

TO ALL COUNCILMEMBERS:

**SUBSTITUTE VERSION**

*for*

**July 10, 2018**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE #1  
COUNCIL-OTHER ITEMS #1**

1. Resolution authorizing the allocation of REET I funding to support the construction of a multi-use building expansion at the East Whatcom Regional Resource Center (from May 8) (AB2018-131) **25 - 37**

Pg. 25  
28-29

DISTRIBUTED: July 9, 2018  
TIME: 2:30 p.m.

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1. Resolution authorizing the allocation of RBT 1 funding to support the construction of a multi-use building expansion at the East Whatcom Regional Resource Center (Item May 8) (AB2018-31) 25 - 37

28-29  
PJ. 22

distributed July 10, 2018  
11:52 AM

**WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL AGENDA BILL**

NO. **2018 131**

CLEARANCES	Initial	Date	Date Received in Council Office	Agenda Date	Assigned to:
Originator:		4/5/2018		5/8/2018	SCOTW/Council
Division Head:					
Dept. Head:	<i>W. Brown</i>	<i>7-30-18</i>		7/10/18	Finance/Council
Prosecutor:	<i>KNF</i>	<i>5/2/18</i>			
Purchasing/Budget:					
Executive:					

**TITLE OF DOCUMENT:**  
 Resolution authorizing allocation of Reet I funding for building expansion

**ATTACHMENTS:**

SEPA review required? ( ) Yes ( ) NO SEPA review completed? ( ) Yes ( ) NO	Should Clerk schedule a hearing? ( ) Yes ( ) NO Requested Date:
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**SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE:** *(If this item is an ordinance or requires a public hearing, you must provide the language for use in the required public notice. Be specific and cite RCW or WCC as appropriate. Be clear in explaining the intent of the action.)*

Resolution authorizing the allocation of Reet I funding to support the construction of a multi-use building expansion at the East Whatcom Regional Resource Center

**COMMITTEE ACTION:**

5/8/2018: Held in Committee and forwarded motion to request the administration meet with proponents to see where they can lower the cost of the project and give an update in four weeks

**COUNCIL ACTION:**

5/8/2018: Held in Committee

<b>Related County Contract #:</b>	<b>Related File Numbers:</b>	<b>Ordinance or Resolution Number:</b>
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**Please Note:** Once adopted and signed, ordinances and resolutions are available for viewing and printing on the County's website at: [www.co.whatcom.wa.us/council](http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/council).

RESOLUTION 2018-\_\_\_\_\_

**AUTHORIZING THE ALLOCATION OF REET I FUNDING TO SUPPORT THE  
CONSTRUCTION OF A MULTI-USE BUILDING EXPANSION AT THE EAST WHATCOM  
REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTER**

**WHEREAS**, the Opportunity Council (OC), together with Whatcom County, the East Whatcom Community Council, and other interested citizens, created a proposal that will add new multi-use buildings at the East Whatcom Regional Resource Center for multiple purposes including youth recreation activities and other community gatherings and for a food bank aggregation and redistribution center to support hunger relief efforts in the east Whatcom foothills; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 12, 2015, the Whatcom County Council approved a Resolution which authorized the County Administration to submit a Washington State Department of Commerce Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application that the OC prepared for submittal, requesting a \$750,000 grant to assist with the construction of the multi-use building; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Administration submitted the CDBG proposal and received notification in August 2015 of a CDBG award of \$750,000 contingent upon Whatcom County's commitment of \$300,000 in matching funds; and

**WHEREAS**, the Whatcom County Council authorized an allocation \$300,000 in Real Estate Excise Tax (REET 1) funds in October 2015 to support the design and construction of the proposed facility and encouraging OC to pursue other funding; and

**WHEREAS**, the revised construction cost estimates raised the project total to \$2,500,000 due in part to fire suppression systems and additional parking requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, OC pledged in October 2015 its commitment to securing \$500,000 or more in additional matching funds and Opportunity Council has secured \$1,025,000 in additional matching funds from public and private sources, for a total of \$2,075,000 raised to date; and

**WHEREAS**, OC has succeeded in raising \$7,000 for every \$1,000 in initial County funding, a 7-to-1 leveraging ratio, to reach a total of \$2,075,000 secured to date; and

**WHEREAS**, the East Whatcom Regional Resource Center has been hugely successful, and the proposed expansion, Phase 2, is urgently needed to serve the existing and growing needs in eastern Whatcom County, especially in the areas of youth recreation, access to food, and the growing need for community programming and meeting spaces; and

**WHEREAS**, in a typical month, the calendar includes dozens of community group meetings, plus over 600 people referred to other services and programs, plus proving space for two Head Start classrooms, plus providing space for the mobile food pantry that currently operates twice per month; and

**WHEREAS**, OC, with the County Executive's encouragement, worked with the members of the East Whatcom Community Council, Whatcom County Parks Department,

Foothills Food Bank, Bellingham Food Bank, and other agencies to decide what facilities to include in the Phase 2 expansion of the East Whatcom Regional Resource Center and how to pay for the cost of construction and operations:

**WHEREAS**, members of the East Whatcom Community Council including OC have asked the County to increase its share of the funding by ~~\$425,000~~ \$115,000;

**WHEREAS**, the additional amount, ~~\$425,000~~ \$115,000, needed to reach \$2,500,000 can be found in the REET 1 revenues that were higher than expected in 2017 and are projected to be steady or growing in 2018 and 2019;

**WHEREAS**, OC has over-performed what the County asked in late 2015, raising \$1,025,000 instead of \$500,000, from non-County sources and has raised a total of \$1,775,000 to date for the EWRRRC expansion, Phase 2;

**WHEREAS**, many area families with low income gain better access to services, food, employment, housing, and health care as a result of services offered through the EWRRRC by OC and other agencies;

**WHEREAS**, other agencies can expand their services in the Foothills, in collaboration with OC, Foothills Food Bank, and others; for example, Meals on Wheels can increase its presence in the East County if it has access to frozen food storage after completion of the EWRRRC expansion;

**WHEREAS**, the EWRRRC expansion 2 will create a year-round emergency repository of food, currently not available due to lack of food bank storage and the absence of local grocery stores, so that in case of a state of emergency or disaster, the Foothills population will have a hub of food access and through the services of the Foothills Food Bank, people will have better access to healthy food for better health outcomes throughout the year.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Whatcom County Council hereby authorizes the County Administration to allocate ~~\$425,000~~ \$115,000 in REET I funds to support the construction of the proposed facility.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Whatcom County Council authorizes the County Executive to proceed as previously agreed with the OC for the funding, design, construction and operation of the proposed facility.

**APPROVED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of May \_\_\_\_, 2018.**

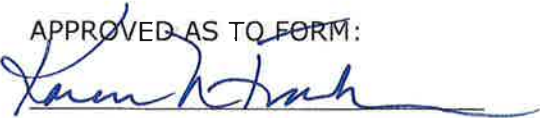
ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dana Brown-Davis,  
Clerk of the Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rud Browne,  
Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
Civil Deputy Prosecutor

