

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

Wednesday, May 30, 1990

- 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Continuation of Public Hearing - Speed Limit Reduction - Portion of South Skagit Highway. (Convene at Commissioners' Hearing Room for Site Visit)
- 1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. 1) Call for Bids - Re-Roofing of Administration Building.
2) Approval - Notice of Intent to Lease County Property.
3) Facilities Discussion.
- 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Department of Planning and Community Development - Scott Kirkpatrick, Director:
- 1) Planning Commission Recommendation: Interim Controls on Forestry Zoned Parcels.
2) Enforcement Update.
3) Staffing Update.
4) Miscellaneous.
- MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.
- 3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Public Comment Period.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, May 30, 1990, with Commissioners Ruth Wylie, W. W. Vaux and Dave Rohrer present.

CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC HEARING - SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION ON PORTION OF SOUTH SKAGIT HIGHWAY. (Convene at Commissioners' Hearing Room for Site Visit)

Chairman Wylie convened the hearing at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room. The Board drove to the South Skagit Highway and made three trips back and forth along the section of road in question, noting the placement of current signs, as well as the driveways of area residents. Chairman Wylie then continued the hearing to 10:30 a.m. back in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

At 10:30 a.m., Chairman Wylie reconvened the hearing.

Ed Hawes, Traffic Safety Engineer, stated that the staff wished to amend their recommendation at this time. He stated that instead of recommending that the entire study section be posted at 40 m.p.h., the staff would like to recommend that the study area from Highway 9 north to the existing 50 m.p.h. sign be posted at 35 m.p.h., and that from that point to milepoint 2.10 a posting of 40 m.p.h. be placed.

Commissioner Rohrer agreed with Mr. Hawes' recommendations, and motioned the same.

Commissioner Vaux stated that he agreed with the 35 m.p.h. posting in the area of the severe curve, but could not see the reason for a reduction past that point.

Mr. Hawes explained that driveway access, pedestrian traffic and fishing access parking caused the staff to recommend a reduction to 40 m.p.h.

Commissioner Vaux pointed out that all of the speed limit reductions of late may serve to over tax the manpower of the Sheriff's Office, but seconded Commissioner Rohrer's motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

- A. Mr. Hawes and Mr. Spahr reported on their plans for a traffic study at the Port of Skagit County in conjunction with the consideration of traffic revisions on Peterson Road. They discussed computer applications for interpretation of data.

CALL FOR BIDS - RE-ROOFING OF ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.

Commissioner Vaux motioned to adopt the resolution calling for bids for a re-roofing project to be performed on the County Administration Building. Bids will be opened on June 26, 1990, at 1:30 p.m. Commissioner Rohrer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. (Resolution #12515)

APPROVAL - NOTICE OF INTENT TO LEASE COUNTY PROPERTY.

Commissioner Vaux motioned to adopt the resolution calling for a public hearing on June 26, 1990, at 1:30 p.m., to consider a lease of the County's property located at 103 Broadway in Mount Vernon. Commissioner Rohrer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. (Resolution #12516)

FACILITIES DISCUSSION.

- A. Roger Howard, Facilities Manager, stated that yesterday's bid for the replacement of the security gates at the back of the Public Safety Building was higher than the estimate of \$10,000 to \$12,000 that he originally gave. He stated that he has spoken with the bidder, who indicates that their bid includes the cost of removal of the old gates and also sales tax, neither of which Mr. Howard figured into his estimate. In view of these circumstances, Mr. Howard felt that the bid received was reasonable, and recommended that it be accepted.

Commissioner Vaux motioned to award the bid for purchase and installation of two aluminum rolling grilles for the Sheriff's Office to Crawford Door Sales for the bid price of \$15,661.41. Commissioner Rohrer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. (Resolution #12517)

- B. Mr. Howard reported that Custodial Supervisor Sharon Dubois has assembled a plan for custodial care of the Resource Recovery Facility employee area. She estimates that care will require 12 hours per week plus supplies. Mr. Howard requested direction from the Board on which fund to charge for the services, and how many days per week cleaning should be performed.

The Board directed Mr. Howard to charge the solid waste fund, and to clean two times per week to start.

- C. Mr. Howard, referring to a facility study performed for Skagit County by The Henry Klein Partnership, stated that the next step is to prioritize those departments with the most immediate space needs. Mr. Howard listed Juvenile Detention, Planning, Public Works and the County Clerk's Office as those departments with the most urgent space needs. Mr. Howard stated that he believes that to alleviate the space needs of these departments, an additional building is needed. He said that one strategy would be to allow Juvenile Detention to take over the Prosecuting Attorney's Office space. The Prosecuting Attorney would then be moved to the new building.

Mr. Howard requested a work session with the Board to discuss this proposal. He asked that, as soon as a decision is made, he be allowed to

move ahead immediately with the hiring of an architect to design the building.

The Board directed Mr. Howard to set up the work session as soon as possible.

- D. Mr. Howard updated the Board on the acquisition of the Martin Oil property.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - SCOTT KIRKPATRICK, DIRECTOR:

1) Planning Commission Recommendation - Interim Controls on Forestry Zoned Parcels.

Mr. Kirkpatrick synopsised the discussions held to date on the recommendation of the Planning Commission to enact legislation which changes the minimum lot size in the Forestry Zone from 20 acres to 80 acres, and to require an area of slash abatement around each Forestry Zone building site.

Chairman Wylie advised the audience that, although the discussion was not a public hearing, the Board was willing to hear public testimony at this time.

Henry Campbell of the Nortep Corporation stated that his concern with the proposed legislation is that the emergency nature of the interim controls is suspect. He reported that he has been unable to obtain a copy of the Planning Commission tapes of the public hearing on the interim controls. Mr. Campbell gave a long review of historical demographic information for Skagit County which he stated that he obtained from County records regarding growth. He commented that the 1988 Uniform Fire Code provides standards for roadways, and that these standards apply to Forestry Zoned building lots. Mr. Campbell also made reference to the North Central District Comprehensive Plan during his discussion.

Brian McGuiness, Skagit-Island County Builders Association and Fire Department representative, pointed out, once again, that the original concern and focus of the fire protection districts' objections to forestry zoned housing has not been answered by the Planning Commission recommendation. He stated that the enlargement of parcels does not address the problem of inadequate roadways.

Will Hendrickson felt that road standard and subdivision review by the Planning Agency is the answer to development control. He stated he feels it is unfair to keep development out of the Forestry Zone, and that it is the constitutional right of the land owner to use his land however he sees fit.

Ted Anderson cautioned the Board not to limit alternative uses of forestry lands that have become non-cost productive to land holders.

Chairman Wylie made a statement. She stated that the interim controls are not aimed at controlling growth, but are enacted to try to control dangerous situations such as that which exists on Bacus Hill until such time as formal legislation can be passed via an update to the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Kirkpatrick stated that the purpose of interim controls is to allow time for the County to produce policies, procedures and legislation to control creations of subdivisions in Forestry Zones that are not accessible to fire protection apparatus. He stated that the proposed controls will expire in December of 1991, if enacted.

Dave Kurtz, Resource Manager for Georgia Pacific Corporation, applauded any attempts at keeping housing out the industrial Forestry Zone. He also believed that permanent solutions should be addressed in the Comprehensive Plan. He

stated that through variances and special uses, pockets of development have been created that render certain timberland unfarmable. He stated that Georgia Pacific must now sell off those unfarmable lands, and that the decision of the Board will impact the prices received for the lands. He recommended that the Board stop giving variances. He suggested that it is the responsibility of the purchaser of the timberland property to provide fire access and erosion control.

Gary Koski, Fire Protection District #8 Commissioner, refuted a statement made by Mr. Kurtz that fire apparatus can gain access to forestry lands via existing roads. He indicated that, although access can be gained, it cannot be gained in a manner timely to responding to emergencies and transporting victims.

Darrell Kasader, Engineer and five month resident of the Little Mount Road area, made a statement relating to his wish for a control of growth in the forestry zone.

Pat Lewis suggested a moratorium on the division of forestry land, as a change from a 20 to 80 acre minimum lot size will not be an answer to the fire problem.

Mr. Koski stated that density of homes in the forestry zone is a fire issue, as greater density creates greater potential for fire.

An audience member recommended that the FIRS (Fire Information Reporting System) be consulted to obtain better information than the current myth and opinion being expressed at the public hearing.

George Hill of the Department of Natural Resources addressed the Board. He stated that more fires have been experienced this year than ever before. DNR is expecting a major catastrophic fire to strike Western Washington sometime in the near future. He stated that DNR has no ability to protect homes during a forest fire. Additionally, there are life and safety issues for both fire personnel and home owners which occur when development is allowed to encroach on the forestry zone. He stated that the DNR is considering the creation of an elite fire fighting team similar to that currently employed in California to fight fires involving forestry lands as well as residential structures.

Mr. Koski invited the Board to attend the Second Annual Wildfire Conference in Yakima on Friday, June 1.

Ron Shultz, partner in the Nortep Corporation, suggested that the County could endorse "hold harmless" agreements with homeowners in the forestry zone to protect the County for fire damage liability.

Mr. Kurtz stated that "hold harmless" agreements would never hold up in court if challenged.

Mike Lewis again suggested a moratorium on forestry zone building permits.

Dave Chamberlain, another Georgia Pacific representative, felt that the discussion is a growth management issue. He felt that the Planning Commission's recommendation is a half-hearted approach to solving the problem, although he agreed that the intent is good.

Paul Kriegel of Goodyear Nelson in Sedro Woolley also felt that the Planning Commission's proposal would not stop development in the forestry zone. He urged the Board not to place more regulations on timberland management.

Dan Cain, Skagit County Fire Marshall, was concerned that, if some type of interim control is not enacted, there are those who will engage in indiscriminate forestry land development before the Comprehensive Plan can be updated to protect

that area. He indicated that this practice has already been accomplished on Bacus Hill.

Further discussion revolved around points previously made by the Board and audience.

Jim Allen, Fire Protection District #8 Fire Chief, stated that his district responded to a call on Monday in an unprotected area on Bacus Hill, which, Mr. Koski added, was an expense to the fire district. Not including the response time or initial stabilization time, 15 minutes were required to transport the victim down the hill to Highway 20, where travel to a hospital could be accomplished.

Ron Shultz of Nortep indicated that his firm is currently upgrading the roads on Bacus Hill.

The Board asked questions of Mr. Koski.

Commissioner Vaux suggested a moratorium on building permits for homes not within a fire protection district.

Further discussion ensued on this suggestion.

The Board determined to continue the discussion to Monday, June 4, 1990, at 3:00 p.m. to further consider the matter.

2) Enforcement Update.

Mr. Kirkpatrick reviewed with the Board the current enforcement activity report.

3) Staffing Update.

Mr. Kirkpatrick stated that he did not invite new staff today to be introduced to the Board due to the anticipated length of the earlier discussion.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

A. The Board approved for signature Form Amendment #2200-73630 (5) which allots DSHS funding of \$97,769 to be funneled through Skagit Community Mental Health to Catholic Community Services for mental health services from April of 1990 to June of 1991.

B. Mark Spahr and Jeff Monsen, Director and Assistant Director of the Public Works Department, presented a priority list for Mr. Monsen's time in the area of solid waste matters. They identified areas in which a part time person could help Mr. Monsen, and requested that the Board grant this position to them.

The Board concurred with Mr. Spahr and Mr. Monsen's request.

C. Vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer as required by R.C.W. 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by R.C.W. 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing which has been made available to the Board.

As of this date, May 30, 1990, the Board, by a majority vote, did approve for payment those vouchers included in the above-mentioned list and further described as follows:

- 1) Warrant #MW015-55992 in the amount of \$96,624.45. (C-23-90)

D. Commissioner Vaux motioned to adopt the resolution authorizing a Budget Line Item Change in the amount of \$109,800 from the County Road Fund Other Services and Charges line item to the Interfund Payment for Services line item to account for Data Processing and Risk Management services that have exceeded earlier estimates. Commissioner Rohrer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. (Resolution #12518)

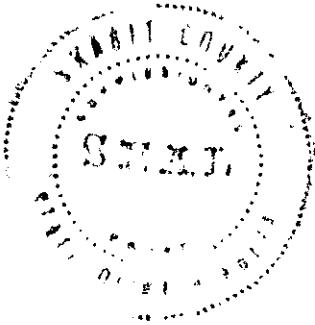
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:


No members of the public were present for the public comment period.

ADJOURNMENT:

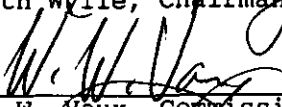
Commissioner Vaux motioned to adjourn the proceedings. Commissioner Rohrer seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON

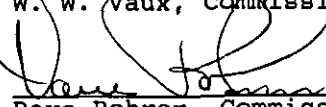




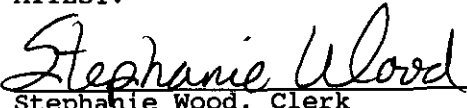
Ruth Wylie, Chairman



W. W. Vaux, Commissioner



Dave Rohrer, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Stephanie Wood, Clerk
Skagit County Board of Commissioners