

BOARD OF COUNTY COUNCILORS
BOARD TIME
MINUTES OF SEPT. 30, 2015

The Board of Councilors convened at 1300 Franklin St, Vancouver, Washington 98660, Conference Room B.

Approval of minutes for September 23, 2015

ACTION: Moved by Mielke to **APPROVE** the minutes for September 23, 2015. Stewart seconded the motion. Councilors Madore, Stewart, and Mielke voted aye. Motion carried.

2% property tax reduction

Madore provided an overview.

ACTION: Moved by Mielke to **APPROVE** the following motion “The BOCC directs our Clark County Manager to prepare for a 2% cut in our 2016 property tax levy (plus new construction), this December and to plan the changes necessary to balance our 2016 budget while maintaining our current fund balance policy.” Madore seconded the motion.

Mielke spoke about sales tax. He spoke about the benefits of passing the proposed 2% cut. He also spoke about previous discussions he had with other elected officials and upcoming projects. Stewart spoke about a conservative approach to financial management. She spoke about the financial forecast and spoke about a systemic deficit. She stated she does not support the proposed motion and stated the motion is misleading in what it actually does. She stated it doesn't seem like a sound decision. Madore referenced a handout titled “Proposal to reduce 2016 property taxes by 2%” and spoke in support of the motion. He spoke about the great reorganization from County Assessor Peter Van Nortwick. Madore spoke about saving versus cutting services. He also spoke about good management. Axel Swanson, Senior Policy Analyst inquired more about the motion. Madore responded and spoke about best practices. Greg Kimsey, County Auditor inquired further on the motion regarding the general fund. Madore responded. Further discussion ensued about amending the motion. Further discussion ensued about various funds and levies. Madore stated they were not cutting core services or cutting the budget but rather reducing the amount of growth in the general fund.

ACTION: Moved by Madore to **AMEND** the original motion to read as “The BOCC directs our Clark County Manager to prepare for a 2% cut in our 2016 general fund property tax levy (plus new construction), this December and to plan the changes necessary to balance our 2016 budget while maintaining our current fund balance policy.” Mielke seconded the motion.

Stewart inquired about staff's projections. Mark McCauley, County Manager, responded. Van Nortwick inquired more on the handout. McCauley responded. Further discussion ensued about new construction. Chris Horne, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney joined the discussion. Stewart stated her concerns with some programs being exempt and feels there needs to be more research done. She stated it feels like quicksand. John Payne, Deputy Treasurer, joined the discussion and spoke about seeing an increase in their tax statements. Madore stated they are only responsible for their part. He stated the proposal was very simple and not misleading.

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Further discussion ensued about past budgets. Kimsey spoke about public testimony before moving forward on the motion. Madore responded. Van Nortwick provided some suggestions for the upcoming resolution. Further discussion ensued. Madore spoke about the 2014 budget hearing. Further discussion ensued about the options available to the Board in December.

Madore read the following dos and don'ts into the record to guide County Manager McCauley:

- Focus on savings in non-core services in departments that have not already cut their budget over the last several years.
- Do so without cutting core services.
- Do not cut the budget of our Sheriff's Department.
- Propose changes discretely to foster good morale.

ACTION: Councilors Mielke and Madore voted aye to **AMEND** the original motion to now read as "The BOCC directs our Clark County Manager to prepare for a 2% cut in our 2016 general fund property tax levy (plus new construction), this December and to plan the changes necessary to balance our 2016 budget while maintaining our current fund balance policy." Motion carried.

ACTION: Councilors Mielke and Madore voted aye to **APPROVE** the amended motion. Councilor Stewart voted nay. Motion carried.

Accessory Dwelling Units

Stewart inquired more information on the subject. She stated she wanted DEAB's comments and the Planning Commission's recommendation before moving forward and asked for the item to be delayed to another time. Madore spoke further about the proposal. Horne joined the discussion and spoke further about the process. Madore spoke further about the proposal. Stewart spoke further about her requests. Further discussion ensued about the proposed changes. Peter Silliman, Research Analyst / Policy Analyst explained the request further. Van Nortwick joined the discussion. Stewart explained her requests further. Mielke spoke about setting up a work session. Madore made the following motion "Direct the County Manager to work with staff to extend to the rural citizens the same freedom for citizens to have Accessory Dwelling units (ADU) as what is already available in the urban growth boundary." Further discussion ensued about the timeline of the request and the intent of the request. McCauley provided Stewart with the documents she requested.

ACTION: Moved by Mielke to **DIRECT** the County Manager to have these proposed changes to 40.260.020 evaluated by DEAB and the Planning Commission and return to the BOCC for action by the end of the year. Madore seconded the motion. Further discussion ensued. Stewart stated her concerns and asked for time to do more research to have a scope on the request. Councilors Madore and Mielke voted aye. Councilor Stewart voted nay. Motion carried.

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Draft Fee Waiver Resolution

Mielke spoke about drafting a resolution regarding the current fee waiver. Further discussion ensued about the request and spoke about moving forward. Mielke spoke about previous discussions he had with Randy Printz. Stewart spoke about the housing crisis. Madore explained the resolution further. Further discussion ensued. Van Nortwick spoke about multifamily homes. Madore spoke further about the fee waiver program. Madore inquired more from legal staff. Horne joined the discussion. Further discussion ensued about the fee waiver program. Further discussion ensued about future board's actions.

Councilor Stewart stated she would like everyone to get the same documentation ahead of Board time for items being presented at Board time.

The Board adjourned for Executive Session

The Board adjourned for Executive Session and reconvened at 3:48 PM

Adjourned

BOARD OF COUNTY COUNCILORS

David Madore, Chair

Jeanne E. Stewart, Councilor

Tom Mielke, Councilor

ATTEST:

Rebecca Tilton, Clerk of the Board

jc