Board's Official Business

Highlights from Monday's Commissioner Meeting **March 29, 2005**

SWEARING-IN CEREMONY: Several employees from the Sheriff's Office and other Departments were present when Tim Perry was sworn in as Undersheriff by Sheriff Mike Brasfield.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Representative Lynn Kessler's Office has asked for a specific amount in writing on the Courthouse Clock Tower Project because the State Legislators are discussing the budget this week.

FERRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE: Several items were mentioned including:

- A 7% increase in ferry tariffs is being considered by the State Transportation Board.
- The ferries will begin using an electronic fare system later this fall.
- The proposed Port Townsend Ferry Dock project will allow any boat in the fleet to dock. Currently, the maximum capacity for ferries on the Port Townsend run is 65 cars. This will increase to 130 cars. There are concerns about how this will impact traffic on Water Street. There is an open house this week to take public comment.
- A private passenger ferry began operating from Kingston to downtown Seattle earlier this year which has decreased the number of passengers on the State's Bainbridge and Kingston ferry runs.
- Two 78 hour Hood Canal Bridge closures are anticipated in August or September. A survey is being sent out to the public asking whether they prefer weekend or weekday closures. A mitigation could include ferry runs from Port Ludlow and Port Townsend to Seattle.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: The following comments were made: Several citizens agreed on the importance of having two emergency dispatchers on duty at all times as was originally agreed by the JeffCom Board and the past County Administrator; when the dispatchers are on duty, they shouldn't spend their free time playing on the Internet; the descriptions are too vague for Executive Sessions listed on the Board's agenda; who was Commissioner Rodgers walking into the DCD office's with last summer when Commissioner Titterness was also present?; and the data was manipulated to come up with the $362 amount for the Commissioners monthly car allowance.

CONSENT AGENDA: All of the items on the Consent Agenda were approved as presented.

RESOLUTION: Increasing Cash in the Solid Waste Scale House Cash Drawer

5 AGREEMENTS: 1) Grant Funding for the Courthouse Clock Tower Rehabilitation Project with HUD; 2) WRIA 17 Instream Flow Setting; Amending Period of Performance and Payment with State DOE; 3) Reduction in Funding and Move Liability to Safe Harbor with the State Department of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services; 4) Project Management Services for WRIA 17 Amending Specific Duties, Period of Performance, and Payment with Sound Resolutions, and; 5) Educational Presentation "The Magic of Recycling" to School Districts in East Jefferson County with A Touch of Magic, Inc.

BID OPENING: Bids were received for the publication of County legal notices from *The Leader* and *The Peninsula Daily News*. Staff will review the bids and a recommendation for award will be made to the Board.

ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDATION: The Parks Advisory Board went through the park naming process for the waterfront park in Irondale as outlined in the Master Plan. The Board approved the name Irondale Beach Park which was the Park Board's recommendation.

NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL BOARD UPDATE: The Chair of the Weed Board and the Noxious Weed Coordinator from Clallam County discussed several noxious weeds found in Jefferson County which include Gorse, Poison Hemlock, Scotch Broom, Tansy, and Nap weeds. They asked the Board to consider assessing each property in Jefferson County a $4 flat fee to go toward program operations which is State mandated. The discussion included educating property owners and voluntary removal of weeds instead of County enforcement. Commissioner Rodgers stated that he is concerned about raising taxes and wants to see an analysis. The other Commissioners agreed that they would like to see the analysis before land classification hearings are scheduled.

CONNECTING SCHOOLS & COMMUNITIES PROGRAM: A student and the Program Coordinator from Quilcene High School gave a Powerpoint presentation on the special training being provided to high school students that keep them in school and will allow them to have living wage jobs and stay in the area.

FIBRE OPTICS PROJECT: This project was submitted as a Public Infrastructure Fund application last year and is before that Board again this year. The goal is to connect with NOANET and continue into the City of Port Townsend through Glen Cove. This infrastructure is essential to attract businesses to the County.