

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, January 14, 1986

9:00 a.m. Discussion - Ferry Rates - Guemes Ferry Committee.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

10:00 a.m. Executive Session - Personnel.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 14, 1986, with Commissioners Rohrer, Vaux and Walberg present.

DISCUSSION - FERRY RATES - Guemes Ferry Committee.

Gene Sampley, Director of the Public Works Department, listed the three issues to be discussed today:

1. Policy use for frequent user cards;
2. Truck/commercial vehicle rates (weight vs. length); and
3. Rates in general.

Mr. Sampley reviewed in detail the frequent user policy adopted by Resolution #10695 to be effective January 1, 1986.

Lillian Armstrong felt this new policy discriminated against the working people who frequently use the ferry.

Carl Meininger pointed out that the ferry workers have to be policemen. He favored the use of indelibly inked dates on regular frequent user cards, rather than the color-coded method.

Patricia Place noted that in her case, she will end up with many punches left over at the end of each quarter.

Jim Bertolino felt this change represents a hidden rate hike for frequent users. He felt the old system, if enforced, would be quite satisfactory. In answer to a question from Commissioner Vaux, Mr. Bertolino stated that he had heard of, but never witnessed, abuse of ferry workers trying to enforce the policy.

Dorothy Byrd suggested the use of a check imprinting machine to imprint the date, so it could be easily read.

Murray Read felt that everyone on the island should be charged the same rate, regardless of the fact that they may be a commuter to a job off the island.

Eleanor Powers, of Mount Vernon, felt the former system offered benefit to the County and the users as well. She also felt the policy should be strictly enforced.

Dick Hill favored leaving the cards as they were, redefining who can use them, and adhering to the rules.

Patricia Place concurred with Mr. Hill. She stated that she has witnessed ferry workers being abused. She felt the new policy would not deter the abuse.

Kit Marcinko felt the people should get exactly what they pay for.

Commissioner Vaux stated that it is not the County's intent to create additional profits with the new card system. The new system is designed to be more enforceable.

Lois Bertolino preferred the former system.

Wayne Killinger noted the long lines of people who will be waiting to purchase cards on the first day of each quarter.

Max Benjamin stated that most frequent users use the 90-day cards up before the 90 days are up.

Myrtle Rossiter felt it was the ferry workers' job to enforce the date of expiration on the cards.

Glen Veal stated that there have never been any rules posted. He suggested the County post the rules first, prior to imposing any other new system. He also suggested that a cash fare could be sold to those frequent users who have completed a quarter card.

Jane Read expressed opposition to the new card system.

Velda Floe felt the new system would be much too confusing.

Murray Read agreed.

Dawn Ashbach favored trying to enforce the rules with an indelible date printed on the cards.

Rollie Jones, a member of the Guemes Island Ferry Committee, favored remaining with the old policy.

Charmaine Johanness concurred with Mr. Jones.

Bill DeRouchev felt the new system would be confusing.

Eleanor Powers suggested the dates be imprinted in different colors.

Kit Marcinko spoke additionally regarding waiting in line on the first of each quarter.

Lois Bertolino asked how this new system was devised.

Mr. Sampley explained that the cost for color coding cards will be minimal. He stated that this system was suggested through a participating effort between the Guemes Island Ferry Committee and the County.

Commissioner Vaux stated that this system was designed to tighten controls in order to minimize the rate increase necessary.

Frank Tucker favored leaving the system as it is and simultaneously tightening down on abuses.

Lois Bertolino stated that she would be agreeable to a reasonable rate increase rather than this cumbersome system.

Leo Kent asked what will happen to the blue frequent user passenger cards which are currently in effect for one year.

Commissioner Vaux stated that the blue passenger cards will continue to be in effect for one year.

The Board also concurred that a frequent user card belonging to someone other than the driver of a car could be used, if the cardholder was in the vehicle.

George Wilcox felt the County might lose, rather than gain, additional revenue with the proposed system.

Zell Young asked about the weight vs. length issue on trucks and commercial vehicles.

Commissioner Vaux stated that this matter has not been addressed yet, however, it is the recommendation of the Public Works Department that the length method be used. He felt that until a control method can be devised, the rate issue should not be discussed.

Upon this basis, Commissioner Vaux motioned to continue discussion on the policy to be used prior to any discussion of a rate increase. Commissioner Rohrer seconded the motion.

Commissioner Walberg stated that he would like to give the color-coded card a try with either a 10-day card and/or cash fare to complete a quarter.

Charles Stapp agreed with the proposed quarterly color-coded system, plus a cash fare system to be used when the quarterly card is finished.

Jane McCarthy was opposed to color-coded cards.

The motion to continue this discussion was carried unanimously. The public meeting is continued until 5:00 p.m. Saturday, January 25, 1986, in the Guemes Island Community Hall. The first item to be discussed will be a control system for use of frequent user cards. Upon resolution of this item, the matter of rates will possibly be discussed.

Commissioner Walberg motioned to rescind Resolution #10695, adopting a policy for Guemes Ferry frequent user cards. Commissioner Vaux seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

There were no miscellaneous items addressed at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

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


BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Dave Rohrer, Chairman



W. W. Vaux, Commissioner



Otto M. Walberg, Jr., Commissioner

ATTEST:



Megan Cheney, Clerk
Skagit County Board of Commissioners