


**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA REQUEST

TO: Board of Commissioners

FROM: Philip Morley, County Administrator 

DATE: January 3, 2012

RE: Joint Resolution re: Economic Development Coordination

STATEMENT OF ISSUE: A joint Resolution by Jefferson County , the City of Port Townsend and the Port of Port Townsend approving a process to coordinate and promote coordination in regards to a regional economic development committee.

ANALYSIS: In May, 2010, the County, Port and City entered into Joint Planning Agreement to develop a Shared Economic Development Strategy. Since then, the three governments have been coordinating on economic development with Team Jefferson. An outgrowth was the incorporation of EDC-Team Jefferson as an independent Economic Development Council and its designation to the State Department of Commerce as our Associate Development Organization. An economic conditions study was commissioned with H.D. Hovee & Company to inform this work, and Team Jefferson did outreach to separate industry clusters to identify Jefferson County's economic challenges and opportunities.

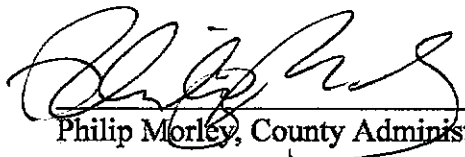
The proposed Resolution formalizes continuing inter-jurisdictional coordination through quarterly meetings of a Working Group of elected representatives, staff and Team Jefferson, and through monthly meetings at the staff level. The Resolution sets a goal of completing a Draft Joint Economic Development Strategy by the fall of 2012.

This Resolution has already been approved by the Port of Port Townsend.

FISCAL IMPACT: No direct fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION: Review and Approve the Joint Resolution.

REVIEWED BY:


Philip Morley, County Administrator

12/28/11

Date

STATE OF WASHINGTON

**County of Jefferson
City of Port Townsend
Port of Port Townsend**

Joint Resolution of the Jefferson)
County Board of County Commissioners)
the Port Townsend City Council, and the) County Resolution No. _____
Port of Port Townsend Port Commission) City Resolution No. _____
Approving a Process to Coordinate and) Port Resolution No. 571-11
Promote Enhanced Inter-jurisdictional)
Coordination in Regards to Regional)
Economic Development Committee)

The Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) of Jefferson County, Washington, the City Council of Port Townsend, Washington, and the Port Commission for the Port of Port Townsend, Washington, do hereby jointly resolve as follows:

WHEREAS, concern over the impacts of a weakened global, national and local economy on the local community and the ability of the County, City and Port to provide important services, has prompted the three jurisdictions to look for new ways to cooperate as local governments; and

WHEREAS, the three jurisdictions understand the urgent need to more effectively coordinate their activities and more efficiently deliver services to meet community needs; and

WHEREAS, in Fall 2009, the rezoning of rural light industrial land at the Jefferson County International Airport highlighted the need for the County, City and Port to improve their intergovernmental communication and better coordinate their economic development efforts; and

WHEREAS, in May of 2010 a "Joint Planning Agreement" was signed whereby the three jurisdictions committed to developing a coordinated strategy for sustainable economic development; the Agreement identified a three part process that included: the collection and analysis of economic data to provide an accurate "snapshot" of the current state of the local economy; the development of a shared economic vision that would provide guidance to the three jurisdictions in identifying priorities; and the development of complimentary policies and action steps that would help focus efforts in a coordinated manner; and

WHEREAS, an Inter-jurisdictional Elected Working Group (the Working Group) comprised of an elected official and staff from each jurisdiction and Team Jefferson has met monthly to implement the process and advance the development of a coordinated economic strategy; and

WHEREAS, baseline economic data was independently collected by E.D. Hovee & Company to allow informed choices regarding economic development policies and infrastructure priorities; and

WHEREAS, the Working Group has reviewed the baseline data and proceeded to develop a Draft Joint Economic Development Strategy; and

WHEREAS, it has become apparent that the forecast for economic recovery has dimmed since the joint economic development planning process was initiated in the spring of 2010, and most projections now suggest that the "recovery" is "L" shaped with substantial economic rebound occurring in an undefined, indefinite future; and

WHEREAS, the likelihood that State and Federal funding will return to levels resembling the period prior to the "great recession" has greatly diminished, and obtaining federal and state funding for significant new capital projects is more difficult; and

WHEREAS, as the ability of state and local government to fund new infrastructure and services has decreased, while many in the community are looking to government to help solve economic problems; and

WHEREAS, the Working Group has prepared a Draft Joint Economic Development Strategy (attached as Exhibit 1) that reflects the collaborative efforts of the three jurisdictions to date; and

WHEREAS, although the Draft Economic Development Strategy prepared to date is a good starting point, changed circumstances require careful refinement in light of the changing economic environment, and the Working Group recommends that the three jurisdictions continue working closely together to maximize the likelihood for success; and

WHEREAS, the Working Group has identified a process that will allow continued communication and coordination between the jurisdictions for future adoption of a Joint Economic Development Strategy setting forth objectives, strategies and a prioritized list of major regional capital projects and policy initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the Working Group has concluded that it is critical for the economic health of the County that the three jurisdictions and the Working Group continue to meet regularly, and communicate more frequently and effectively;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AND HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

Section 1. Inter-jurisdictional Coordination to Continue. The Working Group, comprised of elected representatives of the City, County, Port, jurisdictional staff and Team Jefferson, will continue to meet to develop and refine the Joint Economic Development Strategy for consideration and possible adoption by the respective jurisdictions. It is anticipated that the Draft Joint Economic Development Strategy will be completed and suitable for formal public and jurisdictional review by the fall of 2012. It is further anticipated that the draft strategy will include a prioritized list of major regional capital projects and policy initiatives supported by all three jurisdictions.

Section 2. Direction to Inter-jurisdictional Staff. The City, County, Port and Team Jefferson direct their respective staffs to meet on monthly basis with Team Jefferson to monitor and discuss current development trends, the progress of pending projects and proposals that may have county-wide economic implications, and to refine and finalize the Draft Joint Economic Development Strategy.

This resolution shall become effective upon adoption by the Board of County Commissioners, the City of Port Townsend and the Port of Port Townsend.

APPROVED AND SIGNED THIS _____ day of _____ 2012

SEAL: JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

John Austin, Chairman

Phil Johnson, Member

Attest:

David Sullivan, Member

Raina Randall
Deputy Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AND SIGNED THIS _____ day of _____ 2012

Michelle Sandoval, Mayor
City of Port Townsend

Attest:

Approved as to form:

Pamela Kolacy, MMC, City Clerk

John P. Watts, City Attorney

APPROVED AND SIGNED THIS 28th day of December 2011

Attest:

John N. Collins, Secretary

David H. Thompson, President

Leif W. Erickson, Vice President

Approved as to form:

Carolyn C. Lake, Goodstein Law Group, PLLC
Port Attorney