

GRAYS HARBOR
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
October 26, 2006

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called order by Chairman Osgood at 7:00 p.m. The flag salute was given.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Members in Attendance:

John Pellegrini (City of Hoquiam)

Commissioner Bob Beerbower (Grays Harbor County and Grays Harbor PDA)

Lisa Benn (Port of Grays Harbor)

Don Fargo (GH Transit)

Christine Peck (Timberland Regional Library)

Commissioner Tom Casey (GH PUD)

Administrative Sub-Council

Chairman – Mayor Dave Osgood (City of Elma)

Second Vice-Chair – Terry Veitz (City of Ocean Shores)

Representative at Large – Chris Thomas (City of Montesano)

Guests

Debbie Clemen, Terry Fernsler

Council Staff

Vicki Cummings, Theresa Julius, Julia Gibb, Nancy Trask

A quorum was established.

3. **GHCOG BUSINESS**

➤ Approval of the Meeting Agenda and the September 28, 2006 Meeting Minutes
Lisa Benn made a motion to approve the October 26, 2006 meeting agenda and the September 28, 2006 GHCOG meeting minutes; second, Don Fargo. Motion passed.

➤ Administrative Sub-Council Report, Chairman Osgood
The Administrative Sub-Council met before the October 26th Council meeting and approved the October bills and the November payroll. No further business was conducted.

➤ Old Business

Approval of the 2007 Draft Budget and Work Program

At the October 26th Council meeting the draft budget and work program were presented to the Council. Vicki explained the changes to the budget [see page 3, Revenue-Expense Budget Comparison]. The beginning fund balance stands at \$120,889 due to careful spending and most of all receiving grants and much contract work this year.

Referring to “Anticipated Expenditures” [page 4], the position of Planner was added. Vicki stated, “We added the position of planner and the benefits for that position to be funded out of the beginning fund balance. This gives us the ability to hire a planner for one year without having that expense come out of member dues. This still leaves us with a good ending fund balance of \$22,010. The reason we are recommending this additional position is basically a couple of things: 1] I have a lot of work to do and with members needing more help we need to find a way to provide that to them. Getting this planner on board would mean more direct help for the members as well as taking a couple of the projects off of my desk to have this person work on. What that does is free up some of my time so that we can carry on dialogue with our members as well as our non-members about what is important to them, what they need, what’s our direction for the next 4 or 5 year planning window, and to address things like dues, voting rights, membership issues and projects.”

Vicki stated the Budget Committee also is recommending a 4% increase which is basically CPI. “We have not increased dues for the past two years and we have some basic increases, mainly the increase with our insurance for the agency and just the cost of doing business.”

“If we get approval on this budget and if we can have everyone remain at the table, that gives us a year with a planner. One of the things that I asked everyone to do last month that I wanted to discuss again this month was to have each member choose one particular project within your agency or community that you need help with. Notify me by the end of December and let me know what that issue is so that we can kind of preprogram that for this new person coming on board,” stated Vicki.

Vicki asked for questions and/or comments. Commissioner Casey commented that the work program shows for the year 2007 to develop a staff position of Utilities Coordinator. Commissioner Casey suggested talking with other utility providers in the county who would be interested in that kind of a centralized planning position so that when we build telecommunication facilities we are not five different utilities building facilities without talking to one another. “We really commit to something here tonight, we commit to this budget; we say yes this is what we want to do and strongly support it with dues,” stated Commissioner Casey.

Terry Veitz agreed with Commissioner Casey. She stated, “We have had the same discussion for the 8 years I’ve been here. Every year we go round and round. Every year I sit with the Council and there is always the argument of ‘what have they done for us lately?’ Money is tough, but I think this agency is a real priority, not just individually to our cities, I think it is important to our whole region, our whole county. We are getting

much more for our money today, than what we paid before. Bottom line, I agree with Tom. It is important that we all stay at the table and work as partners for the overall regional good. I think Vicki is right as far as having this planner come on board to be able to facilitate a little more time for her to get out and do what is really required and that is to get Aberdeen back to this table.”

Terry Veitz made a motion to approve the 2007 Draft Budget and Work Program; second, Commissioner Casey. Motion passed.

Vicki stated she will mail a copy of the draft 2007 budget and work program along with a cover letter to the Council entities.

▪ **Discussion: US 101 Regional Circulation Project**

Senator Doumit, who was the promoter of this project, will be leaving office on October 31st, so the whole timeline was bumped up by about a month so that the project team could respond to him before he left. October 25th Vicki attended the Pacific Council of Governments meeting along with Rosemary Sippola and both presented him with the priority list. Senator Doumit was pleased to see the list, said that was exactly what he wanted and that it would be very helpful to whoever was coming in next.

Vicki distributed copies to the members of the Stakeholder Committee Project Priority List. This is the list the committee is promoting to state legislators and federal legislators as well. This list has been emailed to the coastal caucus. The list reads as follows:

1] **Full truck route alternative - \$386million**

The committee recommends moving forward with the project in increments and pledges their support to carry forward this process. Their recommendation is as follows:

- 1a - funding for re-evaluation of the NEPA EIS, re-evaluation of the WIS is needed to begin any construction. Funding for early engineering, including phasing analysis - \$5 million
- 1b - funding for environmental documentation, based on results of phasing analysis - \$3 million
- 1c - funding for preliminary engineering and construction of truck route segments based on phasing analysis results - \$4 million to \$378 million

Priority 1a and 1b must be done first.

2] **Tri-City Operational Improvements - \$10 million**

This project provides more than 20 needed and visible improvements that can be implemented in the short term.

3] **Wishkah Mall Access Improvements - \$4 million**

To alleviate identified traffic problems caused by access issues at this regional

destination, the stakeholder committee recommends funding the project in two phases:

- 3a – funding for emergency vehicle access, turning movement and access revisions, signal interconnection and re-striping the internal parking area - \$500,000
- 3b – funding includes an investigation of constructing an alternative access road on the north side of US12. The project would include public involvement, right of way acquisition, preliminary engineering and construction - \$3.5 million

4] **Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) - \$9 million**

This project would install changeable message signs, photo enforcement cameras, closed circuit television and highway advisory radio. Actual locations and configurations would be determined during design.

5] **Improve Port Industrial Road - \$4 million**

This project would improve capacity, traffic flow and safety by providing right and left turn lanes at key intersections and other improvements as identified in the Port Industrial Road Strategic Analysis.

Another project that was pulled out of the list was the Maintenance Priority, seismic improvements - \$20.3 million. The regional highway system in the tri-city area is connected by five aging bridges, two of which require funding for seismic upgrades. Completion of this project is necessary to maintain access to regional hospitals and fire and police protection in the event of a natural disaster. The estimated costs for these repairs are listed below:

Chehalis River Bridge - \$10 million

Wishkah River (Heron Street Bridge) - \$10 million

➤ **New Business**

▪ **Discussion: Date and Location of the Annual Dinner Meeting**

Nancy presented to the Council two options for the annual dinner meeting; 1] Islander Resort in Westport at \$22.95 to \$25.95 per person, or 2] Saginaw's in Elma at \$7.95 to \$14.95 per person. Council consensus is to hold the annual dinner meeting at Saginaw's.

➤ **Staff Reports**

▪ Vicki Cummings, Executive Director

- Been working heavily on the US 101 project .
- Will be hosting the SWRTPO meeting here at the Port of Grays Harbor on December 6th.
- Working on the Coordinated Services Transit Plan.
- Have been doing preliminary work on SR109 Corridor Management Plan; that project will begin in February.

Julia Gibb, Community Development Coordinator

- Draft toolkits have been prepared for Elma, Oakville and McCleary based on the model generic toolkit design and using priority projects from each of the cities.
For Oakville: conversion to sewer from septic systems is the chosen development project.
For McCleary: prioritized construction of sidewalks throughout the city, so a grant application for a school walkway sidewalk project was chosen as their development project on which to apply the generic toolkit steps.
For Elma: the highest priority project was chosen as a toolkit demonstration. The Elma City Council wishes to build a new police station to replace the small older structure currently in use.
 - The next three jurisdictions in the grant study will be Montesano, Cosmopolis and Hoquiam. Review of adopted plans, policies and other city operating document such as budget has begun and staff interviews will be conducted in the coming month.
- Theresa Julius, Planner/GIS Coordinator
 - Continue to work on US 101 Regional Circulation Project.
 - Working on a mapping project for Cosmopolis.
 - Working with Hoquiam on mapping their water system.

4. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS - None

5. COUNCIL MEMBER/PUBLIC COMMENT

- Terry Veitz suggested that when the meeting gets to Council Member/Public Comment, “if members have something they think is important to share, report on it, otherwise we just call it good to go.”
- **Grays Harbor PUD, Commissioner Tom Casey**
Commissioner Casey reported that the PUD has signed a power contract with Grays Harbor Paper to keep the plant in operation mode.
- **Port of Grays Harbor, Lisa Benn**
Lisa reported the Seattle Biodiesel Company received the final ok to start construction. The \$40 million plant will produce 100 million gallons of biodiesel annually, employ 60 people and created more than 250 temporary construction jobs and about 350 indirect jobs.
- **Timberland Regional Library, Christine Peck**
Christine invited the Council to the dedication of the new Westport Library on Saturday, December 9th.
- Terry Fernsler commented on the subject of parochialism. He said the GHCOG addresses it well and he congratulated the Council for dealing so well with the parochial issue.

