

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Thursday, April 20, 1989

- 9:00 a.m. On-Site Inspection of Resource Recovery Facility.
- 10:00 a.m. Continuation - Consideration of Final Acceptance - Resource Recovery Facility.
- 10:30 a.m. Work Session - Public Transportation.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met on Thursday, April 20, 1989 in regular session, with Commissioners Dave Rohrer, Ruth Wylie and W.W. Vaux present.

CONTINUATION - CONSIDERATION OF FINAL ACCEPTANCE - RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY.

Chairman Rohrer explained that an on-site inspection of the Resource Recovery Facility had been conducted this morning. A member of the audience was given permission to videotape the proceedings.

Commissioner Vaux then made a statement. He thanked the Citizens Alert, saying that because of their concerns and questions, a better plant has been constructed. He applauded the following key decisions made during the inception phase of the incinerator:

- 1) Public ownership of the facility,
- 2) Use of rotary kiln technology,
- 3) Use of acid gas scrubbers,
- 4) A contractual relationship with Wright Schuchart Harbor Company.

Commissioner Vaux then went on to list the future issues that will be facing the Board following acceptance of the facility as follows:

- 1) Resolution of contract differences with Wright Schuchart Harbor,
- 2) Continuation of plant monitoring,
- 3) Development of recycling plans,
- 4) Siting of a new land fill, the permit expiring for the Inman Landfill in July of 1995.

He then thanked the Public Works Department, as well as the Wright Schuchart Harbor Company for their patience and perseverance.

Commissioner Vaux then motioned to approve the Certificate of Final Acceptance of R.W. Beck and Associates.

Commissioner Wylie seconded the motion and made a statement. She related that the public hearings regarding the Resource Recovery Facility were all well attended and educational. She reiterated that the Resource Recovery Facility will not be the entire solution to solid waste disposal, and promised to work on efforts to develop a recycling plan, as well as alternative

packaging of goods. She voiced her confidence and support for the decisions made today.

Chairman Rohrer stated that he was glad to see the involvement of Citizen's Alert in the proceedings. He expressed pride for being one of the first counties in the state to construct a resource recovery facility.

Lacinda Etherington, Mount Vernon resident and member of Citizen's Alert, thanked the Board for their appreciation of Citizen Alert's involvement and pledged to continue to monitor the actions of the Board regarding the Resource Recovery Facility.

Don Bockelman asked how, since the ash obtained from the incinerator is hazardous, can the Board justify their "illegal" disposal methods.

Commissioner Vaux responded that the Department of Ecology has not determined the ash to be hazardous, and will not make a final determination until one year of operation has elapsed.

Mr. Bockelman went on to say that D.O.E. rules state that if any batch of ash fails testing, it must be disposed of in an approved facility, and that this is not being done.

Commissioner Vaux responded that the County has not engaged in any activity that is not sanctioned by the D.O.E.

There being no further comment, Chairman Rohrer called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

**WORK SESSION - PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.**

Chairman Rohrer stated that this work session was called to discuss public interest in a County public transportation system.

Commissioner Vaux drew the audience's attention to a flow chart of The Process for the Formation of a Public Transportation Benefit Area (PTBA) contained in a handout provided by the Board. The handout listed options compiled by the Department of Transportation's Office Manager, James Slakey, for public transportation in Skagit County. Commissioner Vaux demonstrated where the steps necessary to form a PTBA and its governing board takes approximately eight months. He stated that he favors some type of public transportation system, and feels that there is public support for such a system.

John Smith, Skagit Council on Aging (SCOA) Transportation Commission Chairman, stated that he felt that the Public Opinion Questionnaire was improperly presented; that the design put forth was too "grandiose", and that because of this, not enough response was received. He stated that transportation funding for the elderly and handicapped is drying up and that SCOA encourages a Public Transportation Improvement Conference, and would be willing to lend help and support.

Barb Edwards, a Mount Vernon resident, introduced herself as a facilitator for an informal public transportation committee, which, although it has no formal meetings, maintains phone contact. She asserted that the issue is not strictly one of transportation, but also of unemployment, and that a public transportation system would improve the financial status of Skagit County. She stated that she would like to be the facilitator of a citizens' advisory committee and would like to see a speaker's bureau established through training from the Department of Transportation.

Bill Taylor, a Mount Vernon resident, professed his interest in transportation for the handicapped, senior citizens and unemployed; however, was also interested in the economic development of Skagit County. He read from a study by the State of Georgia regarding the economic impact of 100 new jobs on a County.

Diane Morton, Director of Communications and Development at Skagit Valley Hospital, stated that she was Director of Planning and Marketing for the Spokane Transit System for five years, and also served as consultant for the Idaho Transportation Department and helped to start three new systems there. She offered her expertise and help to the County.

Mary Anne Rehm, Nurse and Social Worker for the Head Start Programs in Skagit and Island Counties, supported additional transportation for low income families.

Zel Young, an interested citizen addressed the ecological advantage of fewer automobiles on the roads because of public transportation.

Alan Stelwagen of Mount Vernon noted two anecdotes regarding public transportation; one, that he knew of several people who would retire if public transportation was available, and two, that the City of Bellingham's initial public transportation system did not lend equal coverage to neighborhoods with high income population; however, when those neighborhoods discovered the benefit of public transportation, they insisted on increased coverage.

Tim Holloran, County Senior Services Director, speaking for Stan Sigitowicz of Sedro Woolley, suggested a task force be formed to work on behalf of the Board to gather information prior to calling a Public Transportation Improvement Conference.


Commissioner Wylie stated her agreement to researching other systems, and declared a need for a system that would allow for upgrading and additions.

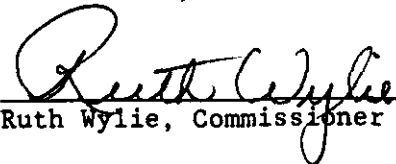
The Board determined to make the discussion of public transportation a regular agenda item for Monday, May 1, 1989, at 2:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

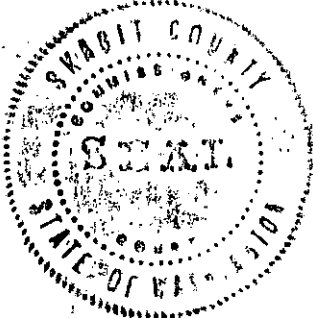
Commissioner Wylie motioned to adjourn the proceedings. Commissioner Vaux seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON

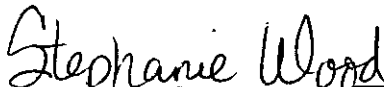
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dave Rohrer, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ruth Wylie, Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
W. W. Vaux, Commissioner



ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephanie Wood, Clerk  
Skagit County Board of Commissioners