

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, July 21, 1987

Flag Salute

9:00 a.m. Discussion - Dangerous Dog Ordinance.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, July 21, 1987, with Commissioners Walberg, Vaux and Rohrer present.

DISCUSSION - DANGEROUS DOG ORDINANCE.

The following people were present for this discussion: John Moffat, Chief Civil Deputy of the Prosecutor's Office; Mary Kermen, Chief Civil Deputy of the Sheriff's Office; Corrine Story, Environmental Health Specialist I; Sandra Nelson, Humane Society Shelter Manager; Colleen Hodgkin, Humane Officer of the Humane Society; Mike Woodmansee, Budget and Finance Director; and Bob Taylor, Administrative Officer.

Discussion followed regarding the proposed dangerous dog ordinance.

Regarding the sign an owner shall conspicuously display to inform children of the presence of a dangerous dog, Sandra Nelson informed everyone that the Humane Society of the United States is designing a dangerous dog sign. They plan a publicity program to make people aware of the meaning of the sign.

Colleen Hodgkin explained that a dangerous dog sign is currently available.

Discussion followed regarding Section 4, Subsection (7) regarding the penalty for a dog which bites a human and causes severe injury. Since there seemed to be some confusion about this section, the Board requested the sponsors of the legislation be contacted to determine the intent of the law.

Discussion followed regarding initial start-up and operating costs proposed by the Humane Society to implement and enforce the new legislation.

Mr. Woodmansee explained that the fees for penalties could be such that they would support the cost of the enforcement of the law.

Discussion followed regarding the impact this legislation could have on the County's general fund, since the impact is unknown at this time.

Mr. Woodmansee stated that in addition to the proposed \$10 per day per dog for boarding, the owner will be required to pay licensing fees of \$250 initially for potentially dangerous dogs and \$500 initially for dangerous dogs, as well as annual renewal fees of \$50 for potentially dangerous dogs and \$100 for dangerous dogs.

Discussion followed regarding individual cities in Skagit County and how their efforts would be impacted.

Chairman Walberg asked Mr. Woodmansee to contact the cities to determine how they propose to enact this legislation.

Corrine Story estimated that approximately 20 percent of the 150 dog bite complaints the Health Department receives annually are from pit bulls. She felt only approximately 10 to 15 percent of the bites would be classified as severe injury.

Mary Kermen noted that the Sheriff's Office has received five complaints so far this week, which could be considered potentially dangerous dogs.

John Moffat advised the Board to proceed with steps to adopt the proposed ordinance.

Mr. Woodmansee felt it would be difficult to define the services desired to request proposals. Additionally, he noted that the County owns the property on which the Humane Society's facility is located. He felt the Board could appoint an agency to handle the legislation, rather than requesting proposals. He noted that the Humane Society is currently on call 24 hours per day.

In answer to a question from Commissioner Vaux, Ms. Nelson stated that she envisioned the new facility addition being constructed separate from the existing facility.

Commissioner Vaux stated that he favored appointing the Humane Society to enforce the new legislation. Commissioner Rohrer concurred.

Mr. Woodmansee will contact the cities to determine their plans. Commissioner Vaux will contact the legislation's sponsors to determine the intent of Section 4, Subsection (7) of the proposed ordinance.

Commissioner Vaux motioned to schedule a public hearing to consider the proposed dangerous dog ordinance at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, August 11, 1987. Commissioner Rohrer seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

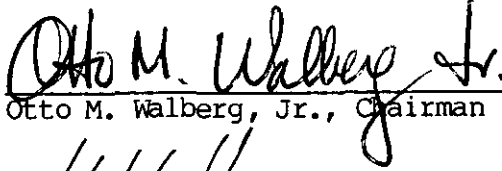
#### MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

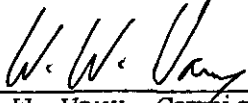
Commissioner Vaux motioned to adopt the resolution amending Resolution #10492 regarding indemnification, defense and representation of County employees and officials, to include any and all retired County officials or employees. Commissioner Rohrer seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.  
(Resolution #11268)

ADJOURNMENT

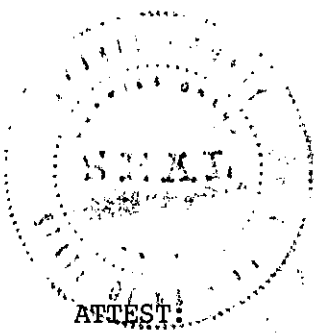
Commissioner Vaux motioned to adjourn the proceedings. Commissioner Rohrer seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

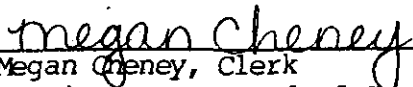
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Otto M. Walberg, Jr., Chairman

  
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W. W. Vaux, Commissioner

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Dave Rohrer, Commissioner



  
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Megan Cheney, Clerk  
Skagit County Board of Commissioners