

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, March 22, 1988

Flag Salute

10:00 a.m. Discussion - McLean and Best Roads Intersection.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

2:00 p.m. Senior Services Department - Tim Holloran, Director:

1. Introduction of New Employee.
2. Signature - RSVP Amendments.
3. Work Session - Information and Assistance.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session with Commissioners Vaux and Walberg present. Commissioner Rohrer's absence was excused.

DISCUSSION - McLEAN AND BEST ROADS INTERSECTION.

Among those present for this discussion were the following individuals: Jay Ensley, Director of the Public Works Department; Jeff Monsen, County Engineer; Ed Hawes, Traffic Engineering Technician; Pete Walker, former Fire Protection District #2 Commissioner; Mike Roozen, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT); Brian Youngquist, EMT; Mark Watkinson, EMT; Bob Richards, McLean Road Fire Chief; and Charlie Sisson, of the County Sign Shop.

Ed Hawes thanked the McLean Road Fire Department for their two letters to the Public Works Department to call attention to this dangerous intersection.

Mr. Hawes presented various statistics he compiled relating to accidents which occurred between 1980 and 1987, as reported by the Washington State Patrol. Following is the reported accident history for the McLean Road/Best Road intersection:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Accidents</u>
1980	3
1981	2
1982	5
1983	5
1984	0
1985	2
1986	3
1987	5

Mr. Hawes noted that due to the 50 m.p.h. speed limit on McLean Road, severe injury accidents occur at this intersection. Of the total 25 accidents which occurred, 80 percent of the people approaching the intersection on Best Road failed to yield, while 20 percent failed to stop. Of those failing to yield, 60 percent were northbound, while 40 percent were southbound.

Mr. Hawes noted he also looked at the accident history for the Beaver Marsh Road's and Bradshaw Road's intersection with McLean Road. The Best Road's intersection with McLean Road had a far greater number of reported accidents,

In an effort to address possible solutions to this dangerous intersection, Jeff Monsen asked the following questions:

1. Why do people stop and then proceed into the intersection in front of an oncoming vehicle?
2. What about the speed of the vehicles at this intersection?

Various possible solutions were discussed.

Mr. Monsen noted the State Highway Department suggests buttons on the shoulders of the road would give drivers something to focus on near the intersection.

Bob Richards felt many of the accidents involved elderly people.

Mr. Hawes noted the statistics did not indicate a preponderance of any age group over the seven-year period studied.

Mr. Richards thought maybe the elderly can't perceive the speed at which an oncoming vehicle may be traveling.

Mr. Monsen noted that a reduction of the speed limit at the intersection could actually create accidents of a different nature, such as accidents caused by vehicles passing other vehicles actually heeding the slower speed limit.

Mr. Hawes noted Cliff Gross, who owns the house on the corner of the intersection, has requested the County install some sort of barrier around his house to protect him from out-of-control vehicles during an accident.

Mr. Walker asked if a signal light was being considered. He suggested Mr. Monsen contact Kitsap County regarding their use of such a light in a dangerous intersection.

Chairman Vaux suggested installation of a red stop light on Best Road and a yellow caution light on McLean Road. He also suggested installation of rumble strips on the road to call attention to an approaching vision problem. Chairman Vaux suggested installation of a "Dangerous Intersection Ahead" sign.

Mr. Monsen noted Mr. Hawes had previously suggested a sign be installed asking people to turn on their headlights through the dangerous intersection.

Chairman Vaux suggested rumble strips be installed all the way across the roadway, so people couldn't swerve around them.

Brian Youngquist felt reducing the speed limit would reduce the severity of injuries incurred during accidents at this intersection.

Mike Roozen noted sometimes certain colors of vehicles blend in with the surroundings, making it difficult to view approaching vehicles. He concurred with Mr. Youngquist that reducing the speed would save lives.

Mr. Richards suggested asking motorists to turn their headlights on while also reducing the speed through this intersection.

Mark Watkinson stated he lives in the 35 m.p.h. zone near the intersection of Beaver Marsh Road with McLean Road. He estimated less than 10 percent of the motorists comply with the reduced speed limit.

Mr. Youngquist noted motorists generally do slow down, however they slow down to 50 m.p.h., rather than 35 m.p.h.

Mr. Monsen stated he prefers to install reasonable signs. He did not approve of the installation of a 35 m.p.h. reduced speed limit sign, with the hope that motorists would actually slow down to 50 m.p.h.

Chairman Vaux suggested the Public Works Department compile a list of options from the least severe to the most severe possible action in order to improve the safety at the intersection of Best Road with McLean Road.

Mr. Youngquist suggested possibly the County could remove sight-obstructive landscaping near the house at the intersection, and replace it instead with some sort of barrier to protect against out-of-control vehicles.

Mr. Watkinson asked for some sort of timetable to determine when improvements will be implemented.

Chairman Vaux instructed the Public Works Department to construct some immediate improvement to the intersection by April 11, 1988.

Charlie Sisson noted it may take two weeks for buttons to arrive, if they are not already in stock. Also, the road may require heating with a torch, prior to application of the buttons.

On a related matter, Mr. Monsen outlined the proposed improvements to the intersection of La Conner-Whitney Road with McLean Road.

Mr. Walker asked Chairman Vaux what the possibility was for the Department of Transportation's improvement of the intersection of Memorial Highway and Highway 20.

Chairman Vaux responded that improvement of the intersection was not expected in the near future.

The Board thanked everyone for attending this discussion.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

1. Commissioner Walberg motioned to authorize out-of-state travel for the following individuals to attend a Road Builders Clinic in Moscow, Idaho, in late March, 1988:
 - a. Jeffrey Monsen, County Engineer;
 - b. Robin LaRue, Design and Construction Section Manager; and
 - c. Charles Tewalt, Superintendent of Operations Division.

Chairman Vaux seconded the motion. The motion was carried and so ordered.

2. Commissioner Walberg motioned to enter into a contract between the Skagit County Office of Assigned Counsel and Stephen C. Schutt, P.O. Box 1032, Anacortes, Washington 98221, for representation of Mr. Dale Barrington in the dependencies of his children. Cause numbers in Skagit Superior Court are 87-7-00037-1 and 87-7-00038-0. Mr. Schutt will be compensated by the sum of \$300 up to a maximum of eight hours, plus the sum of \$40 per hour thereafter. This contract shall be effective March 21, 1988, through December 31, 1988. Chairman Vaux seconded the motion. The motion was carried and so ordered.

SENIOR SERVICES DEPARTMENT - Tim Holloran, Director:

1. Introduction of New Employee.

Kristie Rollag-Royce, Nutrition Project Coordinator, introduced Dianne Crane, who will be assessing home-delivered meal clients.

2. Signature - RSVP Amendments.

Tim Holloran, Director of the Senior Services Department, presented the following ACTION Grant Amendments for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program for the Board's approval:

- a. Grant #440-0593/08, Amendment #1, for the budget period from January 1, 1988, through December 31, 1988, acknowledging Grant Condition #12 regarding interest earned on Federal funds. However, Mr. Holloran explained that accompanying this amendment was a memo requesting that future ACTION Federal funds be forwarded to Skagit County on a reimbursement basis.
- b. Grant #440-0593/08, Amendment #2, for the budget period from January 1, 1988, through December 31, 1988, transferring Federal funds between existing categories to reflect a reorganization of staffing patterns.

The Board approved for signature the above-described two amendments.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

1. The Board approved for signature agreements between the Skagit County Parks and Recreation Department and the following individuals for basketball referee services from March 19, 1988, through March 31, 1988, at the rate of \$10 per game:
 - a. Darcy Weisner, 405 N. Caroline, Burlington, Washington 98233.
 - b. Brent Williams, c/o Skagit Valley College Athletic Department.
 - c. John Wujick, Arlington, Washington 98223.
 - d. Fred Lee, 1755 Ridgewood, Mount Vernon, Washington 98273.
2. The Board approved for signature an agreement with the Economic Development Association of Skagit County for the continued proactive market of Skagit County to potential business and industry, as well as other related services. This agreement is effective January 1, 1988, through December 31, 1988. Compensation shall be in accordance with the following payment schedule:

February 28, 1988	\$2,000
April 30, 1988	2,000
June 30, 1988	2,000
August 31, 1988	2,000
TOTAL	\$8,000

The County agrees to contribute an additional \$2,000 upon receipt of proper documentation, when EDASC's private membership contributions total \$10,000; an additional \$2,000 upon receipt of proper documentation, when EDASC's private membership contributions total \$15,000; and an additional \$2,000 upon receipt of proper documentation, when EDASC's private

membership contributions total \$20,000. The total County contribution during the term of this agreement shall not exceed \$14,000.

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



ATTEST:

Megan Cheney
Megan Cheney, Clerk
Skagit County Board of Commissioners

W. W. Vaux, Chairman

Otto M. Walberg, Jr.
Otto M. Walberg, Jr., Commissioner

Dave Rohrer
Dave Rohrer, Commissioner