

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Wednesday, August 23, 1989

- 10:00 a.m. 1) Review Contract - Facility Study.
 2) Tour of Gibraltar Greenhouse.
- 2:00 p.m. Update - Cooperative Extension - Fred Posten, W.S.U.
 Cooperative Extension Director.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, August 23, 1989, with Commissioners Dave Rohrer and Ruth Wylie present. Commissioner Vaux's absence was excused.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT:

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

- A. Commissioner Wylie motioned to award the bid for purchase and installation of an air conditioning unit in the new computer room in the Administration Building to the low bidder, Ronk Brothers, Inc., for the bid price of \$12,320.36. Chairman Rohrer seconded the motion. The motion carried and was so ordered. (Resolution #12184)
- B. Commissioner Wylie motioned to award the bid for purchase and installation of two heating and cooling gas pak units for the building at 315 South Third Street, Mount Vernon, to the lowest bidder, Refrigeration & Heating, Inc., for the bid price of \$6,476.88. Chairman Rohrer seconded the motion, which carried and was so ordered. (Resolution #12185)

REVIEW CONTRACT - FACILITY STUDY.

Roger Howard, Facilities Department Manager, related that he is conducting a Skagit County facility study and wishes to enlist the help of the Henry Klein Partnership for consultation. He stated that the objective of the study is to determine Skagit County's growth needs, with the goal being generation of information which would allow County officials to make future decisions for facilities expansion. Mr. Howard stated that the study will pursue the following course:

- a) Identification of all County buildings and their uses.
- b) Memoranda to all County departments asking for identification of facility needs, followed by interviewing of County employees and supervisors.
- c) Demonstrating, through graphics, the present space utilization and relationships of departments.
- d) Review of how increases in population may affect County departments.
- e) Review of the issue of limited vehicle parking space.

Mr. Howard indicated that, although the first rough estimate for the study was approximately \$5,000.00, a new estimate of approximately \$24,000 has been made. Mr. Howard stated that he plans to bring in the contract for

consultation for the Board's review next week. The Board discussed facilities planning with Mr. Howard, and Commissioner Wylie suggested Mr. Howard utilize information gained through a County data processing survey to aid him in his assessment.

TOUR OF GIBRALTAR GREENHOUSE.

The Board accompanied Roger Howard, Facilities Department Manager, on a tour of the greenhouse facility, owned by Skagit County and leased by the Summersun Company, and located on Gibraltar Road in Anacortes.

UPDATE - COOPERATIVE EXTENSION - FRED POSTEN, W.S.U. COOPERATIVE EXTENSION DIRECTOR.

Mr. Posten explained that he has had discussions with Kay Haaland, Skagit County Cooperative Extension Chairman, who indicated to him that the Board has concerns regarding the role of Cooperative Extension in Skagit County. He stated that his visit today is to provide the Board with an opportunity to discuss their concerns with him.

Chairman Rohrer stated that Commissioner Vaux had indicated that he felt Cooperative Extension is diversifying from their original scope of work, and that they should confine their activities to farm-related matters.

Mr. Posten discussed the decrease in Cooperative Extension staffing due to budget cuts at W.S.U. He stated that local control of Cooperative Extension is advocated in the State of Washington through the use of advisory boards. He stated that he encourages interaction with the Cooperative Extension Chairman. He further stated that he finds no inconsistencies in this year's Cooperative Extension comprehensive plan, and that this year's extension activities are not unusual compared to those in other counties. He stated that childcare programs are part of extension activities in other counties. He related changes in the activities of the Cooperative Extension to staff shortages.

Commissioner Wylie stated that the County provides 35% of the Cooperative Extension budget, and would like more involvement in decisions about program implementation and management. She stated that Ms. Haaland has been giving regular program updates, but that the Board is particularly concerned about increasing the role of the extension in 4-H activities, the evaluation of the extension's farm-related activities by some type of survey, and about the duplication of effort that is occurring because of the extension's involvement in childcare programs which are already handled in other departments. She stated that their concern is that the extension is moving away from a traditionally agriculturally oriented role to more family and community involvement.

Mr. Posten argued that Cooperative Extension is not traditionally agriculturally oriented, but is a community resource. He discussed the prioritization of programs. He stated that the extension is not abandoning the Fair, but that neither are they responsible for putting it on. He referred to correspondence from the Fair Advisory Board to Ms. Haaland

requesting an agent be present at all their meetings, and stated he did not feel this is necessary.

Commissioner Wylie stated that communication with the Fair planning persons would be better if an agent did attend the critical fair planning meetings, although those that do not concern extension could be skipped. Commissioner Wylie stated that the Board would like to see a survey of the agricultural community to see if the Cooperative Extension is meeting their needs adequately. Mr. Posten felt a survey would be possible.

Mr. Posten maintained his reliance on interaction between Cooperative Extension and the advisory board for direction on activities, and that he initiates little intervention in their decisions. He again cited loss of personnel as a major problem and stated that period changes in programs raise the public awareness on the services available through Cooperative Extension.

Mr. Posten then brought up the subject of the revamping of the computers in the extension office, stating that he understood there was some question regarding this. Ms. Haaland indicated that there is a question regarding responsibility for funding of an upgrade of their computer system, which needs clarification. Steve Kleinbart, Data Processing Coordinator, stated that he has met with Mike Woodmansee, Budget/Finance Director, to discuss the upgrade of the Cooperative Extension's computer system. He stated that they are presently using outdated, obsolete and unrepairable equipment and software that needs immediate interim attention, and eventual long-term solutions. He stated that he and Mr. Woodmansee have made the recommendation that W.S.U. pay for the new equipment that he will recommend, and the County fund the maintenance of the equipment.

Mr. Posten responded negatively to this suggestion, stating that W.S.U. funded the original computers supplied to the extension and would not fund any upgrades. Chairman Rohrer indicated that a discussion of the budget for computers for the extension should more appropriately occur at budgeting time.

Mr. Posten then explained that hiring practices have been changed since Skagit County last hired for an extension position, to allow more County involvement in the hiring process.

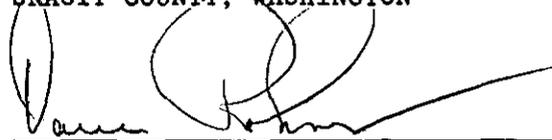
Bob Hulbert, a member of the Cooperative Extension Advisory Board, then made a statement in agreement with Commissioner Wylie's views. He stated that the change in extension programs has been a shock to the agricultural community. He cited a number of problems facing the agricultural community that require the help of the Cooperative Extension. He stated that Cooperative Extension is a program supported by taxes, and that most of the taxes are generated in the urban areas, so programs are funded according to their wishes.

Kay Haaland stated that she and her staff have conducted some surveys, and will share them with the Board. Mr. Posten suggested he arrange for the Board to meet with the advisory committee, and that the comprehensive plan for the Cooperative Extension be made available for the Board's review for the coming year. The Board concurred with this arrangement and the discussed ended.

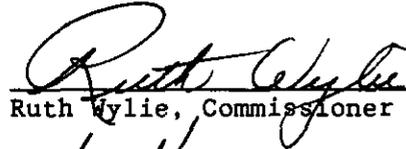
ADJOURNMENT

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

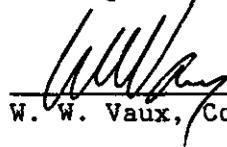
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON



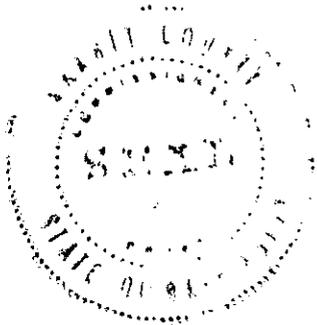
Dave Rohrer, Chairman



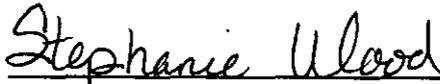
Ruth Wylie, Commissioner



W. W. Vaux, Commissioner



ATTEST:



Stephanie Wood, Clerk
Skagit County Board of Commissioners