RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, September 19, 1989

10:00 a.m. Public Hearing - 1990 Solid Waste Disposal Rates.

2:00 p.m. 1) Public Hearing - Addition of Section to Skagit County Code
Pertaining to Urinating or Defecating in Public.

2) Public Hearing - Changes in Section of Skagit County Code Pertaining to Possession. Use of Intoxicating Liquor.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

3:00 p.m. Introduction of New Facilities Management Employee.

The Skagit County Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 19, 1989, with Commissioners Dave Rohrer and W. W. Vaux present. Commissioner Wylie's absence was excused.

PUBLIC HEARING - 1990 SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL RATES.

Mark Spahr, Public Works Department Director, opened the discussion by indicating that an increase in tipping fees is anticipated for all County solid waste disposal facilities. He stated that the cost of proper and responsible disposal is becoming more expense, as well as a more complex issue. He stated that in the past, when disposal involved simply landfilling, expense was minimal, but that the things disposed of in this manner a number of years ago are now emerging as today's environmental problems. He stated that, accordingly, regulations regarding solid waste disposal have increased, causing the cost of performing services to increase.

Mr. Spahr reviewed the components of the Skagit County solid waste program as follows:

- Drop sites, transfer stations and compactor sites. These include the expense of attendants for the sites, as well as transfer of refuse to the incinerator.
- 2) Incinerator project. This includes the one active landfill, Inman, where industrial solid wastes and contaminated soil, as well as ash from the incinerator, will be deposited.
- 3) Environmental monitoring. This includes a wildlife study of the County surrounding the incinerator, well monitoring at the old landfills, closure of the old landfills, and the possibility of monitoring for methane gas at the old landfills.
- 4) Recycling program. This includes the cost of a recycling consultant.
- 5) Debt service for the incinerator project.
- 6) Business and occupation taxes.
- 7) Administrative costs.

Mr. Spahr stated that the estimated cost for the solid waste program for 1990 is \$3,600,000. He produced a pie graph showing the relative share of each expense.

Mr. Spahr then discussed each revenue source as follows:

- 1) Money from the cities for waste disposal.
- 2) Money from the containers at the compactors and transfer stations.
- 3) Money from Department of Ecology Grants.
- 4) Household hazardous waste surcharge.
- 5) Electricity sales from the incinerator.
- 6) Individual and private haulers waste disposal charges.

He produced another pie graph showing an accounting of each revenue. He then discussed the proposed tipping fee increases. He synopsized those as follows. The cities and private haulers would be most effected by the increase per ton of delivered wastes from \$30.00 per ton to \$50.69. This does not include the \$.50 per ton household hazardous waste surcharge. Individual loads will be raised from \$4.50 per load to \$5.00. Compactor sites will be raised from 16 quarters to 18 quarters.

Mayor Walley of Sedro Woolley pointed out the apparent loss shown for the compactors and asked why the rates are not raised to offset the loss. Mr. Spahr replied that the solid waste Comprehensive Plan requires us to provide rural services, and there is a fear that roadside dumping will occur if rates at compactors are raised significantly. More discussion was held on compactors versus trucking to the incinerator, and incentives for transport to the incinerator.

Mr. Spahr stated that demolition and industrial debris will be raised from \$46.60 per ton to \$60.69 per ton. He stated that a new charge will be instigated for petroleum contaminated soil, which will be figured according to low, moderate and high risk factors.

Stan Reylea of Burlington pointed out that the increase to individual haulers is greater than that for demolition and industrial debris. He pointed out that as rates increase, there is more roadside dumping by the public. Commissioner Vaux stated that this is occurring anyway, and that County crews are constantly cleaning up dumping sites. Chairman Rohrer stated that in his estimation, roadside dumping has not significantly increased from the time when he was a member of the road crew.

Ken Bechtel stated that money will be saved by implementation of a recycling program. Mayor Walley declared that there is no market presently for recyclables. Mr. Spahr agreed that the markets are not keeping up with the supply, and that the nearest market for paper products is in the Orient or in Minnesota. Chuck Decker of C&D Recycling stated that, for his business, the recycling market is still good except for paper products, and that he has been having to pay to dispose of some.

Finally, Mr. Spahr displayed a chart comparing Skagit County solid waste rates to those in Jefferson, Island, Grays Harbor, Clark and Whatcom Counties.

Mayor Rice of Anacortes asked how the County could justify raising the tipping fees for the entire County for closure of the Sauk Landfill, which services only eastern Skagit County. Chairman Rohrer pointed out that the same had been done to close Gibraltar Landfill in western Skagit County.

Mayor Rice maintained that County citizens, who have no compulsory garbage pick up, are the ones who use the landfills, so City citizens should not have to pay to close them. Chairman Rohrer declared that he would like to instigate compulsory garbage pick up throughout unincorporated Skagit County. Commissioner Vaux stated that the recent Sprenkle Bill endeavored to give Counties the authority to do this, but was not able to.

Mayor Rice then stated that when recycling is implemented, rates will increase, and inquired whether it was premature to set rates at this time. Commissioner Vaux stated that the first recommendation of the recycling plan was to hire a recycling consultant. He stated that the County is in the process of hiring such a person, who would be expected to have interactions with the cities.

Mayor Rice stated that he believed the County could shave \$5.00 per ton off of the tipping fee somehow.

Mayor Reep stated that he felt that accepting garbage from Island County for the incinerator would go a long way toward paying the debt service and administrative costs. He stated that, if not at capacity, why not enter into an agreement with our close neighbors in Island County to take part of their garbage at the incinerator. Mayor Rice agreed with this notion on a case-bycase basis. Commissioner Vaux stated that the way the contract with Wright Schuchart Harbor reads, if we want to accept out-of-county garbage, we must renegotiate the entire contract.

Mayors Reep and Rice discussed how all utilities in their cities have gone up. They stated that they had expected an increase, but not as much as is proposed.

Ric Boge of the Citizens Solid Waste Advisory Committee stated that if a recycling plan is implemented, it will make people feel good about disposing of their wastes safely and would partially compensate for the rate increase. He also stated that if paper can't be disposed of through recycling, it still generates County funds by producing energy in the incinerator.

Mayor Rice voiced his concerns about fixed income rate payers.

Mayor Reep stated that if he must, he will agree to the rate increases, but hopes that the Board will not object to a letter to the rate payers explaining the reason for the increase.

Terry Knudson of Rural Sanitation felt that, since there has been an increase in tonnage at the incinerator, there should have been an increase in revenues from electricity, which is not figured into the proposal. Mr. Spahr stated that an increase of 300 tons was figured in, and Mr. Knudson felt this figure to be low. Commissioner Vaux stated that the only fixed cost for solid waste is the payment on the incinerator, and that when tonnage increases, so do operating costs. The mayors disagreed with this idea.

Mr. Knudson felt that compactor sites should experience the same increase garbage pick up customers, and that if the compactors are for citizens convenience, they should be charged accordingly.

Chairman Rohrer then suggested a work session to more thoroughly discuss the proposal. Mayor Walley requested estimates for increases over the next several years be provided. Jeff Monsen of the Public Works Department requested that any information or questions be specifically addressed to the Public Works Department prior to the work session to allow them to know what should be provided.

Commissioner Vaux then stated that, since a public hearing is being held, continuing discussions will take place at a continuation of the public hearing. He motioned to continue the public hearing to Thursday, September 28, at 9:00 a.m. Chairman Rohrer seconded the motion, which carried and was so ordered.

- 1) PUBLIC HEARING ADDITION OF SECTION TO SKAGIT COUNTY CODE PERTAINING TO URINATING OR DEFECATING IN PUBLIC.
- 2) PUBLIC HEARING CHANGES IN SECTION OF SKAGIT COUNTY CODE PERTAINING TO POSSESSION, USE OF INTOXICATING LIQUOR.

These items were taken simultaneously.

Chairman Rohrer waived the reading of the notice of public hearing, as published in The Skagit Argus on September 5 and 12, 1989.

Gene Willet of the Prosecuting Attorney's Office stated that the changes regarding Chapter 9.16, Possession, Use of Intoxicating Liquor, are being suggested to combat a problem identified in District Court. He stated that in a State Supreme Court case, State v. Hornaday, the idea that, "once liquor is swallowed it is no longer in one's possession", is being debated. He stated that there is no provision for consumption of liquor within the State statutes. Mr. Willet said that when deputies respond to youth parties, unless they can confiscate the partially filled container of alcohol and preserve it as evidence, it is difficult to prosecute minors in possession of alcohol. It is, of course, difficult to take partially filled containers into evidence, therefore, an amendment stating that those who can be proven to have consumed alcohol are guilty of possession of alcohol.

Additionally, an aiding and abetting section is proposed for addition in order to prosecute those adults who facilitate a juvenile party, but, since they don't provide the alcohol, cannot be prosecuted for furnishing to minors.

Finally, a proposed addition addresses the problem of minors appearing in public being visibly and obviously intoxicated. Previously, once a minor is intoxicated and has discarded the alcohol container, police were only able to provide transportation to home. The proposed addition would make it illegal for a minor to appear drunk in public.

Mr. Willet then explained the proposed chapter addressing Urinating or Defecating in Public. He stated that, although not a serious problem, there have been instances in the past of flagrant acts such as this committed in public places. He stated that in the past, charges of public indecency or indecent exposure were the only options, and prosecution would hinge on

whether someone had been alarmed by the act. He gave examples of prosecution of deliberate and intentional acts. Mr. Willet stated that this addition would solve a problem not previously addressed in the Skagit County Code.

Seeing no further comment, Commissioner Vaux motioned to close the public hearing. Chairman Rohrer seconded the motion, which carried and was so ordered. Commissioner Vaux then motioned to adopt the proposed addition to the Skagit County Code Title 9 regarding Urinating or Defecating in Public, as submitted. Chairman Rohrer seconded the motion, which carried and was so ordered. (Resolution #12218). Commissioner Vaux then motioned to adopt the proposed amendments to the Skagit County Code Chapter 9.16 regarding Possession, Use of Intoxicating Liquor, as submitted. Chairman Rohrer seconded the motion, which carried and was so ordered. (Resolution #12217)

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

- A. Commissioner Vaux motioned to adopt the resolution reappointing Norm Schaaf to the Skagit County Planning Commission, expiring on August 28, 1993. Chairman Rohrer seconded the motion, which carried and was so ordered. (Resolution #12219)
- B. Commissioner Vaux motioned to adopt the resolution reappointing Martie Arnold to the Substance Abuse Administrative Board, expiring September 1, 1992. Chairman Rohrer seconded the motion, which carried and was so ordered. (Resolution #12220)
- C. Commissioner Vaux motioned to adopt the resolution reappointing Barbara Thompson to the Mental Health Advisory Board, expiring September 1, 1992. Chairman Rohrer seconded the motion, which carried and was so ordered. (Resolution #12221)
- D. Commissioner Vaux motioned to adopt the resolution appointing Connie Janke of Sedro Woolley to the Substance Abuse Administrative Board, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Fred Guenther. Ms. Janke's appointment will expire on October 1, 1992. Chairman Rohrer seconded the motion, which carried and was so ordered. (Resolution #12222)
- E. Commissioner Vaux motioned to adopt the resolution appointing Audrey Knutson to the Substance Abuse Administrative Board to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Dave Quall. Ms. Knutson's appointment will expire on October 1, 1992. Chairman Rohrer seconded the motion, which carried and was so ordered. (Resolution #12223)
- F. Commissioner Vaux motioned to adopt the resolution appointing Joseph Bowen to the Substance Abuse Administrative Board to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Patricia Johnson. Mr. Bowen's appointment will expire on October 1, 1992. (Resolution #12224)
- G. The Board approved for signature an agreement for use of the mat room at Burlington Edison High School by the Parks and Recreation Department for a rhythm fitness aerobics class to be held on Monday's and Wednesdays, for the sum of \$20.00

H. Jon Aarstad, Parks and Recreation Department Director, stated that during the Skagit County Fair, MVP Enterprises was under agreement to provide tents and awnings for the fair. He stated that additional unanticipated items were needed during the fair, which exceeded the contract by \$563.69. Mr. Aarstad said that the Auditor's Office has refused to pay the excess without the permission of the Board.

Commissioner Vaux motioned to approve the additional payment of \$563.69 to MVP Enterprises due to unforeseen circumstances that could not be avoided at the Skagit County Fair.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Vaux motioned to adjourn the proceedings. Chairman Rohrer seconded the motion. The motion carried and was so ordered.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Dave Rohrer, Chairman

Ruth Wylie, Commissioner

W. W. Vaux, Commissioner

SMEN

ATTEST:

Stephanie Wood, Clerk

Skagit County Board of Commissioners