

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, November 14, 1989

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

7:30 p.m. Public Hearing - Fire Hydrant Maintenance.  
(Hearing Rooms B and C of County Administration Building)

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, November 14, 1989, with Commissioners Dave Rohrer and Ruth Wylie present. Commissioner Vaux's absence was excused.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

- A. In accordance with the request of the Public Works Department, Commissioner Wylie motioned to adopt the resolution delineating the damage estimates from the flooding which began November 8, 1989, and proclaiming Skagit County a disaster area and requesting Governor Gardner to issue a similar proclamation and assistance for emergency relief. Chairman Rohrer seconded the motion, which carried and was so ordered. (Resolution #12291)
- B. In accordance with the recommendation of the Public Works Department, Commissioner Wylie motioned to adopt the resolution awarding the bid for two new 1990 four-wheel drive gasoline pick up trucks to Seaside Chevrolet, the low bidder, for the bid price of \$27,937.42, and for two new 1990 four-wheel drive diesel pick up trucks to Blade Chevrolet, the low bidder, for the bid price of \$29,708.50. Chairman Rohrer seconded the motion, which carried and was so ordered. (Resolution #12292)
- C. The Board approved for signature a Professional Services Agreement with R.W. Beck and Associates for consultation, site engineering, monitoring well design and installation services, and other services pertaining to the closure of the Sauk and Gibraltar Landfills. The payment for the services will be approximately \$21,518, and the services shall be completed within 90 days.
- D. The Board approved for signature the following Parks and Receptions contracts for professional services:
- 1) Bridget Doucet for scoring, refereeing and coaching youth basketball, scoring adult basketball and refereeing adult volleyball. The contract will expire December 31, 1989, and the contractor will be compensated \$5 to \$10 per game for scoring and refereeing, and \$5 per hour for coaching.
  - 2) Bill Scerbik for scoring, refereeing and coaching youth basketball, and scoring adult basketball. The contract will expire December 31, 1989, and the contractor will be compensated \$5 to \$10 per game for scoring and refereeing, and \$5 per hour for coaching.
  - 3) John Green for scoring, refereeing and coaching youth basketball, scoring adult basketball and refereeing flag football. The contract will expire December 31, 1989, and the contractor will be compensated \$5 to \$10 per game for scoring and refereeing, and \$5

- per hour for coaching.
- 4) Jerald W. Carlson for refereeing adult volleyball. The contract will expire December 31, 1989, and the contractor will be compensated \$10 per game.
- E. The Board approved for signature the following Parks and Recreation Department Rafters Agreements:
- 1) Gerald J. Michalec, dba North Cascades River Expeditions, for the period from October 1, 1989, to September 30, 1990, and for payment to the County of a \$100 performance deposit and \$1.00 per rafter customer exiting onto County property at Howard Miller Steelhead Park.
  - 2) Downstream River Runners, Inc., for the period from October 1, 1989, to September 30, 1990, and for payment to the County of a \$100 performance deposit and \$1.00 per rafter customer exiting onto County property at Howard Miller Steelhead Park.
- F. The Board approved for signature a Parks and Recreation Department Instructional Services Contract with Jim Taylor to administer the Burlington Biathlon on September 30, 1989, for the fee of \$150.
- G. As of this date, November 14, 1989, the Board, by unanimous vote, did approve for signature warrants #78408 through #78461 (Vouchers #78408 through #78461) in the amount of \$15,535.00 (PR-21-89).
- H. The Board approved for signature and agreement with William Dockstader, 710 Edwards Avenue, Everett, Washington 98201, to provide data processing, planning, programming, systems programming support, system installation and related activities pertaining to the IBM 9300 computer in the Auditor's Office.  
Compensation for these services is set at \$60.00 per hour, and services are requested on an on-call basis until termination of the contract.

**PUBLIC HEARING - FIRE HYDRANT MAINTENANCE.**

Chairman Rohrer waived the reading of the Notice of Public Hearing, as published in The Skagit Argus on October 24 and 31, 1989.

Chairman Rohrer asked that a letter submitted by Pete Walker, member of the Skagit County Fire Commissioners' Association's committee on fire hydrants. The Clerk of the Board read the letter in its entirety, which cited State Senate Bill 4446 RCW, as well as the Fire Flow Standards, in recommending that water purveyors be charged with the duty of fire hydrant maintenance.

Chairman Rohrer then asked for public comment.

Jim Kirkpatrick, General Manager of Skagit County Public Utility District #1, stated that the PUD has no problem with assuming the maintenance of fire hydrants, but that it is unrealistic to ask the entire PUD customer base to bear the costs for the maintenance of fire hydrants in other water districts

as well as their own. Mr. Kirkpatrick outlined the following PUD proposal to the Board:

- The proposal would apply to the first 12 months of the program, with adjustment of costs to occur, if needed, at the end of the period.
- A monthly fee of \$4.50 per month per hydrant, or \$54.00 per year per hydrant, will be paid to the PUD. This fee is consistent with that charged by the City of Anacortes for fire hydrant maintenance.
- Only hydrants that have been fully inspected by an inspection team and are determined to be fully serviceable will be accepted.
- Any defective hydrants must be repaired or replaced before the PUD will accept maintenance responsibility.
- Hydrant repairs or replacement could be provided by the PUD and would be reimbursable on a cost plus actual time basis.
- Hydrant parts must be readily available.
- All hydrants accepted by the PUD maintenance program would become the property of the PUD.

Dave Ford, 1611 37th Street, Anacortes, Director of the Public Works Department for the City of Anacortes, gave information on the City's program for fire hydrant maintenance. He stated that Anacortes provides maintenance to all hydrants within the city, as well as 21 hydrants outside the city, for a flat fee of \$4.50 per month per hydrant. He stated that the fire hydrant maintenance program was established by the Anacortes City Council some 25 years ago. Mr. Ford indicated that the fee of \$4.50 was established based on a 1988 repair rate study. He explained how the city arrived at the \$4.50 figure. Mr. Ford stated that the city employs a trained maintenance crew, and has a large parts inventory which includes spare hydrants. His request was that the Board maintain the hydrant maintenance system in effect at the present time so that the City of Anacortes could continue its maintenance program, and that the Board uphold the policy of billing for maintenance services. Mr. Ford stated that the City could maintain hydrants on a fee for services basis, but at \$2,500 to replace a hydrant, the City feels a minimum monthly charge is more affordable to the fire districts. Mr. Ford stated that no formal agreements are in effect with the unincorporated fire districts for which the City maintains hydrants.

Martin Corin, 101 Bizpoint Road, Anacortes, representing the DelMar Homeowners Association, the water purveyor for his area, stated that at present there are 14 hydrants in his local fire district. Soon there will be a total of 20 hydrants within the fire district, which Fire Protection District #11 currently maintains. Mr. Corin pointed out that the Association does not have the capabilities to inspect and maintain fire hydrants, and that they would be compelled to contract with another agency to maintain the hydrants on a fee basis.

Ken Lange, Fire Protection District #4 Commissioner, stated that he felt the entire discussion centers around the fee issue. He made reference to the PUD's involvement in the installation of new hydrants when new water mains are installed. Mr. Lange felt the PUD did not adequately inform the landowners of the need for installation of hydrants in new water mains. Further, Mr. Lange pointed out, the PUD has not indicated what maintenance would entail, nor

could the fire protection districts afford to pay the maintenance fees mentioned. Mr. Lange felt the PUD should maintain all fire hydrants in the unincorporated areas at no charge to the fire protection districts.

Emmett Owens, Fire Protection District #4 Commissioner, 1550 Deception Road, Anacortes, felt it imperative that firemen be completely familiar with fire hydrants. He felt this familiarity could be gained by repeated maintenance of the hydrants. Mr. Owens stated that the water purveyors should have nothing to do with the maintenance of fire hydrants.

Prompted by questions from Commissioner Wylie, Mr. Lange stated that presently Fire Protection District #4 does all the maintenance on fire hydrants within their district. He stated that this takes time, and that a staff of volunteer personnel should not be given the extra burden of fire hydrant maintenance. He also felt that it is redundant for each district to have their own parts inventory, when the PUD could provide one central inventory.

Mr. Kirkpatrick argued that the PUD is accountable to 14,000 ratepayers, and must answer to those ratepayers when offering to provide services to the entire county at their expense.

Mr Kirkpatrick made statements in defense of the PUD's policy for notifying new customers of the need for fire hydrant installation, and further discussion of this subject with Mr. Lange ensued until Chairman Rohrer asked that the discussion return to the matter at hand.

When questioned by Commissioner Wylie, Skagit County Fire Marshall Dan Cain explained portions of the County ordinances and of the State laws regarding fire flow and critical water supply areas.

Commissioner Wylie then stated that although numerous discussions have been held on the subject of fire hydrant maintenance, there is still no indication of consistency in the wishes of the fire protection districts for a policy regarding maintenance of fire hydrants. She stated that it is a difficult decision that will require the Board to choose what is best for the safety and welfare of the people of the County.

Chairman Rohrer agreed with Commissioner Wylie's statements. He also drew attention to the fact that a number of fire protection districts did not attend the public hearing, and only two water purveyors were represented.

Seeing no further public comment, Commissioner Wylie motioned to close the public hearing. Chairman Rohrer seconded the motion, which carried and was so ordered.

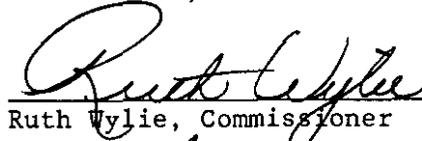
The Board then announced its intention to announce a decision on the issue of fire hydrant maintenance on Tuesday, November 21, 1989, at 9:00 a.m.

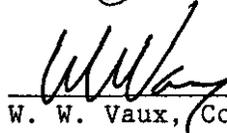
ADJOURNMENT

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

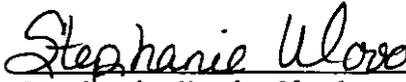
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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

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

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

ATTEST:

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

