

MINUTES

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING

March 4, 2002

6:00 p.m.

The Commissioners met in session in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Administration Building, Montesano, Washington, on Monday, March 4, 2002, at 6:10 p.m. Commissioners Bob Beerbower, Dennis Morrisette and Dan Wood were present. Also in attendance was the Clerk of the Board, Sandra Daniels.

Chairman Beerbower announced this was a public meeting to consider adoption of a proposed resolution: Relating to the Required Use of Apprentices on Public Works Contracts in Grays Harbor County. Chairman Beerbower explained the procedure for a public hearing and reported that each person would be allowed three (3) minutes to address the Board.

Chairman Beerbower asked for a staff report. Paul Easter, Director, Department of Public Services, explained the concept of the proposed apprenticeship program resolution. Mr. Easter outlined the definitions used in the resolution. An "apprentice" means an apprentice enrolled in a state-approved apprenticeship training program. An "apprentice utilization requirement" means the requirement, that no less than fifteen percent (15%) of the labor hours involved in a public works contract be performed by state indentured apprentices. "Director" means the public works director or the director's designee. "Labor hours" means the total hours of workers receiving an hourly wage who are directly employed on the site of the public works project. "Labor hours" shall include hours performed by workers employed by the contractor and all subcontractors working on the project. "Labor hours" shall exclude hours worked by foremen, superintendents, owners, and workers who are not subject to prevailing wage requirements. "State-approved apprenticeship training program" means an apprenticeship training program approved by the Washington State Apprenticeship and Training Council. Mr. Easter reported all contracts for public works with an estimated cost of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) or more shall require that no less than fifteen (15%) of the labor hours be performed by state-certified apprentices. Mr. Easter noted that under Section VI, the director is authorized to waive or reduce the apprenticeship participation requirements on contracts if the director determines that an inadequate number of apprentices are available to meet the required percentage or that the small size of the workforce on a particular project makes compliance impracticable. Mr. Easter commented on the state-approved apprenticeship training program. Chairman Beerbower asked for public comment. The following individuals provided testimony regarding the proposed resolution:

Mark Johnson, regional manager for Parson Constructors Inc., reported the company has specialized expertise in these types of labor management agreements and apprenticeship

programs. Mr. Johnson discussed the benefits of the apprenticeship program and expressed support for the proposal.

Peter Quist reported he works with Parsons Constructors at SeaTac airport as an administrator of a labor agreement involving an apprenticeship program. Mr. Quist spoke in support of the proposed resolution.

Paul Harris, resident of Montesano, spoke in support of the apprenticeship program and reported on the number of individuals who are interested in an apprenticeship program.

Ron Roberts spoke on behalf of New Market Skills Center. Mr. Roberts commented that the apprenticeship program offers an opportunity for young people to become involved in the construction trades. He spoke in support of the proposed apprenticeship program resolution.

Kurt Benson, resident of Montesano, reported he recently completed an apprenticeship program. Mr. Benson spoke in support of the program and the opportunity it offers.

Chuck Gotcher reported that he serves on the advisory committee for the New Market Skills Center. Mr. Gotcher commented on the opportunity that the apprenticeship program offers young people. He spoke in support of the apprenticeship program.

Jose Perry reported he is a carpenter in Olympia and he completed the apprenticeship program. Mr. Perry explained the benefits of the apprenticeship program and encouraged the Board to adopt the resolution.

Annie Rosander reported that she is an apprentice. She commented on the benefits of the program and encouraged the Board to support the program for young people.

Ed Bjonstrom reported that he completed the apprenticeship program. He spoke in support of the apprenticeship program.

Kevin Noble, resident of Elma, commented on the benefits of the apprenticeship program. Mr. Noble asked the Board to support the apprenticeship program.

Stu Stoltenberg, resident of Westport commented on the apprenticeship program and the opportunity for young people to become involved. Mr. Stoltenberg spoke in support of the apprenticeship program and the opportunities the program offers.

Stan Palmer, President of Stan Palmer Construction, discussed the administration of public funds. Mr. Palmer commented that he believes many contractors who bid on

Public Works contracts will be eliminated by the approval of the proposed resolution. Mr. Palmer reported that the cost of Public Works contracts would be affected by the proposed resolution. He discussed ways to use local labor and Grays Harbor County residents. Mr. Palmer reported on training provided by non-union companies. Mr. Palmer spoke in opposition to the proposed resolution.

Bo Palmer with Stan Palmer Construction asked questions regarding input from local companies. Mr. Palmer discussed the disadvantages of the apprenticeship program for non-union companies. He spoke in opposition to the proposed resolution.

Tom Dikeman reported he is the Thurston County Branch Manager for Wilder Construction. Mr. Dikeman read a statement outlining reasons for opposing the proposed resolution. Mr. Dikeman provided copies of his statement to the Board.

Roney Heinz reported he is President of Heinz International and he has provided construction management in the area for the past 19 years. Mr. Heinz reported that he is currently the resident engineer on the Industrial Waterline project. Mr. Heinz spoke in opposition to the proposed resolution.

Patrick Quigg reported he is the Secretary/Treasurer of Grays Harbor Paper Company located in Hoquiam. Mr. Quigg provided background regarding the operation of the company. Mr. Quigg discussed the proposed resolution and commented that he believes there is not a shortage of skilled workforce in Grays Harbor County. Mr. Quigg voiced opposition to the proposed resolution.

John Quigg reported he has been involved in this issue in the past. Mr. Quigg expressed concern with the proposed resolution and commented that it would cost the taxpayers more money for local contracts. Mr. Quigg spoke in opposition to the proposed resolution.

Doug DeForest reported that he is the Executive Officer of Grays Harbor Master Builders. Mr. DeForest discussed the limited availability of apprenticeship programs. He expressed opposition to the proposed resolution.

Don McLeod reported he represents the Laborers Union. Mr. McLeod spoke in support of the testimony provided by Mark Johnson with Parsons Constructors. He expressed support of the apprenticeship program and encouraged the Board to approve the resolution.

Lee Newgent reported that he is an Iron Workers Apprenticeship Coordinator for Western Washington. Mr. Newgent discussed training programs and opportunities

offered by the apprenticeship program. Mr. Newgent expressed support of the apprenticeship program and the proposed resolution.

Matthew Porter reported he is an apprentice at Local 252. He commented on the ways he has benefited from the apprenticeship program. Mr. Porter spoke in support of the apprenticeship program and the proposed resolution.

Risty Van Ogle reported that she is an apprentice and she discussed the benefits of the apprenticeship program. Ms. Van Ogle expressed support of the apprenticeship program and the proposed resolution.

Mike Troupe reported that he is a laborer at Local 252. Mr. Troupe spoke in support of the apprenticeship program.

David Johnson reported he represents the International Association of Bridge Structural Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers. Mr. Johnson discussed the apprenticeship program. He provided information from the Iron Workers Apprenticeship Program including testimony from Iron Workers and a letter from Congressman Norm Dicks. Also included was a letter from Terry Bergeson, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction supporting the apprenticeship program. Mr. Johnson spoke in support of the apprenticeship program and encouraged approval of the resolution.

Ed Chilenski reported that he is a graduate of an apprenticeship program. Mr. Chilenski expressed support for the apprenticeship program.

Tami St. Paul reported she is a Training Coordinator with Western Washington Operating Engineers Training Program. Ms. St. Paul submitted written testimony supporting the apprenticeship program and the proposed resolution.

Karl Magnusson reported he is an apprentice. Mr. Magnusson spoke in support of the apprenticeship program and encouraged the Board to approve the proposed resolution.

Dick Isaacson spoke in opposition to the proposed resolution.

Gayle Connor stated she is President and owner of Shamrock Construction Company. Ms. Connor spoke in opposition to the proposed resolution.

Chris Johnson, resident of Aberdeen, spoke in opposition to the proposed resolution. Mr. Johnson asked the Board to reconsider the proposed resolution.

Andy Ashlock, resident of Montesano and a local business owner commented the apprentices have not trained near the Harbor. He expressed concern that training has been out of Tacoma or farther.

Duk Breykovich reported he owns Champion Masonry and Restoration located in Hoquiam. Mr. Breykovich voiced opposition to the proposed resolution.

Matt Zepeda stated he a Project Manager with Quigg Brothers. Mr. Zepeda discussed training requirements. Mr. Zepeda expressed opposition to the proposed resolution.

Doug Schermer stated he represents Schermer Construction. Mr. Schermer expressed opposition to the proposed resolution.

Debra Bell Daly expressed opposition to the proposed resolution.

Jeff Timmons reported he is an estimator with Lakeside Industries. Mr. Timmons expressed opposition to the proposed resolution.

John Lupo stated he owns and operates Lupo Construction located in Aberdeen. Mr. Lupo expressed opposition to the proposed resolution.

Jack Thompson, Jr. reported he is lifelong resident of Grays Harbor County and a small construction owner/operator. Mr. Thompson voiced opposition to the proposed resolution.

Craig Tikka, resident of Aberdeen, spoke in opposition to the proposed resolution.

Patrick Connor reported he is President of Olympia Master Builders Association. Mr. Connor spoke in opposition to the proposed resolution. Mr. Connor encouraged the Board to work with the contractors to develop a workable program.

John Warring reported he represents the Central Labor Council. Mr. Warring summarized reasons for supporting the apprenticeship program and encouraged the Board to approve the proposed resolution.

Gene Walker reported he is a union carpenter. Mr. Walker expressed opposition to the proposed resolution.

Grant Alexander reported he represents the Operating Engineers Local 302. Mr. Alexander expressed support of the apprenticeship program and encouraged approval of the proposed resolution.

Jason Hensler reported he completed apprenticeship training. Mr. Hensler spoke in support of the apprenticeship program.

Karl Reiney spoke in support of the apprenticeship program. He expressed support of the proposal.

Robert Criswell expressed support of the apprenticeship program.

Marvin Prince reported he is Vice President of Bayview Redi-Mix. Mr. Prince voiced opposition to the proposed resolution.

Shawn Coleman with Brook and Brook Construction located in Port Angeles reported that he bids on local projects and is opposed to the proposed resolution. He feels it is not economically feasible and not fair to everyone.

There was no additional public comment.

The following documents were entered into the record:

1. Written statements presented by Tom Dikeman opposing the resolution and Tami St. Paul supporting the resolution.
2. Correspondence expressing opposition to the resolution received from the following: Dieter and Kathleen Tretzen, Michael Tacy and Chuck Wilme.

Commissioner Morrisette reported the Board would not make a decision at this meeting. A decision will be postponed to a later date. Comments will be taken into consideration.

Commissioner Wood commented on training opportunities for young people in the area. He stated the Board would like to provide training opportunities without affecting small businesses. Commissioner Wood reported he looks forward to receiving written suggestions and comments.

Chairman Beerbower thanked everyone for attending and providing testimony. He stated a decision would be made at a later date.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m. to Monday, March 11, 2002 at 2:00 p.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
for Grays Harbor County
This _____ day of _____, 2002

BOB BEERBOWER, Chairman

DENNIS MORRISETTE, Commissioner

DAN WOOD, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Sandra Daniels
Clerk of the Board