



**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING OF THE
BELLINGHAM-WHATCOM PUBLIC FACILITIES DISTRICT
THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

Daniel Larner, President, called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Board members present were Loraine Boland, Dunham Gooding, Daniel Larner, and Brent Walker. Also present were Andrew Asbjornsen, Deanna Gregory, Alison Henshaw, and John Purdie.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No public comment received.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Brent Walker pointed out that on the second page of the minutes of October 19, 2023, under 'Adjournment', it says that Brent Walker adjourned the meeting. However, Daniel Larner adjourned the meeting. **DUNHAM GOODING MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 19, 2023 REGULAR BOARD MEETING, AS AMENDED. BRENT WALKER SECONDED.**

Motion carried 4-0.

BUSINESS

1. **BWPFD Administration and Financial Report:**

Financial Report:

Andrew Asbjornsen, Finance Director for the City of Bellingham, provided a Powerpoint presentation, including a graph, 'PFD Sales Tax Revenue' with numbers updated through the first quarter of 2024. The total sales tax revenue for 2020 was \$1.64 million, for 2021 it was \$1.9 million for an 18% increase, and for 2022 it was \$2.15 million, for an 11.5% increase. State sales tax revenues have begun to slow down for the first quarter of 2024. Monthly revenue is slightly lower compared to 2023, with expenditures \$22,619 over budget for the first quarter. There appears to be a shift in spending and higher inflation and interest, with fewer auto purchases and fewer construction permits. Another slide, 'PFD Revenue, Expense & Reserve', shows revenues forecasted for 2024 – 2027 with \$2.5 million in reserves after repayment of the debt at the end of 2027. It is a good financial forecast. Andrew will continue to monitor sales tax revenue and projections and plans to provide an updated forecast at the next meeting.

- *Acquisition of additional property for other components of the Regional Center;*
- *Construction of Phases II and/or III of the Mount Baker Theatre;*
- *Design and construction of one or more performing arts facilities; and*
- *Related parking facilities.*

New debt connected to the Regional Center could be issued, but any projects that incur new debt would require a financial feasibility review by the State Department of Commerce. Andrew will send the board a link to this information on the state's website. If the debt is extended out, an amendment to the Interlocal Agreement would be needed.

The board members discussed using the funding for maintenance of the Lightcatcher Building and Mount Baker Theatre. Andrew added that those buildings will revert to City ownership once the PFD has been dissolved. City Public Works staff could explain what maintenance is necessary. Dunham would be interested in knowing how much additional funding would be available as a result of extending the state sales credit out to 2042. Andrew estimated it would come to about \$2.3 million, based on a 4% growth rate.

Deanna mentioned the need for due diligence to consider the pros and cons of tax exempt bonds versus taxable bonds.

John Purdie explained that the Mount Baker Theatre is applying for a Cultural Heritage Preservation Grant that would be used towards replacing the roof, seats, and pipe organ. He would like to receive a letter of support from the PFD for the grant application.

Loraine Boland expressed an interest in meeting before the board's next regularly scheduled meeting in October. Alison will work on scheduling that.

ADJOURNMENT

Daniel Larner adjourned the meeting at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison M. Henshaw, Administrative Assistant.

Final Minutes Approved:



Daniel Larner, President