

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, July 26, 1988

Flag Salute

- 9:00 a.m. Public Hearing - Amending Skagit County Code - Establishing a Claim Filing Requirement Prior to Commencing an Action for Damages Against the County.
- 10:00 a.m. Planning Commission Referred Item - Sign Ordinance.
- 1:30 p.m. Parks and Recreation Department - Jon Aarstad, Director:
1. Resolution - Dedicating Field at Playfields to Otto M. Walberg, Jr.
 2. Signature - Lease Agreement for Northern State Hospital Property Phase II.
 3. Signature - Addendum to Phase I Lease Agreement for Northern State Hospital Property.
 4. Call for Bids - Sub-Lease Portion of Northern State Property for Grazing.
 5. Miscellaneous Items.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, July 26, 1988, with Commissioners Vaux and Rohrer present.

PUBLIC HEARING - AMENDING SKAGIT COUNTY CODE - ESTABLISHING A CLAIM FILING REQUIREMENT PRIOR TO COMMENCING AN ACTION FOR DAMAGES AGAINST THE COUNTY.

Chairman Vaux waived the reading of the Notice of Public Hearing, as published in The Skagit Argus on July 12, 1988.

Mike Woodmansee, Budget and Finance Director, explained that adoption of the proposed ordinance would formally establish a process for the filing of claims prior to commencing actions for damages against the County. He explained that the Skagit County Prosecutor's Office initiated this matter.

Don Bockelman, 2863 South Skagit Highway, Sedro-Woolley, stated he was opposed to the proposed ordinance which would require a claim for damages be filed with the County Auditor at least 60 days prior to commencing a lawsuit against the County. Mr. Bockelman asked the Board to postpone a decision on this matter until the vacancy on the Board could be filled.

John Moffat, Chief Civil Deputy, explained that the proposed ordinance would formally establish a process by which the County would have time to investigate claims for damages prior to commencement of lawsuits, in order to have the opportunity to settle claims prior to action in court. This would

save both the County and the claimants money. At this point, there is no state statute regarding this, and therefore, counties and cities are individually dealing with this matter. This would pertain to all claims filed following adoption of the proposed ordinance.

Debbie Aldrich, 1451 Bradley Road, Bow, asked if this proposed ordinance was a move to prevent claims against the incinerator.

Chairman Vaux responded that the proposed ordinance was not intended to prevent claims against any action of the County.

Bob Green felt the County was in the position of turning down claims for damages to begin with.

Mr. Moffat explained the proposed ordinance had nothing to do with any current situation.

Mr. Bockelman asked if the County has ever negotiated settlements without going to court.

Chairman Vaux stated that the County has negotiated settlements without going to court.

Discussion followed regarding savings to both the County and the claimant.

Mr. Bockelman found the proposed process to be another impediment and way to inhibit people from becoming involved in County government.

Mr. Moffat again explained the purpose of the claims process is to save the County money.

Mr. Bockelman felt the proposed process should be an alternative which a citizen could voluntarily decide to follow.

Mr. Moffat explained that the only burden on the claimant will be to fill out a claim for damages form and file the form with the County Auditor.

Commissioner Rohrer motioned to close the public hearing.

Commissioner Rohrer's motion died for lack of a second.

At Chairman Vaux's suggestion, Commissioner Rohrer motioned to continue the public hearing until 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, August 9, 1988. Chairman Vaux seconded the motion. The motion was carried and so ordered.

PLANNING COMMISSION REFERRED ITEM - SIGN ORDINANCE.

This item was continued from Tuesday, June 28, 1988. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the proposed sign ordinance with a vote of 9 to 0.

Steve Wood, Director of the Department of Planning and Community Development, explained that two or three work sessions were held on this matter, followed by a Planning Commission public hearing. This proposed ordinance would govern the placement of off-premise signs. Mr. Wood also explained that Jeff Monsen, County Engineer, felt the unobstructive sight distance at 300 feet might not be adequate for roads posted with higher speed limits. However, this portion can be amended in the future.

Mr. Wood also noted, that if this ordinance is adopted, someone will have to go out in the field to inventory existing signs.

Commissioner Rohrer motioned to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission and adopt the sign ordinance as proposed. Chairman Vaux seconded the motion. The motion was carried and so ordered.

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT - Jon Aarstad, Director:

1. Resolution - Dedicating Field at Playfields to Otto M. Walberg, Jr.

A resolution proposing the dedication of Field Number 1 at the Skagit Playfields was read by Jon Aarstad, Director of Parks and Recreation. The field will be named the Otto M. Walberg, Jr. field in memory of Otto's achievements and support of public government. A formal dedication ceremony will be held in the near future.

Commissioner Rohrer moved to adopt the resolution to name Field Number 1 at the Skagit Playfields the Otto M. Walberg, Jr. field. Commissioner Vaux second the motion, which passed unanimously. (Resolution #11659)

Mr. Aarstad also presented a copy of a letter sent to Kim Walberg from the Washington Association of Counties expressing their appreciation of Otto's dedication to the public.

2. Signature: Lease Agreement for Northern State Hospital Property Phase II

After discussion, Commissioner Rohrer moved to sign the lease agreement for the Phase II Property at Northern State Hospital. Commissioner Vaux seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Signature: Addendum to Phase I Lease Agreement for Northern State Hospital Property

Dave Hough of the Planning and Community Development Department presented the Addendum to the Phase I Lease Agreement for the Northern State Hospital property. After discussion, Commissioner Vaux moved to approve the addendum to Phase I, Commissioner Rohrer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Call for Bids: Sub-Lease Portion of Northern State Property for Grazing

The call for bids to sub-lease a portion of Northern State Hospital for grazing was delayed until Monday, August 1, 1988.

5. Miscellaneous

- a. Approval for use of a van was given to the Parks and Recreation Department to be used during the week of the Skagit County Fair.
- b. The Board was given information concerning presales of tickets for Fair entertainment.
- c. The Board was informed about progress being made at Friday Creek Park.
- d. The following contracts were signed by the Board of Commissioners:

Vince Zizzo, Soccer Official, \$20.00 per game.
Brian Cooper, Golf Lessons, \$3.00/youth.
Rosemary Ploeg, Volleyball Camp, \$5.00/hour.

MISCELLANEOUS

In accordance with action previously taken, the Board approved for signature a contract with Lakeside Industries for reconstruction of a portion of Fir Island and Chilberg Roads.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Rohrer 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
W. W. Vaux, Chairman

Dave Rohrer
Dave Rohrer, Commissioner

Kimberly Walberg
Commissioner

Megan Cheney
Megan Cheney, Clerk
Skagit County Board of Commissioners