engage in the subject. One idea is to hold meetings in the Jefferson Dinner format. At least one citizen-hosted Dinner in each district would be optimal.

Council Member Preston noted that he voted against the last carbon tax because it would have raised gas prices. Despite the fact that so many of us in this area are contributing massively to carbon sequestration with the trees in our back yards, for example, we are being penalized the most because we drive the most. Commissioner Ozias explained that this is exactly the sort of comment the Board needs to better represent the County's position in other conversations. He hopes that public events and the conversation they hope to develop through the Jefferson Dinners will focus on what is relevant to Clallam County. Ideas for engaging local communities are very welcome. A single "Climate Change Week" centered around Earth Day is not going to be feasible for a variety of reasons, so events will likely be scattered throughout April and May.

5. 2020 Census Proclamation

Commissioner Ozias announced that he will be chairing the 2020 Census Complete Count Committee for Clallam County, but that each municipality may establish its own

Complete Count Committee. Each Committee should be comprised of as broad a representation of the community as possible to encourage participation ahead of the census, and as data comes in from online submissions, to better target areas that aren't traditionally as well represented. He then noted that municipalities are being asked to issue proclamations encouraging participation in the 2020 Census.

Clerk/Treasurer Grafstrom explained that the City had met with a Census representative and that she and Attorney/Planner Fleck would be chairing the City's Complete Count Committee under Mayor Fletcher's guidance, and which they would be filling out after the May 1st Chamber of Commerce meeting in which a Census representative will participate.

Commissioner Ozias read the "Joint proclamation of the Clallam County Board of Commissioners and the Forks City Council Promoting awareness of, and participation in, the 2020 Census" aloud.

Motion to approve the joint proclamation by Commissioner Johnson, second Commissioner Peach, motion carried.

Motion to adopt the joint proclamation by Council Member Weissenfels, second Council Member Preston, motion carried 4-1 with Council Member Hillcar against. Council Member Hillcar does not feel that it is the job of the City Council to use their influence to "promote awareness of, [or] participation in" the census.

6. Transportation Improvement Plan

Commissioner Peach explained that the County reviews the Transportation Improvement Plan, which serves as the basis for funding, annually. He asked what the commissioners can do to support the City, and in particular the Bogachiel Way project, which has been a part of the Plan for several years.

Public Works Director Hampton explained that he has reached out for assistance with little success. His plans have been corrected, revised, and approved by the Mayor several times. The Bogachiel Way project is currently approved for engineering, but has been superseded by several other projects. He is discouraged by the lack of representation and assistance for this project. Commissioner Peach noted that the commissioners are currently awaiting an update on the Transportation Improvement Plan, and that several projects have been on the list for many years. He said that there is a definite need to see this project completed.

Commissioner Peach stated that an update on the TIP is near. He is aware that many projects have been on the list for a number of years, but recognizes the fact that the Bogachiel Way project is an important one for the community.

Commissioner Ozias explained that some of the confusion lies in the fact that the County has its TIP that relates only to County-owned roads, and the Peninsula Regional Transportation Planning Organization has its own process for determining regional priorities for State highways. Further, events such as the awarding of a grant can cause a project to be accelerated to replace a project listed with higher priority. Even under the best circumstances, it is nearly impossible to plan a particular project from start to finish,

and to then have it actually be accomplished from start to finish as originally planned. The commissioners recognize the fact that they need to work with the roads department to clean up the TIP, and do a better job of tracking projects.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Don Grafstrom, Quillayute Valley Parks and Recreation Commissioner asked that the county commissioners work with Clallam County Prosecuting Attorney Mark Nichols on getting the Quillayute Valley Parks and Recreation District board access to timber tax dollars they are due from the state as a junior taxing district, but currently prevented by a glitch in the law from accessing. The QVPRD is currently sitting on \$921,356 that they cannot spend because they have not adopted a .5% Maintenance & Operations Levy. The QVPRD board has only been able to operate the facility for several years using no public monies by entering into a public-private partnership with an operator. The Forks Athletic and Aquatic Club currently has approximately 500 members despite the fact that there is no M&O levy to maintain the facility.

Commissioner Peach noted that the QVPRD is unique in the State of Washington in that it does not have an M&O levy. He has spoken to Senator Van de Wege regarding this issue.

Commissioner Ozias ended the discussion noting his intent to further the matter with Mark Nichols.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Soha, second Hillcar, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.



Tim Fletcher, Mayor



Audrey Grafstrom, Clerk/Treasurer