

GRAYS HARBOR
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
September 27, 2007

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by First Vice-Chair Chris Thomas at 7:00 p.m. The flag salute was given.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Members in Attendance:

Jonathan Ciesla (Quinault Indian Nation)
Nick Johnson (City of Ocean Shores)
Lisa Benn (Port of Grays Harbor)
Chris Vessey (City of McCleary)
Mayor Michael Bruce (City of Westport) via email

Administrative Sub-Council

First Vice-Chair – Chris Thomas (City of Montesano)
Second Vice-Chair – John Pellegrini (City of Hoquiam)
Secretary – Mike Wessells (Timberland Regional Library)
Representative at Large – Mayor Dave Osgood (City of Elma)

Guests: Debbie Clemen (DOT-Olympic Region)

Council Staff

Vicki Cummings, Theresa Julius, Nancy Trask

3. **PRESENTATION**

➤ Quinault Indian Nation Transportation Plan 2006-2026, Jonathan Ciesla

Jonathan distributed several copies of the plan. He stated the 1998 Transportation Plan identified needed projects, but many were not implemented. In 2002, the Nation again endorsed a list of projects, but today only half are fully funded and underway. The 2006 Transportation Plan incorporates this previous work and addresses current findings. The goal is to enable the safe and efficient movement of the people, goods and services to and from Quinault properties.

He explained the objectives; 1] update the reservation roads inventory, 2] improve and strengthen the Nation's transportation infrastructure and services, 3] identify a 6-year

Transportation Improvement Program for incorporation in federal, state, regional and county programs; and 4] outline a 20 year transportation strategy that reflects the economic, environmental and cultural values of the Quinault Nation.

Jonathan said copies of the plan are available, just give him a call at 360.276.8215, extension 369.

4. **GHCOG BUSINESS**

- Approval of the Meeting Agenda
Mike Wessells made a motion to approve the meeting agenda; second, Chris Vessey. Motion passed.

- Approval of the August 23, 2007 Meeting Minutes
Mike Wessells made a motion to approve the GHCOG August 23, 2007 meeting minutes; second Chris Vessey. Motion passed.

- Administrative Sub-Council Report, Acting Chair Thomas
Acting Chair Thomas reported that the Administrative Sub-Council met before this meeting and approved the September bills, the October payroll and approved Theresa attending the IACC conference in Wenatchee in October. The Sub-Council also discussed the 2008 preliminary budget scenarios. No further action was taken.

For the record the Quinault Nation Representative, Jonathan Ciesla, entered the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

New Business

- Discussion: 2008 Preliminary Budget
Copies of the “2008 Dues Increase Scenarios” were distributed to the council members. Vicki stated that there is a needed \$55,000 budget increase. She stated that in the past, the budget has always been increased by a percentage, i.e. cola adjustments. In 2002 and 2003 there was no adjustment, 2004 was 3% and in 2005 2.5%, 2006 there was no increase and in 2007 was 4%. “So now we are at the stage we need to increase the dues in order to be able to maintain a staff position, hopefully that would be Julia. We have reached the point now where we have to make that decision of committing to hiring somebody and putting the funding there and keep growing and keep on doing the workload we are doing or we have to start deciding what falls off the table.”

She discussed the four scenarios; 1] even split of \$55,000 which would increase each member’s dues by \$3,928, 2] even split without an increase to the County or the GHPDA, 3] increase by percentage of budget, and 4] percentage of budget without an increase to the County or the GHPDA. The second sheet the members received was titled “2008 Dues Increase Scenarios – *all members at allocated dues level*” which showed what the member dues look like now with the County and the GHPDA paying in full. “The optimum scenario would be that everyone comes in at their allocated dues level and that relieves the burden all around the table.”

The third sheet distributed to the members was titled “Resolution 200 versus Current Dues.” This document showed what each member would have been paying according to Resolution 200 had it not been frozen in 2002, which shows dues amounts considerably higher.

Vicki said, “At this point I am asking for discussion around the table as to which of these budget scenarios you feel is the most equitable for the members. Every year we put out a draft budget and we have always just have increased it by that small cola percentage. But in order for us to go on and even give you now all of the pages that follow this up, which is the revenue and the expenditures, we have to have a scenario to plug into that before we get to that point. I am asking for a recommendation.

Mayor Osgood suggested that the members get together a sign a declaration that says we would like every member to pay their even share. Would that encourage the County to think about it differently if we use the approach that every one of us send them a letter from the Council?

Vicki responded, “You are their peers, we are staff. You are the people they really need to hear it from.”

Chris Vessey stated “My thought is I wish the people that are listed here, they pay their dues and any grants that come up for Aberdeen or the County, they weren’t issued any grants from the COG because I don’t feel they’re on board and why should they be granted.”

Vicki responded, “we have had quite a discussion on that and I have that very question and some different scenarios going into the Attorney General to get a ruling on it before we ever have to deal with it again.”

Chris Thomas commented that the worst case scenario is the even split.

Mayor Osgood make a motion that the GHCOG members choose the “even split” scenario for the GHCOG’s 2008 budget; he sai “ that being the worst scenario we can budget for, and hopefully the County or Aberdeen comes on the bus and drops it down again”; second, Chris Vessey. Motion passed.

Council consensus was to have each member entity send a letter to the County Commissioners regarding paying their full share of dues. Vicki was requested to send information for the members to use.

5. **STAFF REPORTS**

➤ ***Vicki Cummings***, Executive Director

- SR109 CMP is in full swing; State Byways Coordinator from the Head Office toured SR109 recently with Vicki and said out of the 26 byways in the State, SR109 is certainly the best in the state.
- Met with the Pacific Beach business committee with Debbie Clemen and Parametrix consultant Curt Warber; exchanged information.

- Hosted the SWRTPO quarterly meeting in October.
- Distributed a WSDOT flyer on “Managed Access in Washington – a Progress Report to the Legislature. You will be receiving a letter from WSDOT within the next 10 days about access permitting standards on state managed facilities.
- Columbia-Pacific RC&EDD have been having some issues with their Coordinator Nancy Allison who is now on disability. Working to resolve that issue.
- Still working with Grays Harbor Transit trying to resolve their federal grant delay.
- Continue working on the Montesano and Elma Park Plans. Thanked Theresa for her work on the Montesano parks survey.

➤ ***Julia Gibb***, Community Development Coordinator

- Present Montesano needs assessment to the Montesano Planning Commission at City Hall public forum September 20, 2007; collate feedback and recommendations from the Planning Commission and city staff (Mike Wincewicz, Public Works Director and Debbie Wisdom, Deputy Clerk)
- Continue research and compilation of community development issues for Hoquiam and Cosmopolis needs assessments
- Schedule second meeting with Hoquiam City Administrator Brian Shay; review final draft Needs Assessment; schedule Planning Commission public forum review
- Attend Hoquiam Town Hall meeting on update of comprehensive plan and participate in discussion of various options for future development
- Attend Hoquiam public forum hosted by consultant for Hometown Hoquiam – Phase Two (Hometown Hoquiam is a community development strategy and action plan process)
- Continue research and data compilation for community development project toolkit, both general information and case studies as well as development of specific priority projects identified by cities
- Schedule Council meeting to review final draft Montesano Needs Assessment
- Hold Planning Commission meetings in Hoquiam and Cosmopolis to review and take Commissioners, staff and public comments on draft Needs Assessments

➤ ***Theresa Julius***, Planner/GIS Coordinator

- Working with the City of Hoquiam’s water system regarding the new Rite Aid store construction
- Providing maps for Hoquiam’s Comp Plan
- Attended a Department of Ecology water quality grant workshop in Lacey

6. **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS - None**

7. **MEMBER/PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Department of Transportation, Debbie Clemen – Debbie reported that DOT has been working with the SR 12 contractors to smooth out the highway paving recently done; both sides of the road will be down to one lane during this process for the next three weeks.
- Port of Grays Harbor, Lisa Benn
Lisa reported the Port is working on their 2008 budget and she also stated Imperium is talking about expanding.

- Timberland Regional Library, Mike Wessells
Mike stated each year Timberland Regional Library conducts a Community Chat in each of its 27 community libraries, starting this month. The purpose of these chats is to get a better understanding of what is happening around the library district in order to better focus library resources.
- City of Hoquiam, John Pellegrini – John reported the City is working on several projects so they can gear up and be ready to go in the spring; projects being Gable Park and downtown Hoquiam. Also working on a water improvement grant which will be funding for the Little Hoquiam Dam.
- City of Montesano, Chris Thomas – Chris reported on the progress of repairing the damage to the treatment plant. They have obtained funding for the treatment plant from Sterling Savings Bank and received \$500,000 from a Public Works Trust Fund loan and the city hopes to receive insurance dollars in the near future. Also Chris reported that a property owner wants to annex 17 acres to the city, however they are running into difficulty with this annexation.
- City of Ocean Shores, Nick Johnson – Nick reported the city has a 3 year LID to pave all of the roads in Ocean Shores; at this point 13 miles are complete and by the end of 2007 one-third of the roads in Ocean Shores will have been paved. This is a two year project. Regarding the city’s waterways, they have spent \$400,000 to have the waterways cleaned up and Nick said it looks great now. Also, the Planning Commission has finished the city’s comp plan.
- City of Elma, Mayor Dave Osgood – Mayor Osgood said the city has purchased the lot next door to the Senior Center and an addition will be built onto the Senior Center for the Food Bank. Also the next phase is to remodel city hall.
- City of McCleary, Chris Vessey – Chris stated Phase II to the city’s road improvement project is going well, roads have been paved and the water lines are in. Also, the city is starting a study on a new water tank.
- Quinalt Indian Nation, Jonathan Ciesla – Jonathan said there has been work on community improvements at the entry to Taholah and the Nation is presently in their budget process.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

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

Chris Thomas
GHCOG Acting Chair

Date

Nancy L. Trask
Office Coordinator

Date