

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Thursday, January 9, 1986

Flag Salute

3:00 p.m. Discussion - Guardian Ad Litem Services.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, January 9, 1986, with Commissioners Rohrer and Walberg present. Commissioner Vaux was absent.

DISCUSSION - GUARDIAN AD LITEM SERVICES.

Mike Woodmansee, Budget and Finance Director, explained that for the past three years, representation for juveniles in abuse, neglect or abandonment situations has been provided by the indigent defense contractor. However, this is no longer the case. He requested input from those present regarding how guardian ad litem services should be provided in the future.

Judge Harry Follman stated that in most cases, the guardian ad litem functions as an attorney. He favored using an attorney rather than a layperson.

Mr. Woodmansee stated that there were approximately 50 new cases in 1985 where a guardian ad litem was provided. Additionally, there were approximately 85 to 90 review hearings in 1985.

Court Commissioner Gil Mullen stated that most cases are agreed, rather than contested. Only approximately 6 to 12 of the 125 cases last year were contested.

Terry Rousseau, Director of the Juvenile Probation Department, felt that often the work outside the courtroom has not been performed satisfactorily.

Dennis Cole, attorney from the Attorney General's Office, stated that a strong guardian ad litem helps reduce the amount of courtroom time.

Yvonne Messick, a social worker with the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), stated that Whatcom County provides a flat fee of \$250 for a maximum of 8 hours of work per case, and an additional \$34 per hour thereafter.

Discussion followed regarding the various methods of providing guardian ad litem services.

Ms. Messick stated that according to Whatcom County's fee schedule and the number of Skagit County cases in 1985, the cost for guardian ad litem services would be approximately \$14,200.

Judge Walter Deierlein felt that figure was adequate.

Carla Pirkle, a DSHS case worker, was concerned that the children receive separate and adequate defense from the parents.

Ken Chovil, a DSHS case worker, pointed out that it was important to separate the guardian ad litem from the indigent defense contract.

Ms. Messick stated that she telephoned several attorneys and most were interested in a rotating system of providing guardian ad litem services.

Commissioner Walberg favored choosing an attorney or attorneys in combination with a layperson who could handle certain uncontested cases.

Mr. Woodmansee reviewed the draft Request for Proposals for guardian ad litem services.

At Prosecuting Attorney Tom Moser's suggestion, it was agreed that the contractor(s) should agree not to accept employment from the public defender's office in juvenile cases.

The Request for Proposals will contain figures for the past two years to help bidders compute their proposals.

The Board thanked everyone for their participation in this discussion.

#### MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Robert Taylor, Administrative Officer, presented the following items:


1. The Board approved for signature a Dance Hall License for Skagit Valley Grange #620, effective February 1, 1986, and expiring February 1, 1987.
2. Commissioner Walberg motioned to approve the following Petitions for Property Tax Refund, as recommended by the Skagit County Assessor and Treasurer:
  - a. George Howell, 401 West Main Street, Concrete, Washington 98237, in the amount of \$47.60, due to exemption. (#1985)
  - b. George D. Clawson, 1661A Highway 99 South, Space 23, Mount Vernon, Washington 98273, in the amount of \$38.49, due to senior citizen exemption. (#000186)

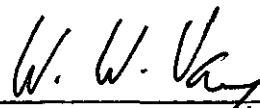
- c. Rick Owens, 3609A Highway 20, Concrete, Washington 98237, in the amount of \$99.38, as ordered by the Board of Equalization due to EDB contamination. (#004285)

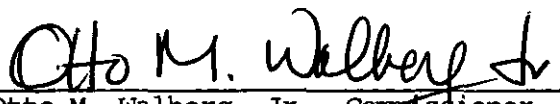
ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Walberg motioned to adjourn the proceedings. Commissioner Rohrer seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.


BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
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Dave Rohrer, Chairman

  
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W. W. Vaux, Commissioner

  
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Otto M. Walberg, Jr., Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
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Megan Cheney, Clerk  
Skagit County Board of Commissioners

