

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, July 9, 1985

7:30 P.M.

Public Meeting - Alger Community Hall.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, July 9, 1985, with Commissioners Vaux, Walberg and Rohrer present.

Flag Salute.

Bob Schofield, Planning Director, explained the purpose of this meeting. Bob stated that at the last Planning Department comprehensive planning meeting which was held in Alger many residents raised questions and concerns that were not really planning issues and therefore Mr. Schofield suggested that the Board of County Commissioners hold a public meeting in Alger to address these different issues. A list of specific concerns and problem areas were identified at the previous meeting and were compiled in an outline form for the Board to address at this meeting.

Following the overview by Mr. Schofield, Chairman Vaux began discussions of these issues by addressing the first concern listed which was excessive speed through Alger by vehicles using Old 99.

J. Ensley with the Public Works Department responded that according to their studies the roads were properly signed with appropriate limits and stated that the problem might be one of enforcement.

Gary Fraser, Skagit County Undersheriff, stated that it appeared that the traffic problems were basically divided into two groups: 1. Every day situations, and 2. Problems arising from the Skagit County Speedway. Gary explained that on race nights at the Speedway, all the sheriffs are stationed at the Speedway for parking and crowd control purposes and that he has asked the Washington State Patrol for help in the future if possible with regard to problems of traffic as they leave the Speedway.

Chip Drake explained some of the problems he has experienced on race nights. He felt that one patrolman should be stationed at the Alger intersection on race nights.

Stan Swanson also stated that daily south bound traffic on Old Hiway 99 was a problem, especially at the Samish River bridge where many turning trucks are prevalent. He stated that the speed should be reduced from 50 miles per hour to at least 45 miles per hour. Bill Thrasher also expressed similar sentiments.

Leonard Falon stated that the parking at the Alger Tavern should be looked at. He stated that often times people park very close to the road and that he is concerned about potential accidents occurring especially at night.

Mike Warren of the Alger fire department questioned Gary Fraser regarding parking at the Alger Speedway along the road when it is posted no parking. He wondered why this regulation was not enforced. Gary responded that the Sheriff's deputies working on race nights are in the actual parking lot area for the purpose of organizing parking and crowd control. He also stated that he would look into this situation for future events.

Stan Swanson expressed a concern regarding the speed limit on the Alger/Cain Lake Road especially where it is 35 miles per hour near the drop boxes and then goes to 50 miles per hour. He felt that 50 miles per hour was an excessive speed for the area because of a lot of horse traffic and kids in the area. Chip Drake stated that over the years he has had six cars through his fence and yard in this very same area.

The next issue addressed was drainage problems. Don Nelson of the Engineers office explained the county's responsibility regarding drainage concerns. He stated that since the adoption of the drainage ordinance he was not aware of any new development in this area since then. He felt the future was fairly secure regarding drainage because of the new ordinance, however, the ordinance was not retroactive and therefore had no affect on developments and associated drainage problems of the past. He stated the clear cutting and related drainage problems was a Department of Natural Resource concern.

Don further explained that unless streams and ditches were covered by a drainage authority, it was the responsibility of the individual property owner for the maintenance of those stream banks.

Mike Warren questioned the authority of the county to deposit fill on private properties. He stated that an action by the county in the late '70's on the Parson Creek Road resulted in the alteration of natural drainage course and further stated that this situation caused problems on a civil basis between neighbors.

Don stated that most times the road department tries to deposit excess material as close to the work site as possible in an effort to keep costs as low as possible and they usually ask adjacent property owners for permission.

Margaret Maxwell questioned Don Nelson regarding the drainage ordinance and how many plans had been reviewed and approved. Don stated that depending on the time of the year he will review 15 to 25 drainage plans per month. She asked how many drainage plans are approved that ultimately are not completed because of failure of the developer to receive all required permits. She also questioned what happens if a drainage plan is approved, and the developer begins some work prior to having all of his permits and then is shut down for failure to get the necessary approvals. She states the land may be altered as a result of this preliminary work and there is now no drainage plan in place.

Don Nelson stated that this is probably a legal issue that would be addressed in an appropriate fashion.

Mr. Yeoman asked what constituted a water shed. Don Nelson responded with an explanation. Mr. Yeoman stated he was going to cut down some trees but was issued a stop work order last year by the county building official. The Board stated that there was probably some misunderstanding here and that it is not the function of the county building official to issue stop work orders regarding the cutting of trees.

The next issue discussed was a lack of domestic water supply on the west side.

Commissioner Vaux explained that at the present time county government was not in the water business and that it was an issue that more appropriately should be addressed to the Public Utility District. It was also stated that other alternatives would be for property owners to band together to create a community water system or association.

The next issue regarded herbicide spraying on timber land. Commissioner Vaux again stated that this was not within county government jurisdiction and was an issue that should be brought up with the Department of Natural Resources. There was a general statement from the people in the audience that they have had problems in dealing with and getting the attention of the Department of Natural Resources.

Dave Rohrer stated that Brian Boyle, Commissioner of Public Lands, will be having a meeting in the area soon. He suggested that the people in the audience attend this meeting and voice their concerns directly to him.

The next issue was drainage ditches along the county roads. J. Ensley of the Public Works Department stated that if people desired to have their ditches cleaned or felt that it was needed at the time all they would have to do is contact the Burlington shop or the Public Works Department in Mount Vernon and put in a service request and the work will be done.

The next issue was striping on the roads needed to be repainted. Mike Warren stated that since the last meeting most of the roads in the area have been striped and stated that it was a good job and had helped out the situation very much.

Mr. Warren continued by lodging a complaint regarding the county road grader operators and their efforts in the removal of snow in the winter time.

The next issue was law enforcement response. Mike Warren commented on this matter. Gary Fraser stated that all deputies are very dedicated and that they respond to calls as soon as possible. Many times they may not be in the actual vicinity of the call so it will take some time unfortunately to respond.

Gary related to the audience some of the statistics and figures regarding crime in Skagit County this year and stated that because of this situation and current resources, the Sheriff's office is doing a good job. He mentioned also that if we wanted to add one additional patrolman to the force on a 24 hour basis for 7 days a week, we would actually have to hire almost 5 full time individuals to accomplish this.

The next issue was the condition of old highway 99. J. Ensley of the Public Works department stated that portions of old highway 99 were included in the recently adopted six year road program and in the next few years maintenance and improvement projects will be scheduled for this road.

The next issue was that rezoning should not be done without notifying affected property owners, a general discussion followed and the Board agreed with this statement.

Discussion then ensued regarding Skagit County's revenues and economy and county

government's role in these matters.

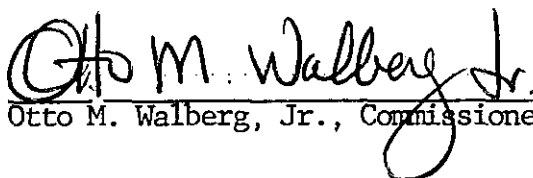
Following the conclusion of the general meeting with the residents present, the following miscellaneous items were presented to the Board for their consideration by Robert Taylor, Administrative Officer:

1. Three copies of a contract for signature only awarding the Minkler Road improvement project to Mel Hicks Construction Company;
2. The Board approved a resolution reappointing Ms. Gray Foster to another three year term on the Skagit County Mental Health/Drug Abuse Administrative Board;
3. The Board approved a resolution waiving the competitive bid requirements per RCW 39.04 regarding the procurement and installation of treated poles at the Skagit County playfield complex for a future lighting system.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON



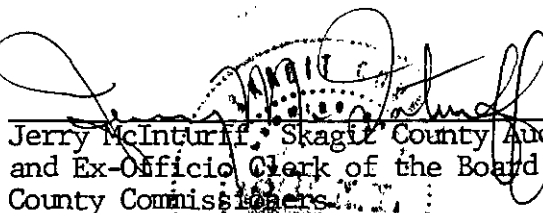
W. W. Vaux, Chairman



Otto M. Walberg, Jr., Commissioner

Dave Rohrer, Commissioner

ATTEST:



Jerry McInturff, Skagit County Auditor
and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Board of
County Commissioners

