

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 43
FRANKLIN COUNTY
Commissioners' Proceeding for August 28, 2002

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

County Administrator Fred Bowen met with the Board.

* Mosquito Control

The Board discussed the idea of sending a letter to the cities in the county asking if they are interested in having a Mosquito Control District reinstated. A letter was sent several years ago. At that time, only the City of Pasco responded and was not interested.

Contingency Reserve Balance

Contingency Reserve balance was reviewed. Estimated costs were reviewed for Commissioners' travel through the end of the year.

Tri-City Herald Reporter Vicki Adame joined the audience.

Prosecutor Steve Lowe joined the meeting.

There was discussion about the need for a transfer in Jail budget.

Deputy Prosecutor Darin Campbell will be part of the county's negotiating team. Mr. Bowen requested funding that would allow Mr. Campbell to attend a conference in Chelan costing \$572 as an additional travel expense in the Commissioners Travel budget. Mrs. Corkrum suggested the amount could come from the negotiation line item. The Board decided next year to take these kind of costs out of that line item.

Motion - Mrs. Corkrum: I move for approval of Resolution 2002-345, Inter Budget transfer of \$10,500 from 2002 Current Expense Non-Departmental Budget #001-000-700, Contingency Reserve line item, to Commissioners Budget #001-000-680, Travel line item. Second by Mrs. Miller. 3:0 vote in favor. (Exhibit 5)

PROSECUTOR

Prosecutor Steve Lowe met with the Board. Present in audience: Vicki Adame.

Commissioner Redistricting

Mr. Lowe has talked to Attorney Ken Miller and Attorney Carlson about handling the commissioner redistricting appeal process. Mr. Miller will be the attorney of record, assisted by Mr. Carlson. Former Senator Slade Gorton was not authorized to work on the case at \$425 per hour. The bill will come from Ken Miller and will incorporate

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Mr. Cherry tried to add the cost to several different grants but it does not qualify under any of them. He has asked the Department of Ecology and Environmental Protection Agency to research whether there is any means to help a county in a financial crisis to remove the tires and whether reimbursement is possible.

There was discussion about whether the county should pay the cost to remove the tires. The land does have a shop and a mobile home. A lien would be placed on the property if the county did the work. If the lien is not paid, the foreclosure process takes three years.

Mrs. Miller said she doesn't know how we can afford this but she is for getting rid of the tires.

Mrs. Corkrum asked Mr. MacPherson and Mr. Cherry what they would suggest. She doesn't think we can afford the \$50,000. Mrs. Corkrum asked if the rainy day fund money could be used. Mrs. Miller would be for that. Mr. Cherry is waiting for more information about a loan that might be available. He will report back to the Board when he has that information.

HEALTH DISTRICT

Dr. Larry Jecha of the Health District met with the Board.

West Nile Virus

The West Nile Virus which is transmitted by mosquitoes is spreading. Dr. Jecha told the Board about efforts made in New York to take care of mosquito breeding areas. It comes under Public Health because mosquitoes are considered a vector instead of a pest. Dr. Jecha and others are researching the laws so that when West Nile virus comes to this area, the laws about what the Health District can do will already be known.

The state is working on a quarantine rule. It would not affect the West Nile virus problem.

Birds are the carriers of West Nile virus, particularly raptors such as magpies, crows, and some hawks that we have here.

Currently what the Health District is doing to monitor the situation is that the Environmental Health Division will take dead birds from people, especially those

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varieties, if they are not decomposed, and send them to the state for testing. The disease is very lethal to birds so it will be obvious when it comes. The state has sent information to physicians. The Health District will also be sending out information. Most people just get bad flu-like symptoms with aching, large lymph nodes and a rash. Only one out of 150 get encephalitis. It does kill sometimes but can cause mental and other problems. A lot of victims are debilitated for life. People recover from most forms of encephalitis. There is not an inoculation for people and no treatment, just supportive therapy. There is a vaccine for horses but it is not used much. The Health District will be contacting the vets in the area.

Benton County Mosquito Control has a flock of chickens that they are checking for encephalitis.

Dr. Jecha asked Mrs. Miller, who is a member of the Legislative Steering Committee, to be sure and push for taxing authority for the Health District, like a Mosquito Control District has.

Franklin County does not have a mosquito control district. Dr. Jecha said the county may want to consider contracting with someone about doing some mosquito control. He said we need to educate citizens to do their own mosquito control. When he worked in Wichita, that was our philosophy. The Mosquito Control District won't help that much. The Air Force has a spraying unit. There is a liability with beekeepers, etc. He said that's why I don't like to see mosquito control; we need to prevent the spawning grounds instead.

Dr. Jecha emphasized that we need to at least have planning in place before the West Nile virus arrives.

Recess at 10:57 a.m.

Reconvened at 11:02 a.m.

HUMAN SERVICES

Human Services Director Dave Hopper met with the Board. Present in audience: Vicki Adame.