

COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS
FEBRUARY 3, 2009
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Commissioners conducted the Flag Salute.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Speaker #1

Jim Carlson, 1932 NE 179th Street, Ridgefield, commented on several issues. Beginning with permits, Mr. Carlson said you need them for things like siding, roofing, windows, etc., and they are the kinds of permits that people don't usually get. He proposed developing the county's web page to have a do it yourself (DIY) interface with a web storefront where people can access the necessary information to proceed with the process for a home remodel or minor construction process. Carlson thought it would trim some of the permits that aren't used, as well as turn it into something that could generate income by having a checklist for people and working with suppliers to provide a discount. He said they could take it one step further and have a developer porthole where plan reviews could be done by a push-pull process by downloading PDF files and sending them back & forth. It could also be done via Webinar or Web-X so people could work with county staff online to go over the review process. He said that would work for a lot of basic things.

Boldt stated that in March they would be starting the Chapter 40 code rewrite and there would be a stakeholder group. He asked Mr. Carlson if he would like to participate.

Carlson said yes. Also, Carlson spoke in support of bonding for roads and said that starting projects today would create economic stimulus. He said if they purchased bonds at today's rate and completed projects at today's dollar rate, they would pay the debt service on it as opposed to waiting when the price of oil rises.

Boldt pointed out that they would be holding a work session about bonding for 179th.

Carlson referenced the Kirkland Study on Concurrency, which he previously submitted to the board and staff. He said the study strongly interacts with how the roads are developed and how we interact with the cities and C-Tran on how they look at the concurrency issues. He recommended that the board look at the study as it contains a lot of great concepts and he added that Steve Schulte, Public Works Department, was currently looking at it and would be getting back to him. Carlson then commented on traffic impact fees and said he didn't believe they needed to be removed. From a sales standpoint, volume sales create efficiencies. As far as a temporary reduction in impact fees to create stimulus, he felt the board should take a closer look.

COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS
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Boldt said they were having a work session on impact fees February 4.

Carlson commented on urban holding on 179th and stated that a lot of properties tried to make the rush to get their developments done before the new stormwater rules go into effect on April 15. He said urban holding is typically put in place if the infrastructure isn't in place. If it's in place for the roads, the infrastructure is obviously in place for all the properties on the south side of the street; it's probably in place for all the properties on the north side of 179th. He said there were several developers who already own property on the north side and they are all locked into a little bit of urban holding, just as he is. *Carlson* recommended removing urban holding.

Speaker #2

Julie Alexander, Vancouver, commented on requiring fences for dogs. Ms. Alexander said that according to the county's web site there are hundreds of dog bites each year and more than 4.5 million across the country each year, with 70% of the victims being children with their face and neck most often attacked. She said they hoped the board agreed that children were worth requiring a small fenced in dog run rather than letting people keep dogs on a chain. She said the currently proposed changes by the Animal Control Board are unenforceable and useless and allowing a dog to be chained for 10 hours a day doesn't protect children. Alexander stated that if people are going to have a dog, they should be required to have a fence and be a responsible dog owner. She said communities with anti-chaining laws have fewer dog bites and less overall crime and a chaining law that prohibits the tethering of an unsupervised dog protects children and is easily enforceable. She thanked county staff, Troy Rayburn and Linda Moorhead for their assistance in helping to bring this issue to the board's attention.

Speaker #3

Karen Overton, Battle Ground, commented on the need to update dog tethering laws in Clark County. Ms. Overton stated that children die every year from injuries by dogs that are improperly and inhumanely tethered. She said she has been talking to people for the past three years about this issue and represents hundreds of them with her comments about updating the tethering laws. She said it's a public safety issue, especially in Battle Ground because of the growth in the area where you see dogs everywhere that are permanently tethered. According to the ASPCA, Veterinarian Medical Association, and CDC, when you put a dog on a chain it's three times more likely to bite because it cannot flee a situation. Also, if an owner is present they are less likely to bite, but these dogs are unsupervised 100% of the time. She said people are using things like choker chains, extension cords and there is nothing to say what is appropriate for tethering. Overton said the highest percentage of fatal dog attacks are by chained dogs, which is why laws are being updated all across the United States. She said even 10 hours of appropriate tethering—a nylon, properly fitted harness, or trolley system—would be better. She asked the board to consider safety barriers and appropriate tethering, and reiterated the need for dog owners to be responsible.

COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS
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Boldt asked Ms. Alexander and Ms. Overton if they had talked to the Animal Advisory Board.

Alexander said yes, the Animal Advisory Board is suggesting the 10-hour tethering limit; however, she felt that was too long for exposing children to the danger.

Overton added that the Animal Advisory Board was not looking at the use of choker chains, which shouldn't be used on a regular basis. Also, chaining dogs also make them more territorial when they only have so much space. She referenced Mothers Against Dog Chaining, which shows pictures of children who have been attacked.

CONSENT AGENDA

Boldt referred to item 6 – Letter of Intent documenting the intent to locate a new Clark County Food Bank facility on county property at 1919 NE 78th Street. He asked staff to clarify the agreement.

Mark McCauley, Director, General Services, explained that the Letter of Intent signals the county's intent to site the proposed new food bank facility on the 78th Street property, which is formerly the WSU Agricultural Research Station. He said they have a public process currently underway to review the public's input and they will also hold some open houses to talk about the larger plan. He said there were other opinions as to where the facility should be located and those would be considered as the public process continues.

Jim Youde, Board of the Directors Vice-Chair, Clark County Food Bank, said they began discussions on this over two years ago and time was of the essence for moving ahead with the Letter of Intent so that they can continue with their fundraising to build the facility.

Boldt pointed out that this was in partnership with WSU.

McCauley said yes, everything they do on the site is embedded in the principles regarding management of the site that WSU is the principal partner and they are in full agreement to site the food bank on the property.

There being no public comment, **MOVED** by Mielke to approve consent agenda items 1 through 14. Commissioners Boldt and Mielke voted aye. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

There were no comments.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Marc Boldt, Chair

Steve Stuart, Commissioner



Tom Mielke, Commissioner

ATTEST:



Lorin Richards
Clerk of the Board

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