

**BOARD OF ISLAND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MINUTES OF MEETING
JULY 10, 2009 – SPECIAL SESSION**

The Board of Island County Commissioners met in Special Session on July 10, 2009 beginning at 9:30 a.m. to vote on a candidate to fill the position of Director of the Planning & Community Development Department. The Special Session took place in the Board of County Commissioners Hearing Room (Room # 102B – basement), County Annex Building, 1 N.E. 6th Street, Coupeville. John Dean, Chairman, Helen Price Johnson, Member, and Angie Homola, Member were present.

Chairman Dean explained the process the Board has gone through toward the selection of a Planning Director. He said that advertising for the position of director began around the country through a number of planning associations and general publications, with over 40 applications received. The applicants were culled down to the top dozen with one of the Commissioners adding two more to the list. The list was further culled down to the top four candidates who were ultimately invited for interviews.

The interview panel included County Engineer Bill Oakes, Interim Planning Director, Keith Higman, Chief Deputy Prosecutor David Jamieson, and the Board. The four applicants were interviewed and subsequently, the interview panel, arrived at the top two choices with one applicant from the four withdrawing his application. Chairman Dean thanked Mr. Larson, Human Resources Director, for helping with the process and also thanked John McFarland, a retired Human Resource professional and a dedicated volunteer, who stepped up to help Mr. Larson.

The Chairman also commented about a June newspaper editorial entitled *Done Behind Closed Doors* stating concern that the County Commissioners had *resorted to secrecy*. One question asked in the editorial was *did they pick an experienced planner with a proven track record or pass over such a person or for someone with more politically correct views*. Chairman Dean assured the public that the Board attempted to steer clear of any perception that the process would result in a political appointment, the Board was committed to find someone who was the most qualified person for the job and he felt that the process was honored.

Commissioner Price Johnson moved to appoint Robert Pederson, believing that he has the skills needed to achieve the desired goals for Island County. She is pleased that Mr. Pederson put his name forward, he is a well-qualified candidate. Seconded by Commissioner Homola.

Commissioner Homola added that she appreciated the hard work of staff during the selection process. The advertisement disseminated included a request for someone who had a vision, who shared the Board's goals for sustainability, who would protect the Islands resources, and who could visit existing policies and procedures and assist the Board in making those policies and procedures function properly for the County's citizens. The request was also for someone who could work well with staff. The Commissioner believes the process was fair and that Mr. Pederson will be a good planner for Island County.

Chairman Dean added comment about Mr. Pederson's background. Mr. Pederson began his career in 1978 in Yakima County as a Planning Technician. He went on to join the Peace Corps as a volunteer in Jamaica; was a Senior Planner and Associate Planner and Zoning Administrator in Fairbanks Alaska; an Associate Planner in Kodiak Island Burrough in Kodiak Alaska; he worked for the government of the Virgin Islands; St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands; and, in the early 90s, Mr. Pederson was Deputy Director of the San Juan County Planning Department. Most

**BOARD OF ISLAND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MINUTES OF MEETING
JULY 10, 2009 – SPECIAL SESSION**

recently, Mr. Pederson worked as the Community Planning Administrator for the Manatee County Planning Department in Florida.

Chairman Dean restated the motion to offer the position to Robert Pederson, motion passed unanimously.

The Special Session adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ISLAND COUNTY, WASHINGTON

John Dean, Chairman

Helen Price Johnson, Member

Angie Homola, Member

ATTEST:

Elaine Marlow, Clerk of the Board