

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, August 11, 1987

Flag Salute

9:00 a.m. Public Hearing - Dangerous Dog Ordinance.

10:00 a.m. Executive Session - Personnel, Labor Negotiations.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, August 11, 1987, with Commissioners Walberg, Vaux and Rohrer present.

PUBLIC HEARING - DANGEROUS DOG ORDINANCE.

Chairman Walberg waived the reading of the Notice of Public Hearing, as published in the Skagit Argus on July 28, 1987.

Bob Taylor, Administrative Officer, reviewed the events and work sessions which led up to this public hearing. He explained that a committee was formed to discuss establishment and proposed enforcement of the proposed dangerous dog ordinance. The committee included the following persons: Sandra Nelson, Skagit County Humane Society Shelter Manager; Colleen Hodgkin, Skagit County Humane Society Humane Officer; Diane Baker, Membership Secretary of the Skagit County Humane Society and Staff Assistant of the Commissioners' Office; Mary Kermen, Chief Civil Deputy of the Sheriff's Office; John Moffat, Chief Civil Deputy of the Prosecutor's Office; Corinne Story, Environmental Health Specialist I of the Health Department; Mike Woodmansee, Skagit County Budget and Finance Director; and Bob Taylor, Skagit County Administrative Officer.

Mr. Taylor noted that the entire text of the proposed ordinance was published in the Skagit Argus. Additionally, informational packets were mailed to all cities in Skagit County. Mr. Taylor mentioned the various sections contained in the ordinance, and particularly noted the proposed registration fees as follows:

Initial license fee for a potentially dangerous dog:	\$250.00
Annual renewal fee for a potentially dangerous dog:	\$ 50.00
Initial license fee for a dangerous dog:	\$500.00
Annual renewal fee for a dangerous dog:	\$100.00

Dave Taggert, 435 Gibraltar Road, Anacortes, felt more publicity should have been made regarding the proposed ordinance. He noted that he had also responded by letter to the Commissioners, and he felt proper enforcement of the law could be cost prohibitive. Mr. Taggert proposed various creative financing ideas, such as fundraisers, dog training classes, contests, etc.

Marie Padovan, Animal Control Officer for the City of Anacortes, explained that the Anacortes City Council had a study session last night regarding the

new State law. She felt strongly that the cities should adopt the same set of rules that the County does, to make uniform enforcement much easier.

Commissioner Vaux asked that a disposal fee of \$50 be included in Section 4, Subsection (3). This section provides for the destruction in an expeditious and humane manner by the animal control authority of any potentially dangerous dog or dangerous dog which remains impounded for a period of at least 20 days due to the failure of the owner to obtain the required license or certificate of registration (or renewal).

Mr. Moffat agreed that the \$50 disposal fee should be included in Section 4, Subsection (3).

Discussion ensued regarding the definition of a potentially dangerous dog.

Mr. Moffat pointed out to Commissioner Vaux that the \$50 disposal fee missing in Section 4, Subsection (3), was covered in Section 4, Subsection (6).

Discussion followed regarding how past known situations should be handled with regard to defining potentially dangerous and dangerous dogs.

Jackie Hanson, Animal Control Officer for the City of Mount Vernon, stated that she will automatically proclaim four dogs in Mount Vernon as potentially dangerous dogs as soon as the City of Mount Vernon adopts their ordinance, due to past histories on the four dogs.

Discussion followed regarding whether or not the dangerous dog ordinance can be retroactive.

Mr. Moffat pointed out that every dog owner who receives notification of a potentially dangerous dog or dangerous dog can appeal the matter.

Mr. Taggart felt the law should not be retroactive, because he owns a dog that was previously abused and once thought to be a potentially dangerous dog. Mr. Taggart explained, however, that he has since trained his dog to behave in an acceptable manner.

Darnell Lopez, 1927 South 17th Street, Mount Vernon, felt the ordinance should be retroactive to known incidents of injuries to children.

Commissioner Vaux asked Mr. Moffat if it would be legal to prohibit pit bulls in Skagit County.

Mr. Moffat explained that such a declaration could not legally be made.

Mary Lam, Mayor of La Conner, noted that the Town Council briefly reviewed the matter and have scheduled a more detailed discussion at their next meeting. She explained that the Town Council recently adopted a strong animal control

ordinance, and they plan to adopt the same dangerous dog ordinance that the County does. Ms. Lam favored the proposed ordinance for a number of reasons, including the protection for animals which are provoked.

Commissioner Vaux motioned to close the public hearing.

Commissioner Rohrer felt another public hearing would be in order, possibly in the evening, to allow more people to attend.

Marty Lopez thought anyone who was genuinely concerned about this matter would have made arrangements to be at this meeting.

Commissioner Walberg seconded the motion to close the public hearing.

Sandra Nelson suggested potentially dangerous and dangerous dogs be tattooed to unquestionably identify them, even if they change owners.

Marie Padovan and Jackie Hanson concurred with Ms. Nelson, and felt a County-wide tattooing program would be beneficial.

Susan Norton pointed out that people with show dogs might object to the tattooing program.

Ms. Padovan noted that potentially dangerous dogs or dangerous dogs are not allowed in competition, so that wouldn't be a problem.

Diane Baker noted a concern the Humane Society might have for a more specific description for "severe injury."

Ms. Nelson questioned why there was no confinement regulations for potentially dangerous dogs.

The Board explained that amendments to the County's dangerous dog ordinance can be made at a later date.

Mr. Taggert stated that people who dump their dogs are the ones who are vicious. It's not the animals' fault. Mr. Taggert also felt the County should have dog licenses for all dogs in the county, not just the potentially dangerous and dangerous dogs, because every dog is a potentially dangerous dog.

The motion to close the public hearing was carried unanimously.

Commissioner Vaux motioned to adopt the ordinance adopting Chapter 7.06 to the Skagit County Code relating to dangerous dogs. Commissioner Rohrer seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously. (Ordinance #11279)

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

1. Commissioner Rohrer motioned to proclaim August 24, 1987, as Cascades Job Corps Center Day in Skagit County, and urge all citizens to attend the Cascades Job Corps Center Open House and Salute to Senator Lowell Peterson to be held on Sedro-Woolley Northern State Campus, 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., August 24, 1987. Commissioner Vaux seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.
2. Paula Kvam, Coordinator of the Microfilm Center, was present to inform the Board of the results from the Request for Proposals for microfilming hardbound volumes in the custody of the Skagit County Clerk. Three R.F.P.s were sent out, and one proposal was received. Alpha Information Management was the only firm interested and they offered the following alternatives:
  - a. Perform the microfilming as requested in the R.F.P. at a cost of \$6,800; or
  - b. Perform the microfilming two pages at a time at a cost of \$4,100.

Ms. Kvam recommended the Board accept Alpha Information Management's proposal to perform the microfilming two pages at a time at a cost of \$4,100, subject to approval of film samples.

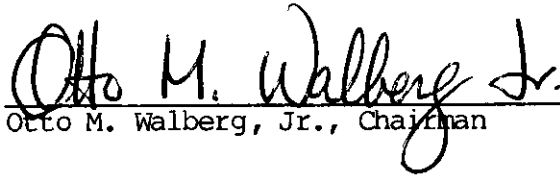
Commissioner Vaux motioned to accept Alpha Information Management's proposal to perform the microfilming two pages at a time at a cost of \$4,100, subject to approval of film samples. Commissioner Rohrer seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.


3. A brief discussion was held regarding the future plans for the Microfilm Center and its ability to handle the microfilming needs of other offices.

ADJOURNMENT

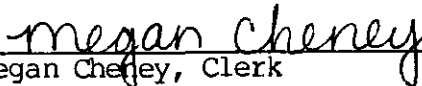
Commissioner Vaux motioned to adjourn the proceedings. Commissioner Rohrer seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
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Otto M. Walberg, Jr., Chairman

W. W. Vaux, Commissioner  
  
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Dave Rohrer, Commissioner



  
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Megan Cheney, Clerk  
Skagit County Board of Commissioners