

COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS
MAY 5, 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.

2:00 P.M. PUBLIC BID OPENING

Present at bid opening: Louise Richards, Board of Commissioners Office; Mike Westerman and Laura Pedersen, General Services-Purchasing Department

BID OPENING CRP 370722 – 134TH STREET TRAFFIC SIGNAL OPTIMIZATION

Held a public hearing for Bid Opening CRP 370722 – 134th Street Traffic Signal Optimization. Mike Westerman, General Services-Purchasing, read bids and stated it was the Purchasing Department's intention to award Bid CRP 370722 on May 12, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' hearing room, 6th Floor, Public Service Center.

10:00 A.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Commissioners conducted the Flag Salute.

PROCLAMATION – OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

Commissioner Boldt read a proclamation declaring the month of May 2009 to be Older Americans Month in Clark County.

David Kelly, Executive Director, Southwest Washington Agency on Aging, accepted the proclamation and thanked the board and county staff for their support. Mr. Kelly explained that the agency funds the Nutrition Meal Program in various areas throughout southwest Washington. Also, they do case management to keep older Americans from going into nursing homes when it's not needed, which ultimately saves taxpayers \$600 million a year in the State of Washington. He noted that on May 14 there was going to be a free joint conference on the subject of aging.

BID AWARD CRP 350422

Reconvened a public hearing for Bid Award CRP 350422 – NW Ward Road/NE 172nd Avenue Intersection. Mike Westerman, General Services, read a memo recommending award of Bid WO 400615 to the lowest bidder.

Mielke said they had heard that bids were coming in 29% under estimate statewide and he wanted to know where they came in on this bid.

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Boldt said this one was 7% under.

Kevin Gray, Department of Public Works, stated that in this case the Engineer's Estimate was right in the middle of their bids, which is where they like to be in their estimating process. He pointed out that they had initially programmed \$8 million total in construction for the project. He said it was a little bit below estimate, but even more below what they had originally programmed.

Mielke said that was great news and that now was the time to get their work done and get more for the buck.

Stuart said they have talked about the design of Ward Road/172nd Avenue and his concerns about pushing traffic up 182nd and so in order to be consistent with his position he could not make the motion.

There being no public comment, **MOVED** by *Mielke* to award Bid CRP 350422 to Nutter Corporation of Vancouver, Washington, in the total bid amount of \$5,566,566.00, including Washington State sales tax, and grant authority to the County Administrator to sign all bid related contracts. Commissioners *Boldt* and *Mielke* voted aye. Commissioner *Stuart* voted nay. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Speaker #1

Larry Patella referenced his previous testimony before the board [regarding Vesting Impact Fees] and his request that they not bail out developers. Mr. Patella said he was pleased that the board listened to the voters and he felt they did the correct thing.

Speaker #2

Chuck Miller commented about the unemployment rate in Clark County, which is currently pushing 11%. Mr. Miller wanted to know what they were going to do to bring back businesses and jobs to U.S. citizens. He referred to Del Monte, which hired a considerable amount of illegal aliens. He stated that illegal aliens break the law crossing the border, as well as when they obtain phony ID cards, Social Security Numbers, etc. He said he would like to see the Board of Commissioners enforce the Federal immigration laws and companies to be held responsible for hiring illegal aliens.

Speaker #3

Brenda Miller-Stanton thanked the board for supporting a community garden at the 78th Street agriculture site. Ms. Miller-Stanton commented about the sounding board in collaboration with the April 9 open house where community members voted on what they would like to see happen at the site. She said there appeared to be a misunderstanding between what the county has publicized on the web site and what happened at the April 9 meeting. She stated that about 7/8 of those in attendance were in favor of the Technical

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Advisory Committee (TAC) Report, which was put together by the various stakeholders; however, that item was not publicized at the April 9 meeting. She said those who voted for the TAC report have found that it has been hidden in the final results of the April 9 meeting. She wanted to know why.

Boldt said his understanding was that the TAC Report was one option, which would probably carry forward. He said he believed the organizers of the meeting didn't want that to cloud the intent of the meeting.

Mark McCauley, Director, General Services, stated that the TAC Report has been posted on the county's web site. He explained that it was removed from the web site prior to the public meeting because along with a number of specific concept drawings for that site, they felt that if they shared that design and the other designs for buildings along the frontage, they would give the public the impression they had already completed the design work and the meeting was just a formality. Mr. McCauley said the author of the report, Deston Denniston, who is the principal at Abundance Consulting, attended the public meeting and presented his materials. He said members of public did vote on Mr. Denniston's presentation and the votes have been tabulated and will be discussed at an upcoming sounding board meeting. He said they value the permaculture principles and once the public process is complete he believed they fully intend to recommend that those principles be employed on the site.

Miller-Stanton said it was confusing that the TAC Report was now being called the Permaculture Report.

McCauley said the report still says Technical Advisory Committee on the front of it, but permaculture explains what the report is about. He said they could add "TAC" in parentheses to the link, if that would help.

Miller-Stanton asked if the TAC report wasn't really part of the community forum choice.

McCauley explained that they allowed others to come to the meeting and present ideas so they could have full participation by the community. He added that permaculture was a valuable product; however, it isn't really a use, but a technique in using the land agriculturally and they hoped to see it in play at the site.

Speaker #4

Tom Armstrong commented about public participation for the board's meetings and suggested that the board break their meetings up into trimesters. He explained that for the first trimester they could hold their meetings in District 1; the second trimester could be for District 2; the third trimester District 3. Also, he asked that the board allow 6 minutes for public testimony. Lastly, Mr. Armstrong asked that they get the county charter going again and to let the people vote on it; if the people say yes, then they start the freeholder process. He provided his email address.

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Speaker #5

Sharon Nasset commented about the HOV lane on I-5, which has been temporary for some time due to not meeting Federal guidelines for the number of vehicles using it. She further explained. Nasset said HOV lanes are great when they work; however, when they don't work, they cause problems. Nasset described the congestion she has experienced firsthand when driving across the river to Vancouver. She requested that the board send a letter to the Federal government and the State of Oregon asking them to remove it to see if the traffic will flow better.

Boldt remarked that he attended one [task force] meeting and Commissioner Stuart was the only person to ask that the HOV lane be removed.

Stuart said studies show that even with a new bridge project, the HOV lane would be full by 2030 and once that happens it no longer serves a purpose. He said one of the considerations that should still be part of the process is whether it would make more sense to build an extra lane so that you can have a longer HOV system or open up the lane that you've got. It's pretty simple to figure out which one makes more financial sense.

Nasset said this was something that could be done today. Wasn't it the Federal government?

Stuart responded that as he understood it, the Federal Highway Administration does have a say, but the recommendation comes from the Oregon Transportation Commission. He said the reality was that until they get some sort of leverage with the Oregon side of the river, it was a tough sell.

CONSENT AGENDA

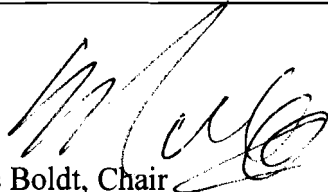
There being no public comment, **MOVED** by Stuart to approve consent agenda items 1 through 4. Commissioners Boldt, Stuart, and Mielke voted aye. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS


Stuart commented that he would be attending the State Public Works Board retreat and that there would probably be some interesting discussion regarding removal of the \$365 million of low interest loans for infrastructure. He explained that they removed it to help fill the short term funding gap with the idea being that funds would be released back into the trust fund next biennium.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Marc Boldt, Chair



Steve Stuart, Commissioner

Tom Mielke, Commissioner

ATTEST:



Louie Richards
Clerk of the Board

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