

**Skagit County Law and Justice Council  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, May 9th, 2012, 8:15 a.m.**

**ATTENDANCE:**

KEN BERGSMA	RICH WEYRICH	CHARLIE WEND
KEN DAHLSTEDT	DON McDERMOTT	TIM HOLLORAN
SHARON DILLON	JOE VALENTINE	WILL REICHARDT
DELILAH GEORGE	DALE RAGAN	MARC ESTVOLD
LaDESSA CROUCHER	DAVE NEEDY	LISA RUMSEY
PETER BROWNING	PHIL McLAUGHLIN	ROXANE GOSS
LAURIE JAROLIMEK	ALAN ERICKSON	LIN TUCKER

Today's meeting began at 8:15 a.m. with introductions and a welcome from **Ken Bergsma**, *Mount Vernon Police Chief and Law & Justice Council Chairman*. **Joe Valentine**, the new representative to the Council from NSMHA, was present and introduced.

**Previous Meeting Minutes:**

There was a motion and second by the Council that the April 11th, 2012 meeting minutes be approved. The motion passed.

**DEPARTMENT UPDATES:**

**LaDessa Croucher** from the Dispute Resolution Center approached the Council about supporting them in their Byrne Grant appeal for the next year, as we have done for the past 3 years. Members voted their unanimous support for this endorsement.

**JAIL FACILITY TASK FORCE**

**Marc Estvold** detailed the representatives of the Jail Facilities Committee. They include a jail agency user/members from each city, a representative from the Commissioner's office and Superior Court. Their first meeting will be Thursday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

**MEETING TOPIC:** WA State Representative, **Kris Lytton**, spoke to the Council regarding the past State Legislation year, as well as specific topics that were of high importance to the Council members. Rep. Lytton said that this was a very tough year as far as budget and therefore program cuts. A study has shown that per capita earnings are on par with 1982 levels.

**Q& A included:** **Q:** Ken Bergsma-Will cuts in funding for the Police Academy likely continue next year? **A:** Yes. No increases in budget likely next year. **Q:** Dale Ragan-Funds from the now eliminated State Liquor stores were used for funding Public Safety programs. Where will that money now come from? **A:** That has yet to be determined. **Q:** Ken Dahlstedt-Are they looking at consolidating agencies and reducing upper and middle management in order to keep workers employed? **A:** They have done some of this, but there was a concern with too much power being in the hands of a few. **Q:** Peter Browning-What

can be done about State protected programs that are not accountable to local agencies and aren't essential on the local level? **A:** Best to get those concerned together and talk through the specific problems. If you get Rep. Larsen and local officials and agencies who are affected together for a meeting, Rep. Lytton would look forward to attending. This time of year is perfect for her to meet with groups and their concerns before the Legislature is back in session. **Q:** Tim Holloran-Counties need more local revenue opportunities. What can be done? **A:** Rep. Lytton and Comm. Dillon volunteered to work together on this idea. **Q:** Ken Bergsma-Some public officials have had fraudulent liens put on their person property by anti-government groups. WASPC is putting together a proposal to eliminate this. He asked for Lytton's support when this comes before the legislature. **Q:** Will Reichardt-Asked what could be done to see that the WSP bills for medical/jail usage get paid to the counties as is required, but is not being done. **Q:** Tim Holloran-Asked what could be done to aid college graduates to gain job experience and be able to pursue the fields they have trained for, and enable them to pay off their education loans.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**None.**

**NEXT MEETING-** The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 13th, 2012.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_