

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

Tuesday, November 21, 1989

9:00 a.m. Discussion - Fire Hydrant Maintenance.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

10:00 a.m. Cooperative Extension:

- 1) Introduction of Vista Volunteer.
- 2) Update on Farm Labor Housing.
- 3) Miscellaneous.

1:30 p.m. Presentation - New Tulip Festival Poster.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, November 21, 1989, with Commissioners Dave Rohrer, Ruth Wylie and W. W. Vaux present.

DISCUSSION - FIRE HYDRANT MAINTENANCE.

Commissioner Vaux opened the discussion. He apologized to the audience for being unable to attend the last public hearing, but stated that he had listened to the tape recording of the meeting, and read correspondence submitted at the meeting. Commissioner Vaux stated, after listening to public comment, he felt the water purveyors should maintain and own the fire hydrants within their districts, but that the water purveyors should not be expected to bear the burden for maintenance costs. He felt that agreements should be entered into between the water purveyors and fire districts which satisfy both parties, provide for the maintenance of fire hydrants, and allot cost and labor equitably between the two parties.

Commissioner Wylie agreed with Commissioner Vaux. She stated that there has been no consistency in the sentiments expressed by the fire districts, and that there is no clear indication on how many hydrants may be experiencing problems.

Discussion ensued, and Commissioner Vaux suggested that he would like to see the water purveyors be responsible for ownership and maintenance of the fire hydrants within their districts, with costs of maintenance being a negotiable item between with two parties.

Commissioner Wylie suggested that if a fire district wishes to maintain their own hydrants, they may do so by contract agreement with the water district, under Commissioner Vaux's plan. She further clarified that the water district may contract with the P.U.D. to perform the maintenance for the hydrants they own.

Pete Walker, representing the Fire Commissioner's Association, suggested that the Board was missing the point of Senate Bill #4446. He felt that the water

districts should be the owners of the hydrants, but that the fire districts themselves not be considered the "beneficiaries" of the hydrants.

Emmett Owens, Fire District #4 Commissioner, read an excerpt from the Fidalgo Water Coordinating Plan, which directs that the fire districts are the ultimate owners of the fire hydrants within their districts. Commissioner Vaux explained that the Plan can be amended, should the Board choose to make fire hydrants the property of each respective water district.

Mr. Walker and Commissioner Vaux continued discussion on the intent of Commissioner Vaux's suggested plan.

Finally, Commissioner Vaux made the following motion:

The water district has ultimate responsibility for fire hydrant maintenance and operation, and they also have ultimate ownership of the fire hydrants in their district. Because of the fact that there is such a wide variation in sizes of water districts, the water districts have the ability, in lieu of flat maintenance fees, to negotiate with the fire districts for tasks and labor that could be performed by the fire districts on the fire hydrants.

In response to inquiries, Jim Kirkpatrick, Skagit County PUD #1 Manager, explained that new fire hydrants are paid for by the developer of property, or the requestor/property owner. He explained the PUD's policy for installation of new hydrants.

Dave Ford, Public Works Director for the City of Anacortes, stated that the per month fees charged by the City of Anacortes for fire hydrant maintenance include costs of fire hydrant replacement.

Mr. Kirkpatrick stated that the PUD will follow the City of Anacortes guidelines for hydrant maintenance fees, but would inventory all fire hydrants and refuse to accept any defective hydrants. Mr. Kirkpatrick urged that the Board make their policy uniform throughout the County, compelling all water districts to perform maintenance, and contract with the PUD if sufficient maintenance resources are unavailable.

Discussion again ensued, and Commissioner Wylie then seconded Commissioner Vaux's motion. A vote was called and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board directed that a meeting be arranged with all water purveyors and fire districts to work out acceptable agreements for fire hydrant maintenance. Following beginning of negotiations, the Board then indicated an ordinance will be passed reflecting the decision made today.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

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

- 1) Pedro Rivas, Sr., 219 S. Baker, Mount Vernon, WA 98273, in the amount of \$270.74, due to a senior citizen exemption (012689).

- 2) Roland M. Kollman, P.O. Box 174, Concrete, WA 98237, in the amount of \$209.65, due to a senior citizen exemption ((013189).

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION:

1) **Introduction of Vista Volunteer.**

Kay Haaland, Skagit County WSU Cooperative Extension Chairman, introduced Catherine Lloyd, VISTA Volunteer and Child Care Network Coordinator. Ms. Haaland explained that VISTA Volunteers are made available through Skagit Community Action Agency as full time employees with a federal government stipend. Ms. Haaland discussed the goals of the Child Care Network, and how Ms. Lloyd's position would coordinate the improvement of child care in Skagit County.

2) **Update on Farm Labor Housing.**

Ms. Haaland stated that the Farm Labor Housing Task Force has been working with several professional consultants and representatives of the Farm Home Association at several meetings to discover ways to improve farm labor housing in Skagit County. She stated that several groups have been identified by the Task Force, as follows:

- those farmers who would like to renovate existing farm labor housing.
- those farmers who would like to keep control of their present housing, offering housing to farm laborers during the crops season, and to disadvantaged homeless families during the non-growing season.
- individuals interested in open housing such as that offered by the Skagit County Housing Authority.

Ms. Haaland reported that as a result of the meetings, a smaller group has expressed an interest in establishing a non-profit core group to act as a lead in obtaining grants and loans for farm labor housing improvement projects.

3) **Miscellaneous.**

- A. Ms. Haaland reported on a one-day retreat that she sponsored in late October for the Fair Advisory Board.
- B. Ms. Haaland reminded the Board of the Townhall Meeting sponsored by the WSU College of Agriculture and Home Economics on "Initiatives for Century 2", on Thursday, December 7, 1989, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Skagit Valley Inn.

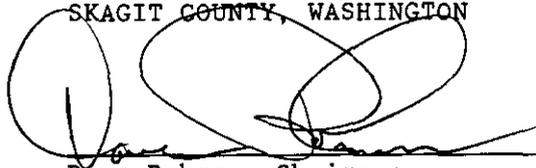
PRESENTATION - NEW TULIP FESTIVAL POSTER.

Jerry Kaufman of the Skagit County Tulip Festival Committee presented the Board with the first official 1990 Tulip Festival poster. The Board discussed with Mr. Kaufman and Audrey Medved the attendance at previous tulip festivals, as well as traffic and parking issues. Mr. Kaufman and Ms. Medved thanked the Board for its continued support of the Skagit County Tulip Festival.

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

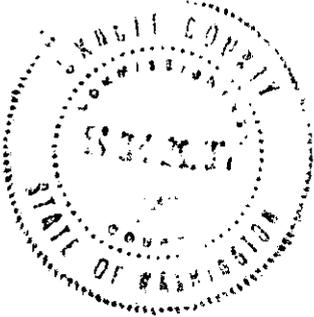


Dave Rohrer, Chairman

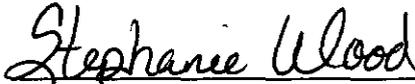
Ruth Wylie, Commissioner



W. W. Vaux, Commissioner



ATTEST:



Stephanie Wood, Clerk
Skagit County Board of Commissioners