

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Wednesday, February 17, 1988

Flag Salute

9:00 a.m. Public Hearing - Aquaculture Moratorium.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

9:30 a.m. Continued Discussion of Engrossed Substitute House Bill #645.

4:00 p.m. Discussion - Cooperative Extension Satellite Dish - Mary Kohli.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, February 17, 1988, with Commissioners Vaux, Walberg and Rohrer present.

PUBLIC HEARING - AQUACULTURE MORATORIUM.

Chairman Vaux waived the reading of the Notice of Public Hearing, as published in the Skagit Argus on February 2, and February 9, 1988.

Betsy Stevenson, Assistant Director of the Department of Planning and Community Development, noted that the Board of Commissioners adopted Resolution #11154 on March 3, 1987, placing a one-year moratorium on applications for fish net pen facilities in Skagit County, with the exception of Skagit System Cooperative, which had until May 1, 1987, to submit a new application for a net pen facility, to be reviewed and processed by Skagit County. Ms. Stevenson proceeded to outline more recent actions by the Department of Fisheries and Department of Ecology with regard to this matter.

Chairman Vaux asked those present for this public hearing to please keep their comments brief and to the subject. Chairman Vaux noted that he was of the opinion that the moratorium should be continued until final guidelines from the State were available.

Carol Ehlers, of Fidalgo Island, encouraged the Board to continue the moratorium until the final E.I.S. is complete.

Art Luthy, 1726 Goldenview Avenue, La Conner, concurred.

Dale Fisher, 1614 SneeOosh Road, La Conner, noted the complexity of the fish pen issue. He felt a lot could be learned regarding long term effects on the environment from the Japanese. Mr. Fisher favored continuation of the moratorium.

Martin Corin, of the Del Mar Association, stated the moratorium should be extended until such time as the E.I.S. is complete.

Seeing no further public comment, Commissioner Walberg motioned to close the public hearing. Commissioner Rohrer seconded the motion. The motion was

carried unanimously.

Commissioner Walberg motioned to extend the moratorium on applications for fish net pen facilities in Skagit County until June 1, 1989. Commissioner Rohrer seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

1. In accordance with action previously taken, the Board approved for signature the ordinance approving an amendment to the Skagit County zoning map to reclassify from Commercial/Limited Industrial to Residential a portion of Tract 2 of Short Plat #32-79, as requested by Tim Woiwod. (Ordinance #11492)
2. Vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer as required by R.C.W. 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by R.C.W. 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing which has been made available to the Board.

As of this date, February 17, 1988, the Board, by a unanimous vote, did approve for payment those vouchers included in the above-mentioned list and further described as follows: Vouchers #50070 through #50192 (Warrants #50070 through #50192) in the total amount of \$98,458.32. (R-8-88)

CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL #645.

Tom Karsh, Environmental Health Specialist III, presented a summarization of comments from the local Environmental Health personnel, as well as realtors and the Skagit-Island Counties Builders Association, with regard to Engrossed Substitute House Bill (E.S.H.B.) #645. He also presented a discussion of the bill as prepared by Puget Sound Water Quality Authority (P.S.W.Q.A.)

Discussion ensued regarding what impact this bill could have on Skagit County Environmental Health personnel.

Mr. Karsh stated he was more in favor than against this bill.

John Thayer, Environmental Health Specialist III, felt this bill provided a step in the right direction with regard to monitoring existing septic systems. Most local health departments are already evaluating existing systems at the time of sale (when banks or realtors are involved). This bill would standardize the forms and procedures used. Mr. Thayer noted that most health departments choose to perform the inspections with staff members, although the inspections could be contracted.

Dave Patterson stated the Realtors Association is in the process of drafting a

modification to E.S.H.B. #645. This bill would require the seller to guarantee the existing septic system to work. A fine of up to \$7,500 could be levied for non-compliance with regulations.

Discussion followed regarding the terms "failure" and "operational."

Mr. Patterson felt a standardized type of test should be available to evaluate existing systems. Mr. Patterson estimated passage of this bill would result in one to two inspections per day. Currently, most banks require inspections before approving loans for homes with existing septic systems.

Mr. Karsh informed the Board that the Environmental Health staff currently performs an average of 270 inspections per year (or approximately one per day).

Discussion followed regarding the need for ongoing maintenance and monitoring of all septic systems, not just systems for houses which are sold.

The Board decided to refrain from endorsing E.S.H.B. #645.

Commissioner Rohrer's absence for the following items was excused:

DISCUSSION - COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SATELLITE DISH - Mary Kohli.

Mary Kohli, Extension Supervisor, and Judy Littlefield, from the Cooperative Extension Office, were present for this discussion.

Mary Kohli informed the Board that Washington State University (W.S.U.) is making a one-time only offer to install an electronic video cassette recorder/television/satellite dish system in exchange for Skagit County's provision of a room, a secure location for the equipment, and repair and maintenance of the equipment. Ms. Kohli explained W.S.U. would begin providing programs, but the equipment could eventually be used for nationwide programming for the County's use. She estimated repair of the equipment would be minimal. A state-wide maintenance contract would be available to the County for a charge of \$300 per year. The County would be responsible for eventual replacement of the equipment.

Chairman Vaux stated he had no problem with the proposal, however, he did not advocate putting the County in the business of maintaining the equipment.

Commissioner Walberg noted the County had no problem with providing a hearing room and storage area for the equipment, however, on the issue of maintenance, he concurred with Commissioner Vaux that W.S.U. should provide the maintenance.

Ms. Kohli explained the equipment per county would cost W.S.U. approximately

\$5,000. She needs to know by March 1, whether Skagit County is interested in assuming maintenance responsibilities, as proposed by W.S.U.

The Board informed Ms. Kohli that Skagit County would provide a location for the equipment, if W.S.U. will provide the equipment and maintenance of the equipment.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

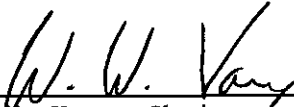
Vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer as required by R.C.W. 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by R.C.W. 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing which has been made available to the Board.

As of this date, February 17, 1988, the Board, by a majority vote, did approve for payment those vouchers included in the above-mentioned list and further described as follows: Voucher #50193 (Warrant #50193) in the total amount of \$8,678.14. (R-8-88)


ADJOURNMENT

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

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON



W. W. Vaux, Chairman

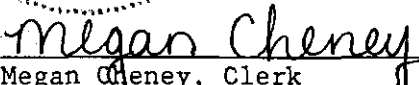


Otto M. Walberg, Jr., Commissioner



Dave Rohrer, Commissioner





Megan Cheney, Clerk
Skagit County Board of Commissioners