

GRAYS HARBOR
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
January 22, 2009

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Vickie Raines at 7:00 p.m. Chair Raines led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Members in Attendance:

Mayor Dave Osgood (City of Elma)
Nick Johnson (City of Ocean Shores)
Mayor Michael Bruce (City of Westport)
Art Tanner (Grays Harbor PDA)
Commissioner Russ Skolrood, (Grays Harbor PUD)
Mark Carlin (Grays Harbor Transit)
Commissioner Chuck Caldwell (Port of Grays Harbor)
Mike Wessells (Timberland Regional Library)

Administrative Sub-Council

Chair – Mayor Vickie Raines (City of Cosmopolis)
First Vice-Chair – Chris Thomas (City of Montesano)
Second Vice-Chair – John Pellegrini (City of Hoquiam)

Council Staff

Vicki Cummings, Theresa Julius, Julia Gibb

A quorum was established.

3. **GHCOG BUSINESS**

➤ Approval of the Meeting Agenda

Art Tanner made a motion to approve the meeting agenda; second, Councilmember Pellegrini. Motion passed.

➤ Approval of the December 4, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Art Tanner made a motion to approve the GHCOG December 4, 2008 meeting minutes with one change: Under item 3 Approval of Meeting Agenda, the second was made by Mike Wessells, not Mike Wilson; second by Councilmember Pellegrini. Motion passed.

- Administrative Sub-Council Report: Chair Vickie Raines
Chair Raines reported that the Administrative Sub-Council met before this meeting to approve the January bills and the February payroll. They also discussed the action under New Business on tonight's agenda relating to use of refreshment funds. No other action was taken.

- Old Business
 - Discussion: Economic Stimulus Project Update: Executive Director Vicki Cummings
Vicki Cummings reviewed staff work to date on this project, and handed out a spreadsheet of projects submitted by participating local agencies to date. A copy of the spreadsheet is included with these minutes. She explained that this will form the COG's database of local project information for responses to calls for projects as part of the federal and state stimulus packages. This is a working document, subject to changes and additions. She noted that it is estimated that there are 1.6 trillion dollars of estimated need for infrastructure projects nationwide; the current stimulus efforts will not come close to meeting that need. Here in Grays Harbor we do not yet know how much economic stimulus money will come our way. The working group will meet again within the next several months to discuss the situation as new details emerge from federal and state governments.

New Business

- Action: Election of Administrative Sub-Council Officers for 2009

The following Administrative Sub-Council officers were elected unanimously by the Board after nominations by individuals indicated below:

Chair - Councilmember Chris Thomas (Montesano), nominated by Mayor Raines

First Vice-Chair - Councilmember John Pellegrini (Hoquiam), nominated by Mayor Raines

Second Vice-Chair - Mayor Vicki Raines (Cosmopolis), nominated by Mike Wessells

Secretary - Art Tanner (Grays Harbor PDA), nominated by Councilmember Chris Thomas

Representative at Large - Mike Wessells (Timberland Library), nominated by Chris Thomas

- Action: Approval of one-time increase in refreshment funds to cover December 4, 2008 annual dinner meeting costs.

Vicki Cummings explained that the one time, retroactive increase in funding is necessary because the ordinary per meeting limit is \$100 dollars. Overall, staff has more than enough money allocated in petty cash for the year, but the annual dinner meeting costs go over the usual limit of \$100 per meeting.

Art Tanner moved to accept the recommendation; seconded by John Pellegrini. Motion passed.

Chair Raines noted that the agency's by laws should be changed to allow the additional spending each year for the annual meeting.

- **Year End Report.** Vicki Cummings handed out her 2008 Annual Report, discussed accomplishments for the year, and outlined major activities as well as new initiatives. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

Mike Wessells said he would provide data on usage of the Timberland Library materials housed in COG's offices, for Vicki's year end report.

5. **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS** - None

6. **MEMBER/PUBLIC COMMENT**

- ✓ Art Tanner noted a concern that the county's disaster plan does not cover the issue of road closures due to flooding and other issues and attendant blocking of access, especially to and from important activities during disaster, such as communications operations. The PDA is concerned about this because they are a data center and need to continue to operate especially in times of emergency. Mayor Bruce noted that we are learning more every time a new emergency occurs, giving as an example the three times this past year that Westport has experienced ocean flooding down its main downtown street next to the Marina. The Board discussed the importance of cooperative disaster planning by the county and cities, as well as other large agencies and businesses in Grays Harbor County.
- ✓ Councilmember Pellegrini noted that Hoquiam is looking into installing artificial turf in Olympic Stadium and expanding use of the stadium.
- ✓ Mayor Osgood reported that he has not yet seen satisfactory resolution of the Elma issue of trains blocking access. He is still waiting to hear back from railroad management on the issue.
- ✓ Port Commissioner Caldwell noted the new activity at the Port of new Kias being unloaded for further transport.
- ✓ Citizen input: Mr. Bernard (Buck) Meile, former Mayor of Oakville, was in attendance and spoke of his concern over Oakville officials not attending COG meetings. Meile is also concerned about state government activities and truthfulness in communications.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

GRAYS HARBOR COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
115 South Wooding Street
Aberdeen, Washington 98520

Vickie Raines
Chair

Date

Julia Gibb
Planner

Date