

**BOARD OF ISLAND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MINUTES OF MEETING
JULY 9, 2007 – REGULAR SESSION**

The Board of Island County Commissioners (including Diking Improvement District #4) met in Regular Session on July 9, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. in the Island County Courthouse Annex, Hearing Room, 1 N.E. 6th Street, Coupeville, Washington. Mike Shelton, Chairman, Wm. L. McDowell, Member, and John Dean, Member, were present. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFERS, VOUCHERS AND PAYMENT OF BILLS

By unanimous motion, the Board approved the monthly electronic fund transfers and the following vouchers/warrants:

Voucher (War.) #s 266410-266611: \$440,526.66
 Electronic Fund Transfers: \$ 4,135.16

HIRING REQUESTS & PERSONNEL ACTIONS

As presented by Larry Larson, Human Resources Director, the Board by unanimous motion approved the following personnel action authorizations:

Department	PAA #	Description	Position #	Action	Eff. Date
GSA	087/07	Parks Superintendent, Temp	1501.01	Personnel Action	07/09/07

EMPLOYEE AWARD PRESENTATIONS

EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS

<u>Department</u>	<u>Employee</u>	<u>Years</u>
ICSO	Jim Johnson	5
ICSO	Frank Gomez	10
ICSO	Joe Uhrich	10
Assessor	Mary Welshans	25

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH AWARD

Christine Holbrook, the Judicial Assistant/Jury Manager, was selected as the Employee of the Month for June 2007. Ms. Holbrook summons approximately 1,000 jurors each month for Superior and District Court. Recently, she obtained a grant in the amount of \$1,600 for an upgrade of the jury management software. This will save the departments approximately 10-25% in postage each year. Ms. Holbrook is always courteous and tactful when answering juror questions and general inquiries from the public. She has received many compliments about her nice smile and willingness in working with the public of Island County.

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**RESOLUTION C-75-07 AUTHORIZING AN INTERFUND LOAN TO THE ISLAND
COUNTY FAIR FUND**

The Board by unanimous motion approved Resolution C-75-07 authorizing an interfund loan to the Island County Fair Fund, establishing the annual revolving fund of \$40,000.00 for the Island County Fair. *[Resolution on file with the Clerk of the Board]*

APPROVAL OF LEAVE PAYOUT

By unanimous motion the Board approved for payment to Jan Ford an accrued annual leave payout of 21.23 hours upon her retirement. Mrs. Ford had planned to use the hours before her retirement date but was unable to do so.

**GRANT AGREEMENT WITH NATIONAL FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION FOR
BEACH RESTORATION AT CORNET BAY**

By unanimous motion the Board approved the Grant Agreement with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for beach restoration at Cornet Bay. NFWF Project No. 2006-0180-009; Amount: \$175,000.00. *[RM-EXT-07-0104]*

HEALTH DEPARTMENT CONTRACTS

The following Health Department contracts were approved by unanimous motion of the Board, as transmitted under cover memorandum dated July 3, 2007 from Tim L. McDonald, Health Services Director:

Contract with Washington State Department of Social and Health Services/Division of Developmental Disabilities. 2007–2009 biennium contract for the developmental disabilities program in Island County. Contract No. 0763-20841; Contract Amount: \$745,422.00. *(RM-HLTH-07-0106)*

Contract – Amendment No. 2 – with Washington State Department of Social and Health Services for the Alternative Response System (ARS) and Early Intervention Program (EIP). This contract amendment continues funding for home visits and early intervention to Child Protective Services referral families. Contract No. 0663-00071-02; Contract Amount: \$40,221.00; Amendment Amount: \$13,407.00. *(RM-HLTH-03-0008 and RM-HLTH-99-0050)*.

Contract with Washington State Department of Social and Health Services for a Foster Care Public Health Nurse. The contract continues the Foster Care Passport program at the current level of funding. Contract No. 0763-21393; Contract Amount: \$20,416.00. *(RM-HLTH-01-0064)*.

Contract – Amendment No. 2 - with North Sound Mental Health Administration for Mental Health and Jail Services. This contract amendment extends the contract period at current level of funding and adds new contract language. Contract No. NSMHA-ISLAND-JAIL SERVICES-06-07; Contract Amount: \$67,265.00; Amendment Amount: \$11,250.00. *(RM-HLTH-06-0099)*.

Contract – Amendment No. 2 - with Washington State Department of Social and Health Services/Division of Developmental Disabilities. This contract amendment decreases the contract amount to adjust for a client who transferred from Island County to another county.

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Contract No. 0563-80664-2; Contract Amount: \$946,750.00; Amendment Amount: \$(960.00). (RM-HLTH-99-0054)

SPECIAL OCCASION LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS APPROVED

Having received recommendations of approval by the appropriate departments, the Board by unanimous motion approved forwarding a recommendation of approval to the Washington State Liquor Control Board for the following special occasion liquor license applications:

Special Occasion Liquor License No. 091623 by FETCH for a special occasion to be held on August 11, 2007 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Buchanan Vineyard, 5697 Casper Court, Langley, WA

Special Occasion Liquor License No. 090590 by Coupeville Arts Center for a special occasion to be held on August 10, 2007 from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at the Coupeville Rec Center, 901 Alexander, Coupeville, WA

Special Occasion Liquor License No. 090293 by Whidbey Island Celtic Society for a special occasion to be held on August 11, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Enclosed Area at Greenbank Farm, 765 Wonn Road, Greenbank, WA

Special Occasion Liquor License No. 091937 by Dave Valenti's Olympic & Extreme Sports Foundation for a special occasion to be held on July 20, 21, and 22, 2007 from noon to 9:00 p.m. at the South Whidbey Community Park, 5495 Maxwellton Road, Langley, WA

AGREEMENT WITH GIBBONS & RIELY FOR APPRAISAL SERVICES

By unanimous motion the Board approved a services agreement with Gibbons & Riely, PLLC for the Useless Bay East property appraisal in the amount of \$11,500.00. [RM-PKS-07-0096]

PUBLIC WORKS

By unanimous motion the Board approved the following as recommended by Bill Oakes, Public Works Director:

Road Agreements:

Zipper Zeman Associates, Inc. for On-Call Geotechnical Engineering Services. Amount: \$300,000.00; Term: Expires July 31, 2010 [PW-0720-031]

Abeyta & Associates Consultant Agreement for On-Call Rights-of-Way and Property Acquisition Negotiations Services. Amount: \$150,000.00; Term: Three years [PW-0720-039]

Solid Waste:

Resolution C-76-07 (SW-04-07) in the Matter of Authorizing Procurement of a Forklift – Purchase of Specialized Equipment: Waiver of Competitive Bidding – ICC 2.30A.010(A)(9) and RCW 39.04.280(1)(b) for Special Facilities or Market Conditions [Resolution on file with the Clerk of the Board]

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Sign Purchase Order No. 7300, C.B. Equipment Co., an Oregon corporation d/b/a “CB Toyota-Lift; Toyota Model 7FGU15 Lift Truck. Amount: \$14,053.01 including freight and sales tax [SW-07-0100]

**HEARING HELD: APPLICATION BY JAN SHANNON TO OPEN UNOPENED
COUNTY ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY KNOWN AS EAST BRAINERS ROAD**

As scheduled and advertised, a public hearing was held at 10:15 a.m. to consider a petition to open an unopened County Right-of-Way known as East Brainers Road for private construction located in Section 30, Township 30 North, Range 3 East.

Bill Oakes, Public Works Director, recommended approval of the application subject to “Permit Conditions for Working in the County Right-of-Way” included as Attachment “A” to the application.

Jay Johnson, 22610 73rd Place W, Mountlake Terrace asked about the current condition of the road, is it dirt or gravel, and the road’s purpose.

Mr. Oakes explained that the road is an all-weather surface road meaning it may be gravel, would be 14 feet in width, with a minimum six inches of placed gravel. It would allow access to a single family home where there currently is none.

Randy Bracket, Assistant County Engineer, provided a copy of and explained the map showing the road.

Sue Taves, 3727 Saratoga Road, Langley, indicated that she and her partner are petitioning the County to open the right-of-way. She confirmed they are asking to have reopened only 550 feet and nothing more. A brief discussion ensued about exactly where the road begins and ends and where it is located on the map.

Jeannie Hunsinger spoke on behalf of the Frei family in regard to their tree farming business. She said extending east along the County right-of-way beyond where Brainers Road has been upgraded is a very primitive rural road that is used for access to Lot 21-2 and other property in that area. The primitive road is appropriate for the Frei family’s needs and their actual preference would be that the road not be upgraded. However, they appreciate that the Applicants want to upgrade the road for better access to their property. It is the Frei family’s understanding:

- If and when permission is given, Applicants will bear the cost of the upgrade;
- Until the County has funds to assume maintenance of the road, Applicants will bear the associated maintenance costs;
- The public will have an unrestricted right to use the road just like any other County road; and
- If Applicants have a right to restrict use of the road or has a right to demand maintenance expenses, the Frei family wants to know.

Ms. Hunsinger continued by saying that when the Applicants purchased the property it was known that the property is bordered on three sides by commercial timber tree farm lands. The Frei family will continue to use the right-of-way whether it is upgraded or not for heavy vehicles related to logging as they continue their farming activities.

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Mr. Oakes explained that the Applicants have signed a maintenance agreement which will require them to maintain the portion of the road they are improving. It becomes a private road in a public right-of-way but is a private public access, not a private road in the sense that they control who drives up and down the road. The County will not allow the road to be restricted, that is standard policy.

Jan Shannon, 3727 Saratoga Road, Langley, confirmed that the intention was never to restrict access to the road. That said, Applicants prefer not to have undue stress from heavy trucks placed upon the road. Ms. Shannon asked what can be done to prevent that from happening.

Mr. Oakes suggested she work with her neighbors to resolve that concern and how the road will be maintained.

Ms. Hunsinger said the Frei family is happy with the road, they are not interested in paying any additional costs for an improved road they do not need, and is not interested in sharing maintenance costs for an upgrade they also do not want or need.

Commissioner Dean asked for a definition of “upgrade.”

Mr. Oakes referred Commissioner Dean to Attachment “A” to the application, “Permit Conditions for Working in the County Right-of-Way,” specifically condition number 6:

Roadway to be constructed in compliance with typical roadway section as shown in Appendix D-8 to a width of 14 feet. Roadway to be graded, sloped and crowned to assure proper drainage. A minimum of 6 inches of gravel surface will be placed.

Mr. Johnson asked Ms. Hunsinger if the Frei family replaces gravel on the road after use by logging trucks.

Ms. Hunsinger said that the road now is a primitive rural road so there currently is no damage created by the trucks. She again reiterated that the Frei family has no interest in bearing any maintenance costs.

Chairman Shelton emphasized that the County places conditions on the opening of a County road right-of-way and there will be no provision to in some way limit public access to the road. He continued by saying that any maintenance cost for the road is something that must be worked out between the people utilizing the road.

Ms. Taves wanted the Board and her neighbors to know that they have agreed to maintain and bear any costs for the road so they can move onto their land. For the record she wanted it known that they are not asking that the Frei family or anyone else take on that work or cost. She asked, however, when does it no longer become their cost?

Mr. Oakes explained that in order for the County to take responsibility of the road, it must be brought up to County standards. There must be improvement to the road both in width and other design features. Once that is established, the County would consider taking over the maintenance by action of the Board.

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Commissioner McDowell commented that as more development occurs in the neighborhood, those property owners will sign a similar document that Applicants signed for maintenance and cost of the road.

Mr. Oakes confirmed Commissioner McDowell's statement by saying that if further development in the area requires use of the road, those property owners are under the same conditions as Applicants. In other words, they also will sign similar agreements as Applicants to maintain the private portion of the road.

No others in attendance indicated a desire to speak either for or against the proposal.

By unanimous motion the Board approved the application of Jan Shannon to open an unopened County road right-of-way for private construction known as East Brainers Road, located in Section 30, Township 30 North, Range 3 East, subject to conditions imposed by the Island County Public Works Department.

**RESOLUTION C-77-07 (PLG-016-07) IN THE MATTER OF EXPANDING THE
VISTAIRE WATER SYSTEM SERVICE AREA**

Jeff Tate, Assistant Director of the Department of Planning and Community Development, recommended for approval Resolution C-77-07 (PLG-016-07) in the Matter of Expanding the Vistaire Water System Service Area and Incorporating the Revised Service Area Boundary into the Island County Coordinated Water System Plan. The Vistaire Water System made the request to the Department of Planning and Community Development for expansion of the service area and Planning staff, after review of the Island County Coordinated Water System Plan, determined that the request is consistent with the goals and policies of the plan.

By unanimous motion the Board approved Resolution C-77-07 (PLG-016-07) in the Matter of Expanding the Vistaire Water System Service Area and Incorporating the Revised Service Area Boundary into the Island County Coordinated Water System Plan. *(Resolution on file with the Clerk of the Board)*

PRESENTATION BY MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE TASK FORCE

At 11:00 a.m. as scheduled, a presentation to the Board of County Commissioners was given by the Mental Health Initiative Task Force with comments from supporters. The purpose of the presentation was to give reason to the Board why it should adopt a resolution imposing a 1/10th of 1% sales and use tax to fund new and expanded mental health and chemical dependency treatment services and therapeutic courts in Island County.

Hand-out of Power Point presentation: "Island County Mental Health Initiative – Our Opportunity"

Numerous letters of support were provided to the Board both prior to today's presentation and today. *[Letters on file with the Clerk of the Board]*

There were approximately 97 supporters of the initiative in the audience along with the Press. *[Attendance sheets on file with the Clerk of the Board]*

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To begin, Chairman Shelton explained that in 1995 the State Legislature passed RCW 82.14.460, a sales and use tax for chemical dependency and mental health treatment services. Essentially it authorizes the local legislative authority to adopt a 1/10th of 1% sales or use tax for that purpose. The Chairman continued by saying that last year a task force was created to line up what the potential uses of the dollars might be and to outline for the Board, if indeed the tax was adopted, how the monies would be used. The purpose of today's meeting is to hear a presentation from the task force and to receive public input. At that point the Chairman turned the presentation over to Mike Merringer and Jackie Henderson.

Jackie Henderson, Director of Human Services, Island County Public Health, began the presentation by saying that everyone is present today to represent a proposal for new and expanded therapeutic courts, mental health, and chemical dependency treatment services to be paid for by an increase in the sales and use tax of 1/10th of 1%. She explained that the Task Force was created last November to explore the needs for services, support, and gaps in those areas. She said that the Task Force, along with many others, has developed a proposal and recommendations for the Board's consideration. She publically thanked the members of the Task Force and all others involved, saying what has culminated in today's presentation was a community effort.

Stan Baxter, Director of Compass Health, Island County, gave a brief history of why the mental health initiative is needed in Island County. He read the following statement:

Compass Health, formally known as Island Mental Health, has been providing mental health services to citizens of Whidbey and Camano Islands for many years. We are truly a community mental health center. In the past we have been. Serving those with the many mental health needs that all communities have, we were unable to respond to these identified needs in the Island County communities until a few years ago. Today we essentially have evolved to the point where we provide services only to those citizens who qualify for Medicaid. In a sense, we have become a Medicaid agency. And the people we serve also need to have a serious and chronic mental health diagnosis that is covered according to Medicaid and the regional network. This limitation on our services was caused by the federal Medicaid programs enforcement of regulations prohibiting the expenditure of Medicaid dollars and programs that also utilize funds from other sources. We cannot use Medicaid money to supplement other payers in any way. So since that went into effect we must only serve again those who are found by the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services to be low enough income to qualify for Medicaid. This is a population which is sizable and definitely has a lot of needs. We continue to provide them with ongoing mental health services in spite of staff cutbacks, mounting paperwork, and increasing regulations. But the bottom line is now that Compass Health and our role, the primary provider of mental health services in Island County, can only service again Medicaid clients. We cannot respond to the needs of potential clients who have private insurance or those without insurance that do not qualify for Medicaid. We cannot respond to the needs of those who do not have one of the prescribed serious and chronic mental health diagnoses. We hope that this mental health initiative being proposed here today will be looked upon as an opportunity, it is an opportunity to design and deliver mental health and chemical dependency services locally without the interference and restrictions placed on us by federal, state, and regional agencies and funding sources. This could truly be an opportunity for the establishment of an Island County community mental health system that can evolve in a direction that makes sense according to the unique needs of these communities.

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Mr. Baxter then turned the presentation at this point over to Mike Merringer for a Power Point presentation.

Mike Merringer, Director of Juvenile Court Services and Superior Court Administrator, thanked the Board for the opportunity to present the presentation and also thanked those in attendance for the support. He explained why the Judges, while the presentation was on their calendars, could not attend. After saying that this is an opportunity to now bring the situation to the forefront, Mr. Merringer began the Power Point presentation (*mentioned here in part*):

2005 State Legislation:

A county legislative authority may fix, and impose a sales tax

- The rate of the tax shall equal one-tenth of one percent
- In 2006 such a tax would have totaled \$877,000.00

Moneys collected shall be used solely for new or expanded:

- Chemical dependency treatment services
- Mental health treatment services
- Therapeutic court programs

Therapeutic Drug Courts are designed to achieve a reduction in:

- Child abuse and neglect
- Out of home placement of Children
- Termination of parental rights
- Substance abuse or mental health symptoms among parents or guardians and their children

The Northwest Professional Consortium Inc. (NPC) conducted a four year outcome study for Family Treatment Drug Courts (FTDC)

FTDCs were more successful than traditional child welfare cases in that:

- Children spent significantly less time in out of home placement
- Children were significantly more likely to be reunified with their parents
- Parents were more likely to enter, spend more time in and complete substance abuse treatment services

Drug Courts - Enhance our Adult and Juvenile Drug Courts consistent to the National Drug Court Model for programs

- Weekly drug court hearings
- More comprehensive drug screening program
- Enhanced home monitoring
- More comprehensive collaboration with community resources
- Increase community awareness and involvement with this successful, proven program

Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP)

Evidence-Based Public Policy Options to Reduce Future Prison Construction, Criminal Justice Costs, and Crime Rates report dated October 2006

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- Cost and Benefit Analysis for evidence based programs to victims and to taxpayers minus the cost to administer the programs

Financial Benefit for programs

Therapeutic Drug Court

- Total benefit per participant \$4,767
25 participants = \$119,175

Adult Drug Court

- Total benefit per participant \$4,767
25 participants = \$119,175

Juvenile Drug Court

- Total cost benefit per participant \$4,622
25 participants = \$115,550

WSIPP Report

With the additional Therapeutic Drug Court and enhanced Adult and Juvenile Drug Courts, tax payers would benefit \$353,900 in these three programs alone per year

Mental Health Services for Uninsured

- According to the 2006 BRFSS, 30% of Island County's population has a diagnosed mental illness
- According to the same survey, at least 10% of Island County residents do not have Health Insurance
- Therefore, we estimate that 2,300 individuals in Island County, who have a mental illness, have no way to pay for treatment
- "Depression is a common, serious and costly illness that affects 1 in 10 adults in the US each year"
- The impact of mental health and substance abuse use disorders are enormous. For depression alone, it is estimated that the economic burden is as high as \$89 billion dollars
- This translates into a cost of \$278 per person, and an impact of over \$21 million dollars annually for Island County
- Uninsured and underinsured end up in the ER
- According to WA State Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, 89% of frequent ER visitors have an alcohol or other drug disorder, a mental illness or both
- The average cost of an emergency room psychiatric visit is \$3,000 to \$4,500. The cost of an inpatient psychiatric hospital bed at a hospital in Washington State is over \$1,000 per day

Doubling of Mental Health Professionals in 4 School Districts

- Mental Health millage funds pay for a part time Mental Health Professional in each of 4 school districts

What is the need?

- Mental Health problems affect 1 in 5 children

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- 1 in 10 youth has serious mental health problems severe enough to impair how they function at home, school, or in the community
- Severe depression hits Island County youth:
 - 24% of 8th graders, 30% of 10th graders and 29% of 12th graders report being severely depressed in the past year
 - 12% of 8th graders, 16% of 10th graders and 12% of 12th graders seriously considered suicide in the past year

Senior and Vulnerable Adult Outreach Program

- “While the nation wages war on marijuana, cocaine and other street drugs, roughly 1 out of 5 seniors struggles with a different kind of substance abuse. The drugs that have them in their grip – prescription medications and alcohol. Substance abuse by seniors can lead to depression, dramatic personality changes, memory loss, malnutrition, falls, several forms of cancer, heart disease and early death”
- 6 million Americans 65 and older suffer from depression but only 10% are treated for it
- 10% of the 8 million alcoholics in the United States are seniors
- This new program would provide outreach, information and referral services to those seniors or vulnerable adults who have become isolated and are experiencing depression and/or difficulties with medications and/or alcohol
- # served: 35-50

Expansion of Mental Health Services in the Island County Jail and Juvenile Detention Center

- 40%-80% of jail inmates have a mental illness and/or a substance abuse problem
- 20% of those have a severe mental illness
- Our jails house 4 times more people with severe mental illness than are in psychiatric hospitals
- “No matter how well funded, jails and prisons are terrible places for people with severe mental illnesses. No matter how well trained, law enforcement officers should not be the frontline responders for people in crisis.”
- According to the DSHS Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration (JRA) “Our juvenile justice system has become a dumping ground for children with mental health problems
- Over 60% of JRA youth have significant mental health problems and 20% of these youth have very severe problems

Early Childhood Mental Health Program

- 67% of children and adolescents in Washington’s child welfare system have a serious emotional disturbance. Only about 15% of them get the help they need.
- From the Office of the Surgeon General: “The burden of suffering experienced by children with mental health needs and their families has created a health crisis in this country. Growing numbers of children are suffering needlessly because their emotional, behavioral,

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and developmental needs are not being met by those very institutions which were explicitly created to take care of them. It is time that we as a Nation took seriously the task of preventing mental health problems and treating mental illness in youth.”

According to the same source, there are effective Public Policy Strategies to Enhance Mental Health for Children, Youth and Their Families:

- Improve access to mental health consultation with a specific focus on young children
- Provide mental health services and supports that meet the developmental needs of children, and
- Implement concrete strategies to prevent and identify mental health problems and intervene early
- The program would provide services to several hundred individuals, families, and service providers
- Resource for families, agencies and foster families concerning social/emotional concerns
- Liaison between agencies/service providers and families
- Case management for families
- Training to families and agencies

Ms. Henderson concluded the presentation by saying the need is huge. She said the Task Force believes that there is a tremendous need to enact the tax for these purposes and for the communities of Island County. On behalf of the Task Force and the hundreds of people for whom the programs will impact, she urged the Board to act as soon as possible.

Commissioner McDowell asked about the breakdown of the \$877,000 and how it would split between the three major categories talked about.

Mr. Merringer explained \$132,000.00 for the therapeutic court and \$50,000 each for the juvenile and adult enhancement programs, about 22% of the entire allotment.

Ms. Henderson further explained that the program providing mental health services to the uninsured is estimated to cost about \$275,000 serving about 200-250 people. Estimates were provided on all other programs. Totally, the amount is approximately \$825,000 with room for unknown contingencies.

Commissioner Dean asked and Ms. Henderson confirmed that any treatment started for people in the jail would continue once they were released.

Commissioner McDowell asked of the 2300 people who are not covered by some type of medical coverage, what percentage of those people would be allowed to participate. Ms. Henderson said it is estimated that they could serve 200-250 people so the program will quickly be overwhelmed.

The Chairman then opened the floor to public input.

Colleen Kenimond, Island County Juvenile Court Deputy, spoke on behalf of the drug court. She said that by passing the tax it would allow the drug court team to do their best job. The tax would:

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- Provide more money for treatment for the uninsured;
- Provide more supervision of the participants;
- Lead to greater accountability and honesty;
- Provide more rewards of successes of participants; and
- Provide better educational and vocational assistance because the drug court coordinator would be full time.

Ms. Kenimond concluded by saying that the drug court does not just award the offender; it reunites families, strengthens the work force, elevates the educational level of the populous, protects the community, and eventually would increase the tax base.

Greg Banks, Island County Prosecutor, said 16-20% of prison inmates suffer from a serious mental illness. The Task Force has estimated that approximately 40-80% of the people in the local jail suffer from some form of mental illness or substance addiction. Many are awaiting trial or serving sentences on non-violent offenses. Mr. Banks said he takes no comfort in the fact that the people he sends to prison are often prison bound because of an untreated mental illness. Mr. Banks believes the tax can offer the opportunity for real treatment for mental illness; treatment is cost effective if it prevents people from becoming defendants. He also believes the tax will provide resources for drug court which will double the in-court supervision time which would bring drug court up to local standards of weekly rather than every-other-week meetings. In conclusion, Mr. Banks said that the mentally ill are extremely vulnerable and often times the victim of crimes. Due to their illness, they make unconvincing witnesses which in turn can make convictions for the crimes committed against them out of reach. As a member of the Task Force, Mr. Banks wholeheartedly supports and recommends adoption of the initiative.

Barbara Andrews, Oak Harbor, spoke of her family and her adopted children from the Department of Social and Health Services. Due to mental illness her children all bottomed out and were in treatment at the same time. The personal and financial strain to keep the kids in treatment caused her family and her marriage to fall apart. With no money to pay for further treatment, she ultimately signed guardianship of the kids over to the state so their treatment could continue. Had there been affordable mental health treatment available in her community, she believes her situation would have been different.

Dr. Roger Case, County Health Officer and Board President of Whidbey General Hospital. Dr. Case works with agencies directly affected by the lack of mental health care in the community and strongly endorses the Board's support of the initiative.

Sharon Little spoke on behalf of the entire staff and Board of United Way of Island County as President of the Board of Directors and the Community Health Advisory Board. She said the Community Health Advisory Board in 2003 concluded that mental health, including chemical dependency, are the greatest issues of concern in Island County for the following reasons:

- Scarce resources for adolescents and children;
- Limited funding for treatment services; and
- A gap in available treatment for the underinsured and uninsured.

The proposal addresses all these issues and a number of others.

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Michael J. Little, M.D. in Psychiatry, said he has seen approximately 750 patients since beginning his practice 7 years ago. He is a psychiatrist meaning he only prescribes medication, he does not practice psychotherapy. He routinely turns away six people a week due to lack of space which amounts to approximately 4200 people who have sought mental health services from him alone.

Glenda Ward, Probation Officer with the Island County District Court, began her profession 14 years ago. She said that mental health has grown considerably in that time. Due to lack of funding, she has no place to send her defendants; her only recourse is to take them back to court where they are excused or returned to jail. She is also a CASA volunteer and the funding would be helpful in getting the children's parents the help they need.

Chuck Benjamin, Executive Director of the North Sound Mental Health Administration, oversees public mental health services for five counties, including Island County. Mr. Benjamin believes this is an opportunity for Island County to address the gaps in identified services. The State of Washington Mental Health Task Force identified the same gaps in 2005 and 2006, as did the NSMHA. Mr. Benjamin said mental health is not just an Island County issue, but also a statewide issue. Early intervention, primarily in schools, is the key yet none of the funding received goes to early intervention. There are people eligible for Medicaid but now do not meet the "medical necessity" for treatment. He stressed the importance of getting into the schools to reach the population in younger and younger years.

Dr. James Mead, Chairman of the North Sound Mental Health Administration's Advisory Board, said that one of his duties is to take the pie of money and split it up to the various agencies within Island County. He said that with new mental health agencies coming on board along with the increase in population, the slices of the pie are getting smaller. On behalf of the Advisory Board, he encourages the Board to follow through with the initiative.

Mark Brown, Island County Sheriff, said that the jail staff are not mental health professionals yet they are tasked with the job. The jails are overcrowded so people must be turned away. He believes we must deal with the problem of recidivism and recidivism is helped greatly by Dr. Curnan's program which is currently in the jail. The funding would allow that program to expand. The Sheriff's additional concerns were the seniors and vulnerable adults outreach portion of the program; increase in housing costs in the jail from \$55-\$60/day to \$85/day; and suicide and depression rates in the youth in our schools. He concluded by saying he will evaluate and make sure the program is working over time.

Scott Mauk, Director of Bayview School on South Whidbey, has been a teacher for 11 years and has seen everything that everyone is talking about. He said that 35% of the students at Bayview School drop out of school, mental health issues being a large factor in that number. He is also concerned about the family system as well. He believes the leading barrier to academic achievement is mental health and would like to stop the revolving door by getting counselors into the family home and working directly with those families. Point of contact is crucial he said. Mr. Mauk looks forward to continuing to collaborate with supporters and promised to do just that as part of the solution.

Tom Pacher, Director of Public Defense, provides public defense services for Island County and also provides public defense services on adult cases in San Juan County. He believe we are already paying the cost due to victims of the mentally ill; property damage; people assaulted; and

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the draining and expensive process for people who deal with the mentally ill person and the families. Mr. Packer's office comes in contact with people who fall through the cracks, people who have not received treatment, and the chronically mentally ill who end up in jail. Mr. Pacher said there is a need to act instead of react in an effort to cut down on the financial and human cost.

Candy Trautman is a member of the Mental Health Advisory Board, a member of NAMI as an advocate and consumer, and also part of the Task Force for the initiative. She spoke to the needs of mothers of difficult children who arrive as military families in the community. She also spoke to the need for early intervention and help for children in schools and their parents. She said there is a specific need for counselors in the schools, for the children, and affected families. She believes the initiative will help in the schools by creating education on many grass roots levels and reducing the stigma of mental illness is the biggest issue.

Karen Lewis, Director of Island County District Court Probation, talked about the portion of the population not yet mentioned, those being misdemeanants. Misdemeanants include DUIs, the mentally ill, and domestic violence. If the funds are available to include all the population, including misdemeanants, the people Ms. Lewis works with can also be helped.

Tom Sebastian, Chief Executive Officer for Compass Health, has been a part of the regional system for 20 years as a social worker and as an administrator. He believes the "community" part of community mental health has been lost. He said Compass Health will dedicate all it can to the collaborative effort of providing services through the different mechanisms talked about for the much needed services in Island County.

Rob Diekman, Corrections Officer with the Washington State Department of Corrections, is one of two local parole officers serving Island County who supervise 30% of the highest risk felon population. As a corrections officer he imposes interventions and conditions based on risk which means mental health assessment and follow-up for chemical dependency treatment. Often times the person does not qualify for the help which creates cracks in the system. Mr. Diekman believes the funding will reduce those cracks.

Mary Brencick has been a clinical social worker for over 30 years and currently works at the North Whidbey and South Whidbey Community Clinics. Ms. Brencick can do short term counseling but for long term intensive counseling there is no place for referral. Her patients are either unemployed or are working poor with no insurance. She urged the Board to look seriously at the tax.

Patricia Allison supervises the child and family services program at Compass Mental Health and supports more counselors in the schools. She wants to also encourage preventive intervention in the early parent/child interaction. Ms. Allison would like to see support for daycare, pre-school, and foster parents.

Charlene Suzuki, Compass Health, is a mental health professional working with the South Whidbey School District primarily at Bayview School. For the last seven years she has worked 18 hours a week on millage funds and finds it difficult to meet all the surrounding needs in that time. She said the additional funding will allow early intervention in the schools, an ability to serve homeless youth and teen parents, bring families into services, more coordination with courts, jails, and community resources, and places to refer students without insurance or Medicaid

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for counseling. She believes the additional funding would have a tremendous impact in the communities.

Page Gilbert-Baenen, Greenbank, spoke as a private citizen and taxpayer in support of the initiative. She has worked in substance abuse prevention programs for 20 years and works with Island County as a substance abuse prevention coordinator. She believes it is a societal obligation to address issues of mental health and chemical dependency and wants to declare her support not only because it will enhance the existing programs, but because it will support the programs locally.

Mary Margaret Haugen, Washington State Senator, voiced her concern over the lack of human services. She publically thanked Chairman Shelton for his leadership in this area. She said that the State has given some money but does not have enough to meet all needs. There is flexibility with the money received from the tax as none of it is returned to the State. The tax will be paid by not only the residents of the County, but also by visitors and those doing business. She urged the Board to take necessary action so “we can start tomorrow addressing the needs of the future.”

Chairman Shelton noted that the State Legislature has acted to avoid a real crisis by providing additional funding toward the mental health system.

TerryAnn Gallagher, Coupeville, thanked Chairman Shelton for his support. She is a consumer through Compass Health and has been for many years. She spoke to the benefits of such programs and how they personally have helped her. She believes there should also be programs to educate police and other professionals about mental illness.

Bob Clay, Councilman with the Town of Coupeville and Member of the Law and Justice Council of Island County, said that the initiative was the Council’s number one project. He believes the cost of not implementing the tax is much higher so encouraged the Board’s support.

Nancy Conard, Mayor of Town of Coupeville, read from a letter of support:

The Town of Coupeville relies on the County Health Department to provide a variety of services to our community. The Human Services staff does a good job with a minimal budget but it is not able to adequately address the needs of our population. Our police department routinely is required to deal with people who need mental health services, drug treatment, need referrals for acute situations, and there is often no service available. It is frustrating when our law enforcement personnel are required to intervene in situations that require mental health support. It is a poor use of our limited resources, with no positive conclusion.

Taxpayers are going to pay for these programs or the lack of them one way or the other. Implementing this tax at a local level means that we have local control of the funds, with local accountability. This is absolutely the most efficient and effective use of our tax dollars. I urge your vote today, in favor of implementing this tax, for these critically needed programs.

Barbara Darnell works for the Department of Social and Health Services and spoke as a concerned citizen of Island County and not as a state employee. She would like to stop the

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revolving door concerning mental health and chemical dependency issues for adults. She believes the initiative will fill the many gaps in the system.

Bess Windecker-Nelson, Family Support Alliance, said there is unanimous agreement that the initiative would help to support children and their families. There is a growing need for infant and early childhood mental health services as they are seeing increased incidences of aggressive behavior, emotional disturbances, and social difficulties. She believes the initiative will allow them to address the needs early.

Maureen Masterson, Compass Health, spoke on behalf of people who cannot or do not know how to access necessary services in the community. She believes the initiative would help to provide such services to people before they become disabled and have difficulty finding help.

Debbie Page, a social worker at Whidbey General Hospital's emergency room, said they often times have nowhere to send people who are desperate for help nor do they have necessary medications. She strongly urged the Board's support.

Cynthia Curran, state mandated to work with the jail transition program, spoke to no longer having the jail a place merely to "house" the mentally ill. The additional money would provide mental health professionals and just in the jail alone, a lot can happen.

Tim McDonald, Island County Health Services Director, believes it is now up to the Board to pass the tax in order to address not all of the needs, but the priority issues.

Patricia Little, NAMI President for Island County, reiterated that the Board should pass the tax.

On behalf of the Board, Chairman Shelton thanked everyone for attending and acknowledged the unmet need in the community. He explained that prior to passing the initiative the County Code must be changed, which requires working the Prosecutor, and a date for a public hearing established. The matter will be addressed at the Board's next staff session on July 11, 2007.

Commissioner Dean saluted and thanked everyone who worked on the Task Force.

Commissioner McDowell also thanked everyone who worked on the Task Force and everyone who came forward to speak. He expressed two concerns: (1) levels of government vacating a commitment to funding; and (2) how the additional tax will affect people on a fixed income. Regardless of the concerns, he also acknowledged the unmet need in the community.

Chairman Shelton said that the State of Washington has given more money to the mental health system than ever before in an effort to make up for the changing Medicaid rules. He encouraged everyone when talking with federal legislators to mention Medicaid and how it is not working in our community. He believes this initiative presents an opportunity and the Board will move forward. He again thanked everyone for all they do for the citizens of Island County saying that it does not go unnoticed.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCED

Chairman Shelton announced that the Board would meet in Executive Session at 1:30 p.m. under the provision of RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i) to discuss with legal counsel potential/pending litigation. He estimated the session would last approximately 30 minutes and did not expect an announcement afterwards in open public session. The Executive Session was held in Room #218 of the County Administration Building, 1 N. E. 7th Street, Coupeville, Washington.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m. on completion of the Executive Session. The next regular meeting of the Board will be on July 16, 2007 beginning at 9:30 a.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ISLAND COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Mike Shelton, Chairman

Wm. L. McDowell, Member

John Dean, Member

ATTEST:

Elaine Marlow
Clerk of the Board