

COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS
JANUARY 20, 2009
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

The Board convened in the Commissioners' Hearing Room, 6th Floor, Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street, Vancouver, Washington. Commissioners Mielke, Stuart, and Boldt, Chair, present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Commissioners conducted the Flag Salute.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Boldt noted that they would be pulling consent agenda item 1 (agreement with the Columbia River Economic Development Council for general economic development services 2009-10). He explained that the item had been put on for the wrong date, but would be continued to the following week's agenda when CREDC's President, Bart Phillips, would be present. *Boldt* said they would also be pulling item 5 (County Road Project 370722, NE 134/NE 139 ST Traffic Signal Optimization Project and approval of the Notice to Contractors to advertise for bids.)

Bill Wright, Department of Public Works, explained that if they push their schedule to fast in the season they may miss the opportunity to get federal stimulus money for the project, about \$500,000. He said they wanted to wait for a few weeks before going to bid.

There being no public comment, **MOVED** by Stuart to pull items 1 and 5 from the consent agenda. Commissioners *Boldt*, *Stuart*, and *Mielke* voted aye. Motion carried.

There being no public comment, **MOVED** by Stuart to approve items 2 through 4 and 6 through 15. Commissioners *Boldt*, *Stuart*, and *Mielke* voted aye. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: OPIATE SUBSTITUTION TREATMENT FACILITY

Held a public hearing to consider amending the Clark County Special Uses and Standards:

A draft ordinance amending CCC 40.260, CCC 40.520.020 and CCC 40.230.010 -1 to include Opiate Substitution Treatment Facilities as CCC 40.260.165. The location of Opiate Substitution Treatment Facilities is of significant concern to the Board of County Commissioners. This new code is designed to regulate the location of Opiate Substitution Treatment Facilities. The purpose of the Hearing is to review criteria for the location siting of Opiate Substitution Treatment Facilities.

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Oliver Orjiako, Director, Department of Community Planning, stated that this matter had previously been before the board, approved and put on consent agenda. However, it was pulled because the parties of record had not been notified of the hearing. Mr. Orjiako noted that all parties of record had been notified of this hearing.

Boldt stated that opiate substitute treatment is commonly known as methadone and when he was in the legislature the state had prohibited local governments from saying no to methadone clinics. He said the company that pursued the methadone clinic didn't do very good PR and at the time he and Commissioner Stuart were newly elected they put together a community meeting with stakeholders. Through that process, they developed a model that is used by the state whenever they are going to site a methadone clinic. He said it took a long time, but would finally become code.

Orjiako said that was correct and added that it's required under the state's RCW 36.70A.200, Siting or Provision of Essential Public Facilities, and Clark County Code would be consistent with that. He introduced Jose Alvarez to summarize.

Jose Alvarez, Department of Community Planning, stated that in 2005 the board established the Clark County Community Advisory Council to forward community recommendations regarding the siting of Opiate Substitution Treatment Facilities and directed staff to establish criteria in compliance with state law. Staff received recommendations from the committee and began work on a draft ordinance to implement the suggested amendments to the Unified Development Code. Mr. Alvarez said that during the discussions, the state Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse scheduled a public hearing to amend their code—WAC 388-805 governing state certification requirements for chemical dependency service providers—and essentially created the opportunity to have public input on the process and required that public hearings be held in the location where the facilities would be sited. He said the matter went before the Planning Commission on July 13, 2006 and the Board of Commissioners held a public hearing and took action on September 19, 2006 to adopt the ordinance. Subsequent to the board's hearing they discovered that the parties of record who testified before the Planning Commission had not been notified of the board's hearing and after consulting with legal council it was determined that another hearing needed to be held and those parties of record noticed.

There being no public comment, **MOVED** by Stuart to approve Ordinance 2009-01-05 for Opiate Substitution Treatment Facilities. Commissioners Boldt, Stuart, and Mielke voted aye. Motion carried.

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COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

Boldt commented that it was a historic day with the Presidential Inauguration.

Stuart agreed and said they have come a long way as a country. He said he hoped Democrats and Republicans alike watched because it was a call to action and they all have work to do to meet the challenges they face.

Mielke commented about the Ordinance pertaining to Opiate Substitution Treatment Facilities, which the board just approved. He said he used to be in the legislature and a ranking member of Criminal Justice and Corrections. He stated that when they don't address issues at their core they end up with a revolving door, which includes picking a person back up off the street with policing staff and then sending them through the judicial system again. With this program, they are bringing it to an end and giving people a second chance. It's a very positive thing. Also, Commissioner Mielke said he was very impressed with the retreat they had the previous week. He said they spent 4 to 5 hours going over a lot of issues they hope to address in the next year.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Marc Boldt, Chair



Steve Stuart, Commissioner

Tom Mielke, Commissioner

ATTEST:



Joanne Richards
Clerk of the Board

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