

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Monday, January 23, 1989

8:30 a.m. Work Session - Road Superintendent/Supervisors.

Flag Salute

9:00 a.m. Board of Health:

1. Update on Enforcement Activities Relative to the Public Water Supply System at the Big Lake Resort Camping Vehicle Park and Carousel Apartments.
2. Discussion of Modifications to the State Board of Health Food Service Sanitation Regulations.

10:00 a.m. 1. Resolution - Appointing County Treasurer.
2. Discussion - Detox Funding.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

10:30 a.m. Public Works Department - Jay Ensley, Director:

1. Call for Public Hearing - Road Establishment - Channel Drive.
2. Signature - City/County Agreements:
 - a. Colony Road Railroad Crossing.
 - b. North Legg Road Railroad Crossing.
3. Continuation of Public Hearing - Vacation of Portion of County Right-of-Way - Pinelli Road (to begin in Hearing Room and continue at the site).

7:00 p.m. Public Meeting - Chilberg Road Construction Project. (The location of this meeting is the Rexville Grange.)

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, January 23, 1989, with Commissioners Dave Rohrer, Ruth Wylie and W. W. Vaux present.

BOARD OF HEALTH:

1. Update on Enforcement Activities Relative to the Public Water Supply System at the Big Lake Resort Camping Vehicle Park and Carousel Apartments.

Present for this item were the following: Jim Stidman, owner of the Big Lake Resort; and Don Semrau, Professional Engineer and Surveyor, of the firm of Semrau & Lisser.

Lorna Haycox, Environmental Health Specialist II, presented a schematic design of the proposed upgrade to the Big Lake Resort water system. Ms. Haycox explained the proposed design will be submitted to the State for approval, and the State has 30 days in which to respond.

Referring to the January 1, 1989, deadline set by the Board for the schematic design, Commissioner Vaux asked why deadlines didn't mean anything for this project.

Mr. Stidman explained they tried to design the system sooner, but these projects take time.

Mr. Semrau explained some of the problems encountered.

Ms. Haycox asked if the State responds by March 1, could the system be installed by April 1, 1989?

Mr. Stidman responded that the tank is on order and should be here within one week. He is also working to obtain financing for this project. He noted that monthly testing of water samples are producing satisfactory test results.

Ms. Haycox proposed to update the Board again in mid-March.

2. Discussion of Modifications to the State Board of Health Food Service Sanitation Regulations.

John Thayer, Environmental Health Supervisor, explained the State Board of Health Rules and Regulations for Food Service Sanitation are undergoing a second draft revision at this time. Mr. Thayer reviewed significant changes proposed. Mr. Thayer reported that the County must enforce the State regulations, although the County can adopt more stringent regulations, should the Board desire to do so.

Commissioner Vaux expressed disapproval over proposed major revisions to the plan review section to include menu review as an integral part of the plan review process.

Commissioner Wylie concurred.

Mr. Thayer explained a restaurant must have the necessary equipment and capabilities to prepare various foods on their menu, or the public's health can be at risk.

Discussion ensued.

The Board requested Mr. Thayer relay their concern regarding menu review to the Environmental Health Director's Ad Hoc Food Committee, of which Mr. Thayer is the Chairman.

Mr. Thayer thanked the Board for their comments.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Ken Willis, Environmental Health Specialist II, explained Jerry Libolt, of Western Services, applied for and received permission in 1988 to operate a sludge utilization site on 50 acres located at Best and Young Roads in Mount Vernon. Western Services contracts with the Cities of Mount Vernon and La Conner and with Shelter Bay to remove digested sludge from their sewage treatment plants on a routine basis. Typically sludge utilization sites are permitted to apply sludge only through September of each year. Due to an unforeseen situation with Whatcom County, Mr. Libolt asked to apply sludge past the September 30 date for this site. Mr. Willis explained that he allowed continued operation of the site during the winter at a greatly reduced application rate.

Responding to a complaint, Mr. Willis visited the site on January 18, and found the site to be saturated to the point that sludge could no longer be applied in a beneficial manner. Mr. Willis ordered that sludge no longer be applied to the site until soil and weather conditions improve. He noted that the site may be unusable through March or April, 1989.

Mr. Willis noted that among those persons present were the following: Mr. Libolt; Mayor Ray Reep of Mount Vernon; John Wiseman, City Engineer for Mount Vernon; and Chuck Saunders, Superintendent of the Mount Vernon Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Mr. Willis noted that all of the cities desperately need storage facilities to be able to weather out these extremely wet times of the year. A lagoon facility, similar to a dairy waste lagoon, would provide a solution.

Mr. Willis summarized the major concerns of sludge. When used properly, sludge is very beneficial to the soil. He noted that all of the municipal sludge is very clean and suitable for agricultural application.

Commissioner Vaux asked what was the anticipated solution several months ago if this situation arose.

Mr. Willis stated he was unaware of any plans when the permit was extended. Last winter was mild compared to this winter. Mr. Willis explained he referred the City of Mount Vernon to a local landowner who has in the past expressed interest in receiving sludge for his large parcel of land.

The City of Mount Vernon only has approximately seven to ten days of storage remaining in their existing storage units.

Mr. Libolt explained a lagoon would give wintertime storage; however, new regulations to be effective November, 1989, will govern locational standards, and their current site may not meet those standards. He also explained that

he asked Mr. Willis to withdraw his permit prior to being ordered not to apply additional sludge. Mr. Libolt stated since the County is the lead agency on solid waste, he felt the County should take action regarding storage for sludge possibly on County-owned property.

Gerald Faller, 1422 Bennett Road, Mount Vernon, stated the water level has always been very high. He asked how much sludge can you put on an area.

Chris Knutzen stated he used to own Mr. Libolt's property. He felt the proposed lagoon would bring odor to the area, and such a facility would be better suited in an isolated area.

Mr. Libolt stated Western Services isn't interested in locating a lagoon on the Best Road site. That site was purchased for farming.

Commissioner Vaux saw a need to instruct Mr. Willis to work with Mount Vernon, La Conner and Shelter Bay to locate a suitable site to receive sludge immediately.

Mayor Reep stated they will be reviewing Sedro-Woolley's sludge application method of injecting sludge into the soil.

Mr. Willis explained they also need to look toward developing a long-term solution to the problem. He noted that years ago he contacted Forest Service representatives, who were quite interested in receiving sludge, however, the hauling distance proved to be a drawback.

Bill Shears, representing Shelter Bay, stated Shelter Bay also needs relief soon.

Mr. Willis said La Conner is also in a desperate situation.

Mr. Wiseman asked Mr. Willis to also investigate the possibility of incinerating sludge.

The Board instructed Mr. Willis to help find relief for all of the communities in need.

1. RESOLUTION - APPOINTING COUNTY TREASURER.

In accordance with action previously taken, the Board approved for signature the resolution appointing Dan O'Donnell to the office of Skagit County Treasurer, effective January 23, 1989. (Resolution #11909)

2. DISCUSSION - DETOX FUNDING.

The following persons were present for this discussion: JoAnn Angevine, Human Services Coordinator; and Alan Erickson, Director of the Skagit County Council

on Alcoholism.

Ms. Angevine explained that she had previously requested an increased contribution to the Skagit County Council on Alcoholism from the cities and Skagit County who receive liquor tax revenues. Ms. Angevine had requested contributions be increased from 2 percent to 7 percent to allow adequate operation of the detox facility.

Commissioner Vaux noted that the Cities of Mount Vernon, Anacortes and Sedro-Woolley have increased their contributions only 2 percent to a total of 4 percent.

Ms. Angevine stated she understood the City of Burlington would be doing the same. She requested the Board consider increasing Skagit County's contribution to 4 percent as well. Based on 1988 figures, a rough estimate of 4 percent of liquor tax revenues would equal approximately \$3,774 for 1989.

Commissioner Vaux asked Mr. Erickson if an increase to 4 percent will allow the detox facility to operate adequately.

Mr. Erickson informed the Board that the Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Treatment and Support Act (ADATSA) funding has been lost. He relayed circumstances which have worked against the detox facility's continued operation. Mr. Erickson hoped the Legislature would restore ADATSA funding.

In answer to Commissioner Vaux's question, Mr. Erickson stated his Board of Directors has ordered that detox beds be decreased to only four beds if additional funding is not received from the communities.

Commissioner Wylie stated that money received from the sale of alcohol should go to support the treatment of the problem created by alcohol.

It was noted that approximately \$25,000 in additional funds is needed to add two detox beds for one year.

Ms. Angevine explained that 2 percent of liquor tax revenue must be used for treatment of alcoholism, as mandated by law.

Following additional discussion, Commissioner Vaux requested two weeks' time to contact the cities.

The Board will meet with the various City Councils to discuss this matter additionally.

Mr. Erickson noted that by far the largest percentage of clients are from Mount Vernon. He also requested the Board prepare a letter to the local Legislators asking for reinstatement of ADATSA funding. He presented several facts sheets regarding ADATSA for the Board's review.

Mr. Erickson will prepare a letter for the Board's approval and signature.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

1. Commissioner Vaux motioned to approve the following Petitions for Property Tax Refunds, as recommended by the Skagit County Assessor and Acting Treasurer:
 - a. Ellen Covey, 508 Mobile Drive, Mount Vernon, WA 98273, in the amount of \$23.66, due to senior citizen exemption. (#005388)
 - b. Estate of Laura Pilkenton and Lorraine Pilkenton, 778 Hobson Road, Bow, WA 98232, in the amount of \$1,839.63, due to manifest error. (#012288)

Commissioner Wylie seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

2. Commissioner Vaux motioned to adopt the resolution ordering that the salaries of all non-union employees, exclusive of elected officials and County Commissioners, be increased 3.00 percent, effective January 1, 1989. The resolution further orders non-union employees be provided a medical plan, dental plan, life insurance plan and vision care plan. Commissioner Wylie seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously. (Resolution #11910)

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT - Jay Ensley, Director:

1. Call for Public Hearing - Road Establishment - Channel Drive.

Commissioner Vaux motioned to adopt the resolution calling for a public hearing to be held at 1:30 p.m., on Monday, February 13, 1989, to consider establishment of a portion of Channel Drive as a County road. Commissioner Wylie seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously. (Resolution #11911)

This public hearing will be held on the northern portion of Channel Drive.

2. Signature - City/County Agreements:
 - a. Colony Road Railroad Crossing.
 - b. North Legg Road Railroad Crossing.

The Board approved for signature Department of Transportation City/County Agreements for the Colony Road railroad crossing and for the North Legg Road railroad crossing. Both projects will involve the installation of automatic flashing light traffic control devices with gates and motion sensing devices.

3. Continuation of Public Hearing - Vacation of Portion of County Right-of-Way - Pinelli Road.

Jay Ensley, Director of the Public Works Department, briefly reviewed the situation. He explained that in 1988, Bill Ruyle petitioned the Board to vacate an unused County right-of-way through his property for the old alignment of Pinelli Road located in Section 8, Township 35 North, Range 7 East, W.M. According to County records, the Public Works Department determined the right-of-way to be 40 feet in width and approximately 665 feet in length. The Public Works Department had recommended that the vacation be granted if Mr. Ruyle would provide a 60-foot right-of-way on the alignment of the existing Pinelli Road as it passes through Mr. Ruyle's property. The right-of-way would extend to the north line of the southeast quarter of Section 8, Township 35 North, Range 7 East, W.M., as to prevent land locking of property lying north of Mr. Ruyle's property.

Mr. Ensley explained that Mr. Ruyle is not willing to deed to the County the required width of right-of-way along the existing alignment of the Pinelli Road. He feels a maximum of 32-feet of right-of-way is necessary.

George Theodoratus and Bob Boudinot, of Leonard and Boudinot, Inc., the engineering and surveying firm representing Skagit County Water District #1, were present for this meeting.

Mr. Theodoratus explained that Skagit County Water District #1 has been granted an easement for a water line across Mr. Ruyle's property. Mr. Zeidner, however, who owns property north of Mr. Ruyle, has refused to grant an easement for the water line until the County has established legal access to his property.

Mr. Boudinot explained this petitioned vacation has delayed the water line construction. However, the water district does have the power of eminent domain, and can institute condemnation proceedings to obtain the required easement.

Chairman Vaux announced that John Ward, attorney for Mr. Zeidner, was present earlier and announced he wouldn't be at the site today, but would be present for the next meeting regarding this matter.

At this time, the meeting was continued to the site on Pinelli Road.

The continued public hearing regarding the vacation of a portion of County right-of-way known as Pinelli Road was reconvened with the following present: Commissioners Rohrer, Wylie and Vaux; Jay Ensley, Director of the Public Works Department; Jeff Monsen, County Engineer; Mary Cherberg, Office Engineer of the Public Works Department; and Bill Ruyle, petitioner.

The Board heard concerns from Mr. Ruyle. Mr. Ruyle still preferred granting only 32 feet of right-of-way, rather than the 40 feet staked by the County survey crew.

Discussion continued about possible future usage of this roadway and area development.

The public hearing was continued until 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 24, 1989, in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

PUBLIC MEETING - CHILBERG ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECT.

The following staff members were present for this meeting at the Rexville Grange: Jeff Monsen, Skagit County Engineer; Robin LaRue, Section Manager - Design and Construction; and Chet Reid, Civil Engineer.

Mr. Monsen explained the purpose of this meeting was to discuss options for the reconstruction of Chilberg Road from the Best Road intersection to the curve south of Joe Fohn's farm.

Mr. Monsen outlined briefly Proposal #1: Improve curve south of Fohn's farm to 35 m.p.h., and widen roadway to 34 feet on existing alignment.

Mr. LaRue noted that the County currently owns enough right-of-way except where major re-design of the roadway would be necessary.

Mr. Monsen noted the estimated cost of Proposal #1 was between \$150,000 and \$175,000.

Mr. Monsen outlined Proposal #2: Improve curve south of Fohn's farm to 35 m.p.h., widen roadway to 34-foot finish, realign along Rudene Road, construct turn lanes on Best Road, and construct a cul-de-sac at Chilberg and Best Roads. The estimated cost of Proposal #2 was between \$150,000 and \$175,000.

Curtis Johnson, 1773 Dodge Valley Road, asked why they proposed a 35 m.p.h. curve approaching a stop sign. He asked if it was their philosophy to give Chilberg Road preference over Best Road.

Mr. Monsen responded that consideration is given as to which road is more conducive to stopping.

Mr. C. Johnson suggested Best Road be realigned to meet Chilberg Road at a 90 degree angle.

David Deyo, 1199 Valentine Road, proposed the elimination of a portion of Chilberg Road as a through road.

Mr. Monsen explained that would be the intent of Proposal #2.

Don Parry, 1762 Chilberg Road, asked if the same amount of traffic used Chilberg Road in both directions.

Mr. Monsen responded that was the case.

Phil Jennings, 1610 Best Road inquired about the speed limit around the curve at the end of Pleasant Ridge. He stated he would like to be able to gain speed for the hill.

Mr. Parry noted that the curve by Fohn's farm is dangerously covered with frost often and, therefore, it shouldn't be posted at a very high speed.

Mr. Monsen explained they typically design roads to at least a speed of 35 m.p.h.

Mr. Monsen outlined Proposal #3: Improve curve south of Fohn's farm to 35 m.p.h., widen roadway to 34-foot finish, and realign and construct new roadway to Calhoun Road intersection. The estimated cost of this proposal is \$250,000 to \$270,000.

Mr. C. Johnson favored this proposal.

Mr. Parry and Joe Fohn, 1176 Chilberg Road, concurred that many accidents occur around the corner by Fohn's farm.

Barb Lesourd, 1181 Chilberg Road, stated she has witnessed many accidents on that corner.

David Alvord, of La Conner, asked how Valentine Road would be impacted.

Mr. Monsen stated he was open to suggestions regarding that matter at this time.

Cathy Savage, 1195 Valentine Road, asked how she would cross Best Road to turn onto Valentine Road if there was oncoming traffic.

Mr. Monsen explained a turn lane might be provided or the paved shoulder could be used to move out of traffic.

Kirby Johnson, 1848 Chilberg Road, suggested moving Fohn's dike and slough east of the road.

Mr. Monsen outlined Proposal #4: Improve curve south of Fohn's farm to 35 m.p.h., improve and widen roadway to 34-foot finish on existing alignment, and construct bicycle by-pass to Valentine Road. The estimated cost of this proposal is \$160,000 to \$185,000.

This proposal did not receive a favorable response.

Francis Mesman, 1172 Chilberg Road, stated he did not favor Proposal #4.

With regard to Proposal #3, Mr. Deyo expressed several concerns, and then proposed another option across Fohn's property.

Mr. C. Johnson proposed a four-way stop at the intersection of Best Road and Calhoun Road.

Vince Sellen, 605 Maple, La Conner, was in favor of Proposal #3 for the benefit of school bus safety.

Arnie Fohn requested bicycles be kept off Chilberg Road.

Ray Taipale, 1770 Valentine, suggested extending Calhoun Road west until it connects with La Conner-Whitney Road.

John Summers, 1294C Summers Drive, noted that truck and automobile traffic is increasing, and the speed needs to be controlled.

Ms. Savage suggested the word "STOP" be painted on the roads near stop signs.

Mr. A. Fohn opposed the 35 m.p.h. curve improvement on all four proposals, because that would encourage motorists to drive faster in a dangerous area.

Discussion ensued regarding the accidents occurring at the intersection of Best and McLean Roads.

Mr. K. Johnson stated he favored Mr. Deyo's idea, but felt it used too much agricultural land from Fohn's farm.

Various options were discussed.

Lewis Hill, 1715 Best Road, said he did not want traffic coming to a stop in front of his house.

It was the general consensus of those present that money would be wasted if the corner north of the ridge wasn't improved.

Alaina Knoblauch, 1703 Best Road, stated she did not want to see a four-way stop at the intersection of Best and Calhoun Roads.

Philip Jennings, 1610 Best Road, Commissioner of Drainage District #15, asked if the Drainage District would be contacted regarding relocation of a drainage ditch.

Commissioner Vaux assured Mr. Jennings that they would.

Mr. Monsen concurred.

Commissioner Wylie noted that traffic volumes will only increase in the future.

Mr. K. Johnson proposed Chilberg Road cut across Fohn's farm beginning at Best Road, south of Calhoun Road. This proposal received favorable comments from those present. (The specific location of the Best Road/Chilberg Road intersection was not specified.)

Arlene Summers, 1294C Summers Drive, suggested the speed limit be lowered on the entire road, especially coming off the bridge.

Mr. Monsen pointed out that the Sheriff's Office is becoming more active in traffic enforcement. He asked residents to report problem areas to the Sheriff's Office or the Public Works Department.

Mr. Monsen explained various road improvements proposed for the area.

Steve Egbers, 1750 Chilberg Road (corner of Valentine and Chilberg Roads) said speed is a problem at that intersection. He favored elimination of the "Y" in the road. He also suggested keeping the speed on corners down to 25 m.p.h.

Mr. C. Johnson asked the County to take a stand against signs which just confuse people trying to figure out which way to go.

Mrs. Lesourd noted the problem with the tulip stands at the "Y" blocking traffic.

Chairman Rohrer introduced Cliff Butler, Road Supervisor for District #2.

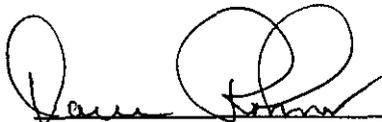
Commissioner Vaux explained the County did pass a sign ordinance recently, which contained a two-year compliance clause for existing signs.

The Board thanked everyone for attending this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

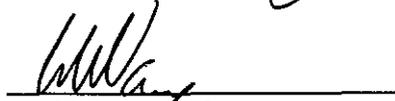
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Dave Rohrer, Chairman



Ruth Wylie, Commissioner



W. W. Vaux, Commissioner



ATTEST:



Megan Cheney, Clerk
Skagit County Board of Commissioners