

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Saturday, January 25, 1986

5:00 p.m. Public Meeting - Guemes Ferry Policy and Rate Schedule - Guemes Island Community Hall.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Saturday, January 25, 1986, with Commissioners Vaux and Walberg present. Commissioner Rohrer was absent.

PUBLIC MEETING - GUEMES FERRY POLICY AND RATE SCHEDULE - Guemes Island Community Hall.

Commissioner Vaux explained that the first topic would be the frequent user card. He introduced Gene Sampley, Director of the Public Works Department. Commissioner Vaux suggested the card be simplified to include only necessary information, such as legible expiration date, pass number, etc.

Murray Read asked why any expiration date should appear on the pass at all.

Carl Meinzinger felt the expiration date was reasonable because it's part of the bargain buy.

Commissioner Vaux explained the proposal to use a different colored card for each quarter, for ease in administration.

Lou Gillette questioned the colored card system.

Lois Bertolino explained that the Board already rescinded the previously adopted frequent user policy.

Fred Ribe understood the Board's intention to tighten the enforcement. He suggested that weekenders might approve of a new 10-trip card.

Jim Bertolino suggested frequent users be defined as people who use the ferry several times per week all year around. Regular users could be defined as those persons who use the ferry approximately weekly all year around. Perhaps another type of pass with fewer trips could be initiated to accommodate regular users.

Helen Tucker asked for clarification of the Board's proposal.

Michael Gwost asked why color-coded cards would be necessary.

Commissioner Vaux explained that the idea was proposed by the Public Works Department and the Guemes Island Ferry Committee to facilitate enforcement of

expiration dates on frequent user cards.

Gary Casperson stated that he walks on the ferry 95 percent of the time to save room on the ferry.

Dick Stockwell stated that he saw no need for expiration dates either. He favored adjusting the rates as necessary to provide required revenue.

Rollie Jones explained that the cards need expiration dates to give a bargain to frequent users.

Carl Meinzinger explained that a person only needs to use half of the card to get a bargain over the cash car and driver fare.

Eleanor Powers stated that it is up to each person to decide whether or not they can use a frequent user card. Ferry users aren't members of a private club. The frequent user card is bargain priced for frequent users.

Jess Ivy asked why the Guemes Island property taxes can't be put into the ferry fund.

Gene Sampley explained that the ferry is not only supported through fares.

Maureen Greer agreed that a 10-trip card would be advantageous for many retired people.

Dick Hill suggested both 10- and 25-trip cards with no expiration dates.

Commissioner Vaux suggested a non-transferable senior citizen card expiring 180 days from date of issue. This suggestion received a round of applause.

Janice Veal felt there were also younger people in the same situation.

Eleanor Almond favored a 10-trip card.

Jane McCarthy favored making the expiration date more legible.

Carl Meinzinger asked the Board to keep the policy simple.

Sara Winston felt age was not important. Frequency of use is more important with regard to fares.

Fred Ribe felt age was important, and endorsed the proposed senior card.

Michael Gwost wanted to know where the ferry is losing money.

Commissioner Vaux explained that the rates are not currently high enough to recover costs of operation.

Jeff Winston asked how much the County is trying to recover. He felt the policy should be simple enough to enforce.

Jim Bertolino felt the residents of Guemes Island are paying for the cost of the ferry through the tax base, as well as the use of the ferry.

Commissioner Vaux stated that it was not the intention of the Board to shirk the responsibility of the County. He explained that they were merely trying to tighten the system and simplify the policy in order to keep rates as low as possible.

Jim Bertolino suggested a 10-trip card with a moratorium on the rate hike through 1986, in order to observe results of that action for one year.

Max Benjamin, one member of the Guemes Island Ferry Committee, stated that the current system has been the most equitable system of any used over the years.

Commissioner Vaux noted that the current 25-trip card is still a bargain for people who only use it 10 times.

Susan Gwost suggested that maybe people would accept a small rate increase.

Murray Read favored the 180-day card.

Dawn Ashbach suggested the use of 12-trip cards for those who can't justify purchasing a 25-trip card.

Michael Gwost asked if the expiration date on the cards is really a problem.

The situation was explained again.

Jeff Winston asked what is the difference between everybody using up their cards now, regardless of the expiration date, and changing the policy to allow everyone to use up their cards.

Shorty Hunt favored using the same system, but raising the rates to generate additional revenue.

Frank Tucker favored keeping the system simple.

Jean McCracken favored a 25-trip card which would expire 180 days from date of issue, and the raising of the rates to generate revenue.

The general consensus of those present (by a show of hands) was to leave the system as it is with frequent user cards expiring 90 days from date of issue, and to raise the rates as necessary.

Jack Norman felt the ferry was simply an extension of the highway.

Jane Read favored cutting frequent user cards in two for senior citizens.

Eric Erickson concurred.

Following a recess, Commissioner Vaux proposed a 13-trip card (using a portion of the current frequent user cards) for sale for one-half of the cash car and driver fare. Furthermore, if it becomes obvious that this policy is not generating the necessary revenue to operate the ferry, a \$0.50 surcharge on cash fares will be imposed from June 1, through September 30, 1986.

Ted Freely asked about an adjustment for times when the ferry is out of commission.

Commissioner Vaux stated that the cards would be adjusted in the same manner as they are presently.

The overwhelming majority of those present were in favor of the Board's proposal.

Following a recess, rates were discussed. Gene Sampley explained the need to raise rates approximately 6 to 10 percent.

Commissioners Vaux and Walberg proposed the Guemes Island ferry rates be increased approximately 6 to 10 percent. A detailed listing is attached.

Tom Butler felt the rate for a motorcycle was unjustly high if the driver was a frequent user.

Jane McCarthy stated that they have used their frequent user card for their 20-foot motorhome.

Dorothy Byrd suggested there be a different frequent user card for trucks and motorhomes.

Jim Bertolino suggested a possible surcharge to the current frequent user card for trucks and motorhomes.

Leo Kent noted that he also uses his frequent user card for their 22-foot motorhome, as his wife is handicapped and must ride in that vehicle.

Jane McCarthy suggested an exception be made for handicapped users of the ferry.

The Board concurred with this suggestion.

Allen Bush felt a pickup should be charged the same rate as a car, no matter

what the vehicle weighs.

It was decided that the new frequent user cards will pertain to vehicles weighing 8,000 gross vehicle weight or less.

Tom Butler favored using the frequent user card for his truck, which he uses to haul wood.

Commissioner Vaux stated that the Board would be willing to discuss his situation further to see where the inequity lies.

Bruce Adkins stated that he will soon operate a mobile repair service out of his vehicle which is 20 1/2 feet long.

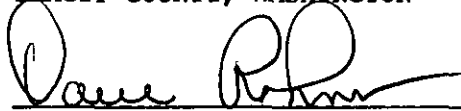
Commissioner Vaux stated that his situation will receive additional consideration as well.

The Board thanked everyone for attending this discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Walberg motioned to adjourn the proceedings. Commissioner Vaux seconded the motion. The motion was carried and so ordered.

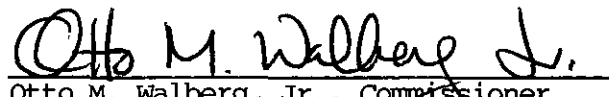
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Dave Rohrer, Chairman

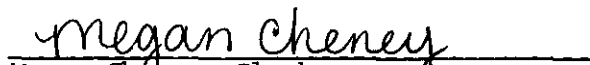


W. W. Vaux, Commissioner



Otto M. Walberg, Jr., Commissioner

ATTEST:



Megan Cheney, Clerk
Skagit County Board of Commissioners

ATTACHMENT "A" TO RESOLUTION NO. 10741

ANACORTES - GUEMES ISLAND FERRY
FERRY PASSAGE RATES

TYPE PASSAGE =====	OLD RATES =====	ROUND TRIP RATES EFFECTIVE =====
CASH FARE - CAR & DRIVER	4.20	4.50
CASH FARE - ADULT PASSENGER	1.00	1.05
*CASH FARE - CHILD PASSENGER	.35	.40
FQT USER - CAR & DRIVER (25-TRIP CARD)	1.50	1.60 (\$40.00)
FQT USER - CAR & DRIVER (13-TRIP CARD)	N/A	2.25 (\$29.25)
FREQUENT USER - ADULT PASSENGER	.60	.65
*FREQUENT USER - CHILD PASSENGER	.20	.20
MOTORCYCLE INCLUDING OPERATOR	1.60	1.70
MOTORHOME 20 FEET OR LESS	4.20	4.60
**MOTORHOME MORE THAN 20 FEET		4.60 + \$0.45 PER FOOT OVER 20 FEET
TRAILER 12 FEET OR LESS	2.40	3.00
TRAILER 13 TO 20 FEET	3.60	4.50
TRAILER MORE THAN 20 FEET		4.50 + \$0.45 PER FOOT OVER 20 FEET

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COMMERCIAL VEHICLES 8,001 LBS GVW OR MORE

LENGTH LESS THAN 20 FEET	PRIOR	6.00
LENGTH 20 FEET TO LESS THAN 24 FEET	RATES	6.50
LENGTH 24 FEET TO LESS THAN 34 FEET	BASED	9.00
LENGTH 34 FEET TO LESS THAN 44 FEET	ON WT	12.00
LENGTH 44 FEET TO LESS THAN 54 FEET	+.40 PER	16.00
LENGTH 54 FEET TO 64 FEET	FOOT OVER	22.00
LENGTH MORE THAN 64 FEET	18 FEET	22.00 + \$0.50 PER FOOT OVER 64 FEET

THE RATE FOR LOGGING TRUCKS TRAVELLING
ONE WAY LOADED AND ONE WAY EMPTY WITH