

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Monday September 18, 1989

9:00 a.m. Request for Proposals - Public Works and Commissioners' Office Computer Network.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

10:30 a.m. Public Works Department - Mark Spahr, Director:

- 1) Call for Bids - Furnish and Install Bed, Box, and Hoist on County-Owned Truck Chassis.
- 2) Signature - Rock Rip-Rap Grant.
- 3) Signature - Out of State Travel Authorization.
- 4) Signature - Out of State Travel Authorization.
- 5) Discussion - Oil Spill on SR 20 and Marches Point Road - Tom Sheahan, Emergency Management Department.
- 6) Miscellaneous.

2:00 p.m. Discussion - CommonGround Proposal to be Designated as a Dispute Resolution Center.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, September 18, 1989, with Commissioners Dave Rohrer, Ruth Wylie and W. W. Vaux present.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS - PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE COMPUTER NETWORK.

Mike Woodmansee, Budget/Finance Director, gave a brief update on the status of the new computer systems operating so far. He stated that the Sheriff's Office/Jail system is on line, and that the Auditor's GHRS system is installed and functional, and data entry is being performed. He stated that the LGFS software for the Auditor's Office will follow in March or April. The computer room is ready and has been air conditioned.

Mr. Woodmansee stated that on July 27, the Board gave permission for compiling of a specific proposal for a computer network for the Public Works Department. The intent of the proposal is, beginning with the Public Works Department and Commissioners' Office, to link all offices via a computer network within the next 24 months. The system purchased by the first two departments will be duplicated in the other departments throughout the county.

Mr. Woodmansee stated that, in discussing the issue with Commissioner Wylie, she has indicated a wish to become more familiar with networks and what they will accomplish, possibly through meetings with the Data Processing Committee, prior to making any decision. Mr. Woodmansee stated, however, that the Public Works Department's present system had experienced a disk failure about two months ago, and although this has been repaired, it is not performing optimally, and cannot be counted on to continue indefinitely.

Steve Kleinbart, Data Processing Coordinator, suggested as a compromise the Board might wish to authorize the Request for Proposals, which would take 30 days to advertise, and hold their informational meetings in the interim. He stated that a delay of an additional 30 days may have very negative effects on the Public Works Department computers, but he would acquiesce to the wishes of the Board.

Jeff Monsen, Assistant Public Works Director, stated that he would like to see the Request for Proposals go forward at this time, and reminded the Board that they could always reject all proposals, if needed. He stated that his reasons for recommending this course are twofold; because of the risk in continuing to use the present faulty system, and because of the changes being made within the department and the need to implement a new computer system concurrently.

Commissioner Wylie stated that she felt there would be too many activities for the Data Processing staff to coordinate at once if their responsibilities were increased at this time with the new network. She stated she felt 30 days was not too much to request for a delay. When asked by Commissioner Vaux if Mr. Kleinbart's compromise would be agreeable, Commissioner Wylie replied that she has not had the opportunity to review the Request for Proposal, so could not agree to going ahead with it. Commissioner Vaux and Chairman Rohrer agreed with Commissioner Wylie on this issue.

Mr. Woodmansee stated that he will set the next discussion on the agenda for mid-October and arrange for work sessions to explain computer networks in general. Mr. Kleinbart offered to arrange tours of the new computer room and Sheriff's Office computer rooms, and of a new network installed at the Port of Skagit County.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

A. Commissioner Vaux motioned to adopt the Records of the Proceedings from Monday, September 11, 1989, and Tuesday, September 12, 1989, as submitted. Commissioner Wylie seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

B. The Board approved for signature the following Petitions for Property Tax Refunds:

- 1) Ronald D. Gagne, 2337 Lake Cavanaugh Road, Mount Vernon, WA 98273, in the amount of \$38.70, due to a manifest error. (008189)
- 2) Velvia I. Campagna, 1519 6th Street, Anacortes, WA 98221, in the amount of \$43.46, due to a senior citizen exemption. (007889)
- 3) Gerald T. Rumsey, 5855 Sands Way #D, Anacortes, WA 98221, in the amount of \$8.10, due to the sale of property to an exempt party on 06/05/89. (010189)
- 4) Leslie D. Tracy, 2408 Walker Valley Road, Mount Vernon, WA 98273, in the amount of \$623.03, due to a senior citizen exemption. (010289)
- 5) Western Forest Products, c/o Terry Dawn, et al, 2192 Division, Bellingham, WA 98226, in the amount of \$63.81, due to a manifest error. (009989)

C. As of this date, September 11, 1989, the Board, by unanimous vote, did

approve for signature the following warrants and vouchers:

- 1) Warrant #61710 (Voucher #61710) in the amount of \$2,397.28 (R-24-89).
 - 2) Warrant #78017 through #78070 (Voucher #78017 through #78070) in the amount of \$14,985.00 (PR-17-89).
- D. Commissioner Vaux motioned to adopt the resolution authorizing a budget line item change in the amount of \$3,000 from the weed control budget's operating expenses to part-time salaries, to compensate part-time personnel. Commissioner Wylie seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. (Resolution #12210)
- E. Commissioner Vaux motioned to adopt the resolution authorizing a budget line item change in the amount of \$350,000 from the Non-Departmental Contingency budget of the Current Expense Fund to the Equipment budget to pay for computerized data processing capital expenditures. Commissioner Wylie seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. (Resolution #12211)
- F. Mike Woodmansee, Budget/Finance Director, presented a resolution calling for a public hearing to consider an amendment to the Current Expense Fund in the amount of \$1,200,000. He stated that revenues from sales tax, interest and forest board yield and excise will be higher than estimated in the amount of approximately \$1,200,000. He stated that the money will most probably be used to cover remaining data processing expenses, increased judges salaries, and partially fund the Land Acquisition and Facilities Improvement Fund.
- Commissioner Vaux motioned to adopt the resolution calling for a public hearing on October 10, 1989, at 10:00 a.m., to consider the authorization of a supplemental budget in the amount of \$1,200,000 to the Current Expense Fund. Commissioner Wylie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (Resolution #12212)
- G. Mr. Woodmansee stated that, regarding a discussion last week on an award of funding to the Northwest Agricultural Research Foundation for Dinoseb studies, an agreement has been drawn up for the Board's signature. Commissioner Wylie was able to get confirmation from one Snohomish County official that \$10,000 of the \$20,000 needed for Dinoseb studies will be funded by Snohomish County. The agreement amends the present contract with Northwest Agricultural Research Foundation to permit Skagit County to pay up to an additional \$20,000 for the performance of the study by the contractor, which will allow Skagit County to pay the total amount, if Snohomish County declines to contribute, or to pay half, if Snohomish County does participate.
- The Board approved the agreement for signature.
- H. Gary Christensen, Associate Planner, again brought up the subject of the interpretation of Resolution #8248 regarding the Donald Pierson property. He stated that both he and Commissioner Vaux had discussed the resolution with former Skagit County Commissioner Bud Norris. Commissioner Vaux

stated he had also discussed the resolution with another former County Commissioner, who had no recollection of the resolution. Mr. Norris had stated that the intent of the resolution was to keep the Pierson home site confined to an area that would not impact the agricultural area of the plat. Mr. Christensen stated that he has spoken with Mrs. Pierson, who indicates that she does not have a buyer for her property, but would like to know her options. Mr. Christensen confirmed that the land is divided into one parcel of approximately 1 acre, and one parcel of approximately 41 acres. The property in question is the 1 acre parcel.

Commissioner Vaux identified two issues which he would like to have the Planning Department explore: 1) that home construction within an agricultural zone be permitted only within 150 yards of a County road, perhaps by a Skagit County Code amendment, and 2) that the Board be allowed involvement in zone variances in the same manner that they become involved in Planning Commission decisions. Commissioner Wylie also requested that the Planning Department review the resolution regarding variances allowed in agricultural zones for family members of property owners.

Regarding the Pierson property, the Board directed Mr. Christensen to draw up a clarifying resolution, indicating the wish to keep the construction of a new residence from interfering with agricultural land.

Commissioner Vaux also requested a work session be arranged regarding the purchase of development rights on farm land. The Board discussed with Mr. Christensen and Betsy Stevenson, Assistant Planning Director, the Island and King County systems. Also discussed was the preservation of Skagit County farmlands.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT - MARK SPAHR, DIRECTOR:

These items were taken out of order for the convenience of the audience.

4) **Signature - Out of State Travel Authorization.**

The Board approved for signature an out-of-state Travel Request for Dan Cain, County Fire Marshall, to travel to Tigard, Oregon, on September 26-29 for a Annual Advanced Fire and Arson Investigators Conference.

5) **Discussion - Oil Spill on SR 20 and Marches Point Road - Tom Sheahan, Emergency Management Department.**

Mr. Sheahan reported that at 10:00 a.m. on September 6, 1989, a truck leaving Northwest Petro Chemicals, identified as containing hazardous chemicals, stopped at the stop sign at the intersection of Marches Point Road and SR 20 awaiting a left hand turn. The truck's bay doors were open, and when it pulled away from the stop sign, chemicals splashed out, contaminating the roadway and a car waiting behind the truck. The truck pulled off on the roadside, where it closed its open hatches and continued eastbound on SR 20. The car remained, after going to the Swinomish Bingo Hall to call the authorities. The Washington State Patrol responded and was able to seize the truck in Mount Vernon. Mr. Sheahan stated that, unfortunately, SR 20 was

closed for approximately 5 hours while a trucking firm in Kansas which owned the chemical truck was contacted regarding the clean up of the spill. Mr. Sheahan stated that the trucking firm was reluctant to give permission for a contractor to conduct a clean up operation which they could not supervise. Additionally, the clean up contractor was reluctant to agree to contract with a firm in Kansas, with whom they were unfamiliar. Finally, the Department of Ecology agreed to co-sign for the trucking firm, although also with reluctance, since they have incurred \$750,000 as co-signator for unpaid bills, mostly from trucking companies for clean up work.

The Board considered methods for recovery of charges, such as liens on property and the discussion ended.

1) Call for Bids - Furnish and Install Bed, Box and Hoist on County-Owned Truck Chassis.

Commissioner Vaux motioned to adopt the resolution calling for bids for furnishing and installation of a bed, box and hoist on a Public Works truck chassis, to replace the one sold at auction. Commissioner Wylie seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. (Resolution #12213)

2) Signature - Rock Rip-Rap Grant.

Commissioner Wylie motioned to adopt a resolution granting 50 yards of rock rip-rap to Velma Mason of West Big Lake Boulevard for flood control improvements to her property. The total appropriation from the River Improvement Fund would be \$162.50. Commissioner Vaux seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (Resolution #12214)

3) Signature - Out of State Travel Authorization.

The Board approved for signature an out-of-state Travel Request for Dave Sheridan to travel to Portland, Oregon, from October 10 to 16, 1989, to attend the 1989 Northwest Regional Right-of-Way Workshop.

6) Miscellaneous.

A. Mr. Spahr stated that he is preparing to release the retainage amount of \$710,697.14 to Wright Schuchart Harbor Company, and will be authorizing payment within the next few days. The Board directed him to proceed.

DISCUSSION - COMMONGROUND PROPOSAL TO BE DESIGNATED AS A DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER.

Ron Shrigley, CommonGround representative, introduced Joan Cross, JoAnne Skeel and Martha Vague, CommonGround Board members. He referred to proposals submitted in July and in September, requesting designation as a Dispute Resolution Center (DRC) and requests for Skagit County funding in the amount of \$30,000, respectively. He requested that the Board consider the two requests separately. Mr. Shrigley stated that CommonGround has been operating on a fees-for-service basis and would like DRC designation so they will be able to pursue other types of funding.

Ms. Vague stated that she has heard that law and justice funding has increased 17% over the past year, and indicated that some of those funds could be spent in funding a DRC.

Commissioner Wylie asked what percentage of CommonGround's caseload would be referred by the Skagit County Courts. Mr. Shrigley discussed the advantage of having one's case heard in small claims court because of the relatively inexpensive filing fee and lack of legal counsel versus the cost of CommonGround's services.

Mike Woodmansee, Budget/Finance Director, explained the role of the District Court Judge in small claims court, and the expediency of decisions regarding small claims.

Commissioner Wylie asked if CommonGround, if given DRC designation, would anticipate generating a number of cases that would normally never be considered for litigation. Mr. Shrigley answered that there are cases where dispute resolution is effective and some where it is not. He explained his experiences in Snohomish County. Ms. Vague stated that of those DRC's that are able to survive, most have a connection with the Courts.

Commissioner Vaux stated that the Board has received a number of letters from attorneys and judges supporting CommonGround's request for DRC status, but that he was surprised to see the funding request contained in the proposal dated September 11, as it had never been mentioned prior to that time. Commissioner Vaux stated that he would like to see CommonGround develop a track record over a number of years before he would consider committing any County funds to the business. Chairman Rohrer added that the Board has a responsibility to see that County funding is spent on successful enterprises. Commissioner Vaux compared CommonGround's request for funds to the funding of Skagit Rape Relief, which was in existence a number of years and was serving a needed function prior to the granting of Skagit County funding.

JoAnne Skeel then asked if the Board intended for CommonGround to accept referrals from the Skagit County Courts without County funding, to which Commissioner Vaux responded that he would expect CommonGround to carry on as they have been in the past. Ms. Vague stated that she believed CommonGround has already established a record of service to the community.

In answer to Commissioner Vaux's question, Mr. Shrigley stated that DRC status would gain them recognition within the community. He discussed support of the program by a sliding fee scale, and the inability for indigent clients to afford conflict resolution. He suggested that money gained from enforcement at the new weigh scales on Bow Hill might partially fund CommonGround. He stated he understood that his organization would be competing with other established departments for funding, but felt CommonGround would partially relieve those other departments of work also.

Mike Woodmansee, Budget/Finance Director, spoke on the funding proposal. He stated that the proposal sites a \$103,000 budget, with \$43,000 being accounted for in volunteer services. This leaves an actual cash need of \$56,000 to \$57,000. In asking Skagit County to fund \$30,000 of the need, this makes more than half of the operating capital funding accounted for by Skagit County,

with the remainder to come from unspecified grants. Mr. Woodmansee stated that the only sure funding would be coming from Skagit County and that CommonGround's dependence on Skagit County could increase, should grant monies from other sources be discontinued. He stated perhaps CommonGround should set their fees higher to partially cover their operating costs.

Judge Mullen interrupted at this point and spoke for himself and Judge Bruhn. He stated that he had been approached by CommonGround to provide a supporting letter to the Board, but that funding had not been mentioned. He stated his disappointment that he had not been fully informed of CommonGround's intentions.

Mr. Woodmansee then went on to indicate that funding from the incorporated cities has not been considered in the CommonGround budget. He stated that he would need more information on the other revenue sources mentioned in the proposal and how they will be secured. He stated that, although the request may be for \$30,000 this year, there is no guarantee that it would not be for more next year. Also, Mr. Woodmansee stated, how many cases handled would never reach mediation if it was not available.

Mr. Shrigley declared that Rusty Kuntzman, in his original discussion with the Board, did mention funding. He stated that only the divorce mediation is self-supporting, and that the clients seeking other types of mediation are, on the whole unable to pay.

The Board discussed the separation of the funding and DRC status issues, and Commissioner Vaux motioned to recognize CommonGround Center for Conflict Resolution, located at 302 Pine Street, Suite 216, as an official Dispute Resolution Center for Skagit County. Commissioner Wylie seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioner Vaux then stated that the funding request will be considered, along with all other County budget requests, and CommonGround will be notified of the outcome. The Board agreed to allow Mr. Shrigley time during the budget work sessions to again address the Board.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

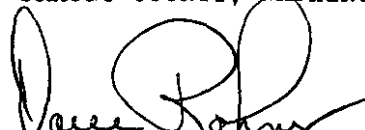
- A. The Board approved a request by Ric Boge, a member of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, to reimburse him for tuition and mileage to attend a seminar in Ellensburg, Washington, on October 13 and 14, 1989, entitled "The Job of a Local Solid Waste Advisory Committee".
- B. Commissioner Vaux motioned to adopt the resolution reappointing Bill Thrumer, whose term expired September 8, 1989, to the Skagit County Planning Commission. Reappointment will expire on September 8, 1993. Commissioner Wylie seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. (Resolution #12215)
- C. Commissioner Vaux motioned to adopt the resolution reappointing Richard Miller, whose term expired September 15, 1989, to the Skagit County Planning Commission. Reappointment will expire on September 15, 1993. Commissioner Wylie seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. (Resolution #12216)

- D. Commissioner Wylie motioned to reappoint Norm Schaaf, whose term expired August 28, 1989, to the Skagit County Planning Commission. Reappointment will expired on August 28, 1993. Chairman Rohrer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

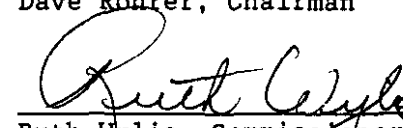
ADJOURNMENT

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



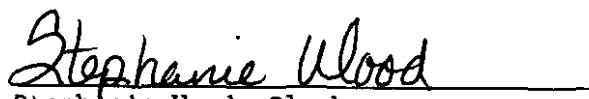
Ruth Wylie, Commissioner



W. W. Vaux, Commissioner



ATTEST:



Stephanie Wood, Clerk
Skagit County Board of Commissioners