CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Mike McKenzie called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Lummi Island Fire Hall, Bellingham, Washington.

ROLL CALL

Present: Charles Antholt, Greg Brown, Robert Bush, Stu Clark, Crispin Colburn, Mike McKenzie

Absent: Josh Zender

FLAG SALUTE

MINUTES CONSENT

1. Corrected and approved minutes for June 18, 2012 Meeting, McKenzie to sign at later date.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

McKenzie reviewed and discussed the following attached reports that were submitted to the Whatcom County Council Public Works, Health and Safety Committee:

- Report on 55/45 Cost Distribution for Ferry Operation
- Report on Electronic Ticketing
- Report on Queue Method for Gooseberry Point
- Report on Security at Gooseberry Point

McKenzie commented in general that the LIFAC was working on the 55/45 cost distribution, but as it is such a complicated item, LIFAC will need more time to provide it's recommendations. He commented that the cost for the re-queuing at the Gooseberry Ferry landing was now about $35,000. McKenzie stated that re-stripping of the lanes were complete and they were not staggered as suggested by the LIFAC. This option was rejected by agency contracted by the county to provide the various queue options (Transpo Group). McKenzie commented that the Whatcom Chief would be back from repairs next week and we would see how well the new system will work.

OPEN SESSION (There were 7 citizen's in attendance)

Jim Dickenson asked where the costs for the queuing came from? He stated that at the cost of $35,000 it should come out of Capital Improvements. He commented that what he had seen from the new stripping that the new system would significantly improve the queuing.

Mike Skehan asked about sidewalk improvements and parallel parking? He commented that the County was required to hire an engineer consultant to perform an alternative analysis on the Lummi road improvements to make sure they fell within the agreement between the Tribe and the County. He asked if the LIFAC would have any impact in this alternative analysis? (see new business - LIFAC Recommendation)
OLD BUSINESS

1. Security at Gooseberry Point

Rhayma Blake commented that she had met with Frank Abar about this. He asked if there was any documentation of the Islander's concerns. Rhayma said she was doing a survey that was completed last Sunday. Rhayma was asked to provide the LIFAC with a copy of the survey along with the results.

2. Electronic Ticketing

As Zender was unable to attend this meeting, McKenzie said he understood that Zender was working on a complete recommendation for the LIFAC review. More on this recommendation will be provided at a future LIFAC meeting.

3. 55/45 Ferry Cost Distribution

It was pointed out that the Ferry cost distribution is required by the ordinance to be reviewed every year. It was decided that the LIFAC would have a special workshop to review this information. The LIFAC will solicit the support of island residents, Trisha Dune, Chandler Johnson, and Diane Harper for this workshop. (see tentative agenda for the next meeting)

NEW BUSINESS

1. Sidewalks and parallel parking

Colburn made the following recommendation that was seconded by Clark

LIFAC recommends that Whatcom County Council include the review of parallel parking and sidewalk design be included in the alternative analysis for the Lummi Road improvements (AB2012-299)

The LIFAC voted and approved the recommendation with a 5-1 vote with McKenzie voting no and Zender absent.

2. Worst Case Contingency Plan

Antholt asked if there is a contingency plan for the loss of the ferry or the loss of one or both ferry landings? Is there a telephone system to inform residents? How will vehicles be removed from the island? What about staple supplies? Is there a worst case plan?

Mike Skehan commented that he thought there were about 5 vessels that could move vehicles off of the island.

Jim Dickenson commented that he believes the County has a plan. He also commented that the plan should go further that Just Whatcom County. He believe the County plan only includes providing a passenger ferry. Jim said he has talked to Skagit County about the possible use of the Guemus Ferry some evenings. Jim suggested that the island put together a committee to draw up a plan.

McKenzie said that he would speak with Jim about this after the meeting.

3. Open Meetings Act and making documents available

Wynn Lee commented that it was difficult to obtain the minutes for the LIFAC meeting and wanted them to be readily available for residents to review. She asked if the LIFAC could find a way to distribute the meeting minutes.

Bill Lee commented that the more public you make the meeting minutes the safer the LIFAC is for providing open information. He suggested that we find the best solution.

Susan Kirkman commented that LIFAC make it as simple as possible to review the minutes.

Antholt cautioned that LIFAC should be cautious about "draft" documents.
Wynn Lee said the LIFAC needs to be clear that if the minutes are sent to all, that they are part of the public record. What are the policies. McKenzie commented that LIFAC is in compliance to date on submission of meeting minutes to the County as described in the Open Meetings Policy.

4. Ferry Replacement
Brown informed the LIFAC that on Thursday September 13th he accompanied Jim Dickenson and Bill Fox to look at the Ferry Christine Anderson that was in dry dock in Anacortes. He said there was also discussion regarding the condition of the Whatcom Chief with the engineer at the dry dock. Brown believed that the point of the trip was to start to look at options for care and/or replacement of the Ferry Whatcom Chief. Brown pointed out that he understood the life of the Whatcom Chief may be limited by various issues; that there may be a capital fund being built for replacement of the Whatcom Chief with a new ferry in the future; and, that there may be an option to replace the Whatcom Chief with a "used" ferry.

There was a great deal of discussion among the members of the LIFAC and meeting guests regarding this information. Jim Dickenson has a great deal of information on this and will provide a special presentation to the LIFAC in the near future. The presentation will include discussion about the condition/cost of the Whatcom Chief, the County plan/estimate for a new ferry, and the cost/benefits for a used ferry that may be available.

OTHER BUSINESSES
There was no other business

TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING
The next meeting has been scheduled for Monday October 15th @ 6:30pm at the Lummi Island Fire Hall. The meeting will be specifically to review the 55/45 cost distribution. The date for the presentation from Dickenson was not determined.

CALL TO ORDER
ROLL CALL
FLAG SALUTE
MINUTES CONSENT
PUBLIC COMMENT
OLD BUSINESS
1. 45/55 FERRY FUNDING
NEW BUSINESS
ADJOURN

ADJOURN
The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

The Committee approved these minutes on 10/15/12, 2012

ATTEST:
Michael McKenzie, Committee Chair