

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Wednesday, November 1, 1989

10:00 a.m. Discussion With Law Library Committee.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, November 1, 1989, with Commissioners Dave Rohrer, Ruth Wylie and W. W. Vaux present.

DISCUSSION WITH LAW LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

Rusty Kuntze, part-time librarian of the Skagit County Law Library, introduced Mary McIntosh, newly elected Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Law Library, and Ted Maloney, member of the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Kuntze discussed the make up of the Law Library Board of Trustees. He stated that the preliminary budget submitted to the Board includes a 15% increase over last year's budget, and will cover the costs of the following:

- A work study person from Skagit Valley College
- A copy machine for those who are not allowed to check out books and wish to copy articles for further study.
- A missing volume study and a needs assessment study.

Mr. Maloney stated that he is an attorney and the director of the paralegal program at Skagit Valley College. He discussed the paralegal program and how it depends on an adequate law library. He elaborated on the requests made by Mr. Kuntze.

Ms. McIntosh, a member of the Skagit County Bar Association and newly elected chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Law Library, stated that she has contacted the State Law Library in Olympia to arrange a meeting next month in which representatives of the State Law Library will help to develop long ranges plans for Skagit County's Law Library. She stated that the present Law Library is completely inadequate, and that area attorneys are in danger of loosing clients to Seattle attorneys because of their inability to adequately research cases.

Mr. Kuntze noted that the Law Library is a reference for the entire County, not just the attorneys and paralegals. He discussed with Commissioner Wylie the maintenance of the copier he has proposed to acquire.

Mike Woodmansee, Budget/Finance Director, explained that the Law Library is funded by filing fees on a variety of different cases in both Superior and District Court. He stated that if funds are inadequate to run the library, it is the fault of inadequate fees, as 100% of the surcharge obtained from the fees goes toward the library. Mr. Woodmansee noted that the balance in the Law Library Fund is \$1,257 currently, but that it fluctuates month-by-month. He stated that in the early 1980's the Law Library received \$2,500 in emergency funds from the County General Fund. He suggested that there are alternate ways to solve problems perceived in the Law Library budget. He suggested that, if paralegals must have a copier because they are not allowed to check out books, perhaps the rules should be changed to allow them to do

so. Also, if the Bar Association and Skagit Valley College is interested in a more useable library, perhaps they would be willing to contribute to the Law Library budget.

Mr. Woodmansee stated that, as filing fees now stand, the budget requests made by Mr. Kuntze for 1990 cannot be supported by the filing fees. Mr. Woodmansee stated that a request for \$24,000 has been made, and that filing fees are expected to total only \$21,000 for 1990.

Mr. Kuntze noted that the statutes indicate that the Law Library is funded by filing fees; however, a recommendation by the Trustees of the Law Library can be approved by the Board of County Commissioners to raise the filing fees from \$7.00 to \$9.00. This would certainly increase the budget of the Law Library.

In answer to a question by Commissioner Wylie, Ms. McIntosh stated that the Bar Association does not contribute to the Law Library.

Mr. Kuntze pointed out that duplicate law volumes are purchased by the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office, and the Law Library. He suggested that all could use the same volumes, which would be retained in the Law Library, at a savings to the County.

Commissioner Wylie advised that a facilities study is occurring, which will address the space concerns of all County departments, including the Law Library.

Mr. Kuntze recapped his position, and stated that he would return to the Board after the first of the year with long range goals for the library.

The Board asked that Mr. Kuntze investigate the possibility of a raise to the filing fees to support the Law Library, and report back to them.

ADJOURNMENT

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



ATTEST:

Stephanie Wood
Stephanie Wood, Clerk
Skagit County Board of Commissioners

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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Dave Rohrer, Chairman

Ruth Wylie
Ruth Wylie, Commissioner

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