

**BOARD OF COUNTY COUNCILORS
MINUTES OF JANUARY 12, 2016**

The Board convened in the Councilors' Hearing Room, 6th Floor, Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street, Vancouver, Washington. Chair Marc Boldt, Councilor Jeanne E. Stewart, Councilor Julie Olson, Councilor David Madore, and Councilor Tom Mielke present.

10:00 A.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Councilors led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

Pastor Dennis Fuqua, Clark County Prayer Connect delivered the invocation.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mielke inquired about consent agenda item #1. Mark McCauley, County Manager responded. Heath Henderson, Public Works Director, spoke on consent agenda item #2. Chris Horne, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, joined the discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING THE CONSENT AGENDA

1. Randy Stewart inquired more on consent agenda item #2. **McCauley responded.**

ACTION: Moved by Madore to **APPROVE** consent agenda items #1 - #5. Olson seconded the motion. Chair Marc Boldt and Councilors Stewart, Olson, Madore, and Mielke voted aye. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Ed Barnes spoke about last week's hearing and the Clark County jail.
2. Dave Rogers inquired about code violations regarding truck loads. **Boldt responded.** Rogers spoke about property owners on Kelly Road / Lucia Road.
3. Howard Jones spoke about shorting truck loads.
4. Dan Durringer spoke about the ban on marijuana.
5. Red Warren spoke about last week's hearing.
6. Val Alexander (read by Heather Tishbaum) spoke about ground water issues.
7. Joe LeVesque spoke about the All American Financial Aid Relief Program.
8. Heidi Owens spoke about last week's hearing.
9. Susan Rasmussen, Clark County Citizens United spoke about the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan update and rural lands.
10. Sydney Reisbick, Friends of Clark County spoke about the growth management act and alternative 1.
11. Carol Levanen, Clark County Citizens United, spoke about the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan update.
12. George Espinosa spoke about last week's hearing.

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PUBLIC MEETING: DISCUSSION REGARDING 2% PROPERTY TAX REDUCTION

There will be discussion regarding impacts of the proposed 2% property tax reduction on the budget and the Board of County Councilors will reconsider the 2016 property tax levy for the General Fund, in advance of preparing the levy certification letter required by the County Assessor.

Adriana Prata, Budget Director presented. Madore inquired more about the presentation. Prata responded. Madore spoke about the general fund components and asked to see more of a trend forecast. Prata responded. Further discussion ensued. Bob Stevens, General Services Director, joined the discussion. Olson inquired more about the 2015 readopt. Prata responded. Olson inquired more about the declined general fund revenue. Prata responded. Olson inquired about general fund subsidies. Stevens responded. Olson inquired about Clark County employees. Stevens responded. Olson inquired about the Road Fund diversion. Prata / Stevens responded. Olson inquired more about the annual lawsuit settlement commitment. Stevens responded. Olson inquired about structural deficit. Stevens responded. Further discussion ensued. Olson spoke about sales tax revenue. Further discussion ensued. Boldt spoke about real estate excise tax (REET). Further discussion ensued about REET. Olson inquired about Clark County's debt. Stevens responded. Mielke spoke about forecasting. Further discussion ensued about debt.

Peter Van Nortwick, Assessor, joined the discussion. Madore inquired more about property taxes. Van Nortwick responded and stated his concerns with the previous levy certification letter and actions associated with it. Madore spoke about a previous public hearing. Further discussion ensued about proper procedures regarding readopting the budget and the levy certification. Stewart inquired more about Van Nortwick's testimony. Van Nortwick responded. Stewart stated her concerns with the lack of previous discussion of the 2 % property tax reduction. Madore spoke further about previous hearing actions and minutes.

Doug Lasher, Treasurer, joined the discussion and spoke about Clark County's debt and asked for the Council to reverse the previous action regarding the 2% property tax reduction. Mielke inquired about Clark County's debt. Prata responded. Lasher spoke further about the debt. Madore inquired about financial responsibility. Lasher responded. Prata / Stevens joined the discussion. Madore spoke about senior citizen tax exemption. Stevens responded.

Sheriff Chuck Atkins read a briefing on the financial needs of the Sheriff's office. Mielke spoke about additional staff for the Sheriff's office. Further discussion ensued about staffing. Darin Rouhier, Sheriff's office joined the discussion. Boldt spoke about criminal justice services. Sheriff Atkins responded. Stevens joined the discussion. Further discussion ensued. Madore spoke about the Central precinct. Madore spoke about capital expenses.

Jeff Amram, Superior Court Administrator joined the discussion. Horne joined the discussion. Further discussion ensued.

The Board adjourned for a break and reconvened.

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**PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING THE PUBLIC MEETING: DISCUSSION
REGARDING 2% PROPERTY TAX REDUCTION**

1. David Rogers
2. John Matson
3. Carol Levanen, Clark County Citizens United
4. George Espinosa
5. Liz Campbell
6. Heidi Owens
7. Gretchen Starke
8. Susan Rasmussen, Clark County Citizens
9. Kenny Smith
10. Randy Stewart
11. Chuck Miller, Washington Citizens for Responsible Government
12. Steven Wallace
13. Phil Haggerty
14. Lee Jensen
15. David Alt
16. Bridget McLeman

Madore spoke about half truths. Madore spoke about the meeting notice and asked for a Councilor presentation. Madore presented “Actual Revenue Situation Report” and spoke about previous testimony. Madore referenced RCWs in relation to property tax hearings. He spoke about various phone calls he placed regarding proper noticing. He spoke about following proper process and inquired more from legal staff. Stewart stated her concerns with cross examining legal staff. Horne joined the discussion and provided some background on tax districts. He spoke further about the RCWs Madore mentioned and spoke about proper notice in regards to the tax levies. Madore inquired about following best practices. Horne responded. Stewart inquired more about the previous timeline of approving the budget and then directing staff on the levy certification which was not in a public hearing. Horne responded. Horne stated it is the best practice of the Council to have a public hearing however it is not legally required to hold a public hearing. Further discussion ensued about moving forward and staff’s input. Further discussion ensued.

ACTION: Stewart called the question. Boldt clarified they were closing the debate. Chair Marc Boldt and Councilors Stewart and Olson voted aye. Councilors Madore and Mielke voted nay. Motion carried.

ACTION: Moved by Madore to **DENY** reconsideration of the 2% property tax reduction and property tax levy as it does not seem appropriate. Mielke seconded the motion. Further discussion ensued. Councilors Madore and Mielke voted aye. Chair Boldt and Councilors Stewart and Olson voted nay. Motion failed.

ACTION: Moved by Stewart to **RECONSIDER** the 2% property tax reduction and 2016 property tax levy for the General Fund. Olson seconded the motion. Further discussion ensued. Chair Marc Boldt and Councilors Stewart and Olson voted aye. Councilors Madore and Mielke voted nay. Motion carried.

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ACTION: Moved by Stewart to **DIRECT** the County Manager to prepare an updated levy certification letter/memo at an amount no greater than the previous year, but including new construction, improvements to property, newly constructed wind turbines, any increase in the value of state assessed property, and any annexations that have occurred and refunds made. Olson seconded the motion. Further discussion ensued. Chair Marc Boldt and Councilors Stewart and Olson voted aye. Councilors Madore and Mielke voted nay. Motion carried.

COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

None

Hearing adjourned

BOARD OF COUNTY COUNCILORS

Marc Boldt, Chair

Jeanne E. Stewart, Councilor

Julie Olson, Councilor

David Madore, Councilor

Tom Mielke, Councilor

ATTEST:

Rebecca Tilton, Clerk of the Board

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Please Note: The Board of Councilors' minutes are action minutes. Digital recordings can be provided upon request. In addition, the Councilors' hearings are broadcast live on CVTV, cable channels 21 and 23, and are also videotaped and repeated several times (www.cvtv.org).