

WHATCOM COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD MINUTES
January 18, 2017

IN ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS VOTING: Bob Bromley, Sumas (Chairman); Michael McAuley, Port of Bellingham (Vice-Chairman); Michael Lilliquist, Bellingham; Patrick Alesse, Birch Bay Water & Sewer District; Harry Robinson, Blaine; Rita Jefferson (for Timothy Ballew), Lummi Nation; Scott Korthuis, Lynden; Tom Jones, Nooksack; NON-VOTING: Larry Brown, Sudden Valley; Pete Stark, WTA

GUESTS Stoney Bird, Kaylee Galloway (representing Rep. Suzan DelBene)

STAFF Bob Wilson, Ron Cubellis, Hugh Conroy

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bromley called the meeting to order at 3:53 p.m. with a quorum present.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

C. AGENDA APPROVAL

Mr. Wilson requested that an action item be added to the agenda under New Business: "Amendment to 2017 Unfunded Transportation Needs List."

MOTION: Mr. Korthuis moved, Mr. Robinson seconded, to approve the agenda with the addition requested by the Executive Director.

MOTION PASSED

D. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Mr. Robinson moved, Mr. McAuley seconded, to approve the consent agenda, which included approval of the minutes of the Council Board meeting of December 14, 2016, and December 2016 claims Nos. 2016381 to 2016408, inclusive, in the amount of \$138,399.83.

MOTION PASSED

E. BUDGET REPORT

Mr. Cubellis presented the budget report as of December 31, 2016.

F. OLD BUSINESS

None

G. NEW BUSINESS

G.1 Banking Resolution

Mr. Cubellis reminded the Board that at its meeting in December 2016, it authorized staff to open checking and saving accounts at Washington Federal Bank, and it adopted a resolution to that effect. Subsequently, County Treasurer Steve Oliver informed Mr. Cubellis that the Revised Code of Washington appears to require councils of governments to deposit their funds with one of their member counties, and to use only that county's bank. His interpretation was confirmed by the State Auditor's Office, and the result is that WCOG cannot open a saving account anywhere, and it cannot hold a checking account at Washington Federal since that is not Whatcom County's bank (Key Bank is). For those reasons, the resolution adopted by the Board in December is rendered moot. Mr. Cubellis requested that the Board adopt a new resolution amending the one it passed in December.

MOTION: Mr. Lilliquist moved, Mr. Jones seconded, to approve Resolution No. 17-01-1, modifying Resolution No. 16-12-1 to allow for checking accounts to be opened at Key Bank.

MOTION PASSED

G.2 Approval of the 2017 Non-Member Fee Schedule

Mr. Cubellis reminded the Board that the schedule of fees for entities that are not members of WCOG but which contract with it for services must be updated every January.

MOTION: Mr. Korthuis moved, Mr. Lilliquist seconded, to approve the 2017 Fee Schedule as presented.

MOTION PASSED

G.3 Appointment of Three Small Cities Members to the Executive Committee

Messrs. Bromley, Jones and Robinson agreed to serve on the Executive Committee in 2017, at the pleasure of the Board.

MOTION: Mr. Korthuis moved, Mr. McAuley seconded, to appoint the representatives from the cities of Blaine, Nooksack and Sumas to the Executive Committee.

MOTION PASSED

G.4 Amendments to WCOG Bylaws

Mr. Wilson explained that the amendments to the Bylaws he was recommending would remove the requirement that officers be elected at an “annual meeting” in December, which is impracticable, and require the election to occur at the first meeting of the year; would formalize the longstanding practice of the Council Board’s officers also serving as the officers of the Whatcom Transportation Policy Board, and; would require that candidates for Council Board officer seats also be eligible to serve on the Policy Board.

MOTION: Mr. Korthuis moved, Mr. Alesse seconded, to approve the proposed amendments to the Bylaws of the Whatcom Council of Governments.

MOTION PASSED

G.5 Amendments to Whatcom Transportation Policy Board Bylaws

Mr. Wilson explained that the amendments to the Council Board bylaws that just passed necessitate that the Policy Board bylaws be amended to remove the requirement that it elect its own officers. He also proposed removing the requirement that each of the member jurisdictions inform WCOG staff every year whom their Transportation Technical Advisory Group representative will be, and replacing TTAG “member” with “representative,” since the members of TTAG are the jurisdictions themselves.

MOTION: Mr. Robinson moved, Mr. Alesse seconded, to approve the proposed amendments to the Bylaws of the Whatcom Transportation Policy Board.

MOTION PASSED

G.6 Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary-Treasurer

Mr. Wilson informed the Board that Chairman Bromley, Vice-Chairman McAuley and Secretary-Treasurer Jack Louws had all agreed to serve in their respective positions in 2017, at the Board’s pleasure. No other representatives chose to seek office.

MOTION: Mr. Jones moved, Mr. Robinson seconded, to appoint Bob Bromley as chairman, Michael McAuley as Vice-Chairman, and Jack Louws as Secretary-Treasurer.

MOTION PASSED

G.7 Amendment to 2017 Unfunded Transportation Needs List

Mr. Wilson reminded the Board that WCOG staff has been working with concerned citizens in Kendall as well as with the Washington State Department of Transportation and Whatcom County to address a serious pedestrian and bicycle safety situation along State Route 547, on which at least four people have been killed by vehicles. In the 2016 State Legislative Session, Rep. Luanne Van Werven was able to secure about \$75,000 in funding to enable WCOG – on behalf of the Kendall community – to engage a consulting engineer to undertake the initial preliminary engineering for the development of a 3.15-mile “State Route 547 Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Trail” that would enable children and adults to safely access key destinations in the community, including Kendall Elementary School, the East Whatcom Resource Center, the library and the community’s two churches. That work is progressing and will be completed shortly.

The next step in advancing this project is to get it to the 30 percent design level, perform topographical and geotechnical analyses, and begin wetland delineation. Mr. Wilson requested that the Board add this request to the transportation needs list it adopted in September 2016, in the amount of \$305,000 plus a three percent administrative fee charged by the Department of Commerce. He added that Rep. Van Werven has agreed to pursue this request.

MOTION: Mr. Korthuis moved, Mr. Jones seconded, to add preliminary engineering for the State Route 547 Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Trail to the list of Unfunded Transportation Needs of Whatcom County 2017, in the amount of \$315,000.

Mr. Lilliquist asked Mr. Wilson if he thought this request would “compete” with the other four requests previously adopted by the Board. Mr. Wilson responded that he did not believe that would be the case given that this request – unlike the others – is for preliminary engineering and not construction, and due to the relatively small amount being requested.

MOTION PASSED

H. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Mr. Wilson stated that he had nothing significant to report.

I. BOARD OPEN FORUM

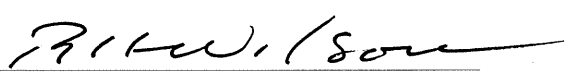
No comments were offered by the representatives.

J. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.



Michael McAuley
Vice-Chairman



Robert H. Wilson, AICP
Executive Director

Minutes approved October 11, 2017

