

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

**Tuesday, July 31, 1990**

- 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Board of Health:
- 1) Clear Lake Swimming Beach Incident Report.
  - 2) Proposal to Revise Skagit County Solid Waste Code (Chapter 12.16) on Sludge Utilization Sites.
- 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Update - Skagit County Housing Authority.
- 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Senior Services Department - Tim Holloran, Director:
- 1) Update - Burlington Senior Center.
  - 2) Discussion - Transportation Needs.
  - 3) Presentation of Contracts for Signature.
- 1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Bid Opening - Scheduled Maintenance of Guemes Ferry.
- 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Department of Planning and Community Development - Scott Kirkpatrick, Director:
- 1) Sphere of Influence Agreements and the Growth Management Act.
  - 2) Discussion - Benchmark Requirements on Building Sites Located in the Flood Plain.
  - 3) Staffing Update.
  - 4) Enforcement Update.
- 3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Public Comment Period.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, July 31, 1990, with Commissioners Ruth Wylie and Dave Rohrer present. Commissioner Vaux's absence was excused.

**BOARD OF HEALTH:**

1) Clear Lake Swimming Beach Incident Report.

Corinne Story, Environmental Health Specialist, reported on the incident of illness experienced by some of the people who used the Clear Lake Swimming Beach sometime between July 7 and 14, 1990.

She stated that Skagit County's Health Office, Dr. Leibrand, first notified the Health Department that several people had become ill with flu-like symptoms following swimming at the beach. Throughout the following five days, people continued to call with reports and questions about the illness. In all, 422 calls have been received to date.

Testing of the water, as well as the outside shower and drinking fountain, revealed no sewage contamination, and blood and stool sample tests sent to the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia, have not yet returned. Aeration of the swimming beach was performed by the Parks and Recreation Department using outboard motors, and the incidents of illness have appeared to stop altogether.

Indications are that this was a highly contagious viral illness, and this theory may be confirmed by the CDC test results when they return.

2) Proposal to Revise Skagit County Solid Waste Code (Chapter 12.16) on Sludge Utilization Sites.

Ken Willis, Environmental Health Specialist, gave information on the proposal. He stated that many people in Skagit County, especially from the upriver area, have been expressing concern over sludge utilization practices as they pertain to application to forest and crop areas for fertilization purposes.

Mr. Willis stated that the current County regulations on sludge, in effect since 1983, should be reviewed and revised accordingly to address present sludge handling policies. Mr. Willis proposed that the Board appoint an advisory committee to study the issues and propose amendments to the Code for the Board's consideration. The committee would consist of representatives of effected groups, and would include concerned citizens. Dick Hethrington of the Environmental Protection Agency has offered to lend his services to the County as a sludge expert.

In the mean time, Mr. Willis stated, Solganics has withdrawn their request to import sludge for application on Crown Pacific forest land in eastern Skagit County, at least until the revisions to the Code are complete.

Mr. Willis then discussed with the audience members, most of whom represented upriver neighborhoods, the noxious odors they have been experiencing as a result of sludge application on farmland near their homes. Mr. Willis stated that an extremely noxious odor is indicative of a high concentration of solids contained within the sludge. Application of sludge for growth enhancement should not be accompanied by this extreme odor, and Mr. Willis stated that the Health Department will investigate this apparently founded complaint of the sludge odor at a sight near Cemetery Road in Hamilton. Nellie Georgia and Lucille Self, both residents of Cemetery Road, took part in this discussion.

Don Bockelman, referring to Mr. Willis' statements that cancer-causing agents do not exist in sludge, according to the EPA, stated his doubts for the veracity of the EPA, especially in light of their mistaken assurances regarding the crop chemical EDB. He implied that County government tells complaining citizens that they have a "psychological problem" when they complain, instead of performing tests to substantiate or refute their claims.

Mr. Willis defended the EPA's estimates, stating that they are based on "worst case" scenarios. He agreed that tests are needed and will be performed in the upriver area, but stated that some of the tests Mr. Bockelman sited cannot be done within the limited expertise of the Health Department.

Ted Anderson pointed out that the County receives no benefit from out-of-County generated sludge which is applied to timberland. He was particularly unhappy because the neighbors were not told when sludge was applied nearby. He stated that sludge application in Snohomish County has long been opposed. Mr. Willis felt Mr. Anderson's suggestion to notify neighbors was excellent, and indicated his intent to pursue it.

Chairman Wylie brought the meeting back to its original purpose; to consider the formation of an advisory committee on sludge issues. She stated that a public hearing has been scheduled for next week when the public may make comment on sludge application. She suggested that a committee of nine members be formed.

Discussion ensued, and the Board determined that the committee should consist of

the following:

- a sludge generator (the City of Mount Vernon)
- a sludge applicator (Solganics)
- a property owner who has been receiving sludge
- two Health Department representatives
- a Cooperative Extension representative
- three concerned citizens, one from each Commissioner District
- non-voting members: representatives of Planning Department, Department of Ecology, EPA to act as experts and advisors

UPDATE - SKAGIT COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY.

John Smith, Director of the Housing Authority, introduced Pat Parker, Chairman of the Board of the Housing Authority.

Ms. Parker gave a statement praising the work of Mr. Smith and the Housing Authority.

Mr. Smith stated that the Board meets at 7:30 a.m. on the second Wednesday of every month at Mount Vernon Manor. Mr. Smith stated that the Housing Authority was founded in 1979 to study the availability of low income housing. It is currently governed by State law, and receives some Federal funding.

Mr. Smith gave an update on the activities over the past 10 years of the Housing Authority, including the Weatherization Program, Mount Vernon Manor and Mount Vernon Manor II Projects, farm worker housing project, State Housing Trust Fund applications, Section 8 program, Energy Matchmakers, and Rental Rehabilitation pilot program.

SENIOR SERVICES DEPARTMENT - TIM HOLLORAN, DIRECTOR:

1) Update - Burlington Senior Center.

Mr. Holloran introduced Jan Rydberg, Burlington Senior Services Director. He stated that problems with acoustics, heating, lighting and space configuration have been identified at the Burlington Senior Center. These problems have been discussed with the Burlington City Council, and the Council has agreed to participate in a joint venture with the Seniors to add on to and refurbish the existing senior center on Regent Street to create a multi-purpose facility for senior and community activities. The City is taking the lead in applying for a community block grant to fund the project.

Mr. Holloran shared the latest plans for the facility with the Board.

2) Discussion - Transportation Needs.

Mr. Holloran discussed his department's need for a pick up truck. He stated that there is an increasing demand for the use of a truck on a regular basis for gardening and maintenance needs and moving senior, food commodities, furniture and equipment. According to the Public Works Department, \$3,600 will be required for rental of a truck next year. Mr. Holloran indicated that he intends to make this request in his 1991 budget.

Chairman Wylie stated that he should make the request at budget time, and it may be matched up with another department's needs.

3) Presentation of Contracts for Signature.

- A. In accordance with action previously taken, the Board approved for signature the agreement with Island Hospital for provision of off-project meals for senior citizens for the year 1990. This contract is signed at this late date due to its delay at the hospital. (Contract #00432)
- B. In accordance with action previously taken, the Board approved for signature the agreement with United General Hospital for provision of off-project meals for senior citizens for the year 1990. This contract is signed at this late date due to its delay at the hospital. (Contract #00433)
- C. The Board approved for signature a contract with the Department of Community Development for \$4,380 in funding for the RSVP Program from July 16, 1990, through June 30, 1991. (Contract #00434)

BID OPENING - SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE OF GUEMES FERRY.

Chairman Wylie waived the reading of the Notice of Call for Bids, as published in The Skagit Argus on July 3, 10 and 17, 1990, and in The Daily Journal of Commerce on July 10 and 17, 1990.

The following bids were received and opened:

- 1) Marine Industries Northwest, Inc.  
313 East "F" St., P.O. Box 1275  
Tacoma, WA 98401

Pre-bid inspection was made and addendums were received.  
Total cost of work: \$128,183.00

- 2) Maritime Contractors, Inc.  
201 Harris Ave.  
Bellingham, WA 98225

Pre-bid inspection was made and addendums were received.  
Total cost of work: \$153,896.35

- 3) Foss Shipyard  
660 W. Ewing St.  
Seattle, WA 98119

Pre-bid inspection was made and addendums were received.  
Total cost of work: \$293,303.00

The bids will be reviewed by the Public Works Department, and a recommendation for award submitted at a later date.

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

- 1) Sphere of Influence Agreements and the Growth Management Act.

Mr. Kirkpatrick reported that he had a meeting last week with representatives of the Burlington School District, the Port of Skagit County, Economic Development Agency of Skagit County (EDASC), the City of Burlington, consultants such as PEI,

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and the Department of Transportation regarding the Growth Management Act. A primary focus of the discussion was the ability of the Burlington sewer treatment plant to accommodate new housing, and the possible urbanization of Burlington.

Mr. Kirkpatrick also reported that he has been chosen to serve on a technical advisory committee for the Washington State Department of Community Development, whose primary focus will be the grant funding availability for implementation of the Growth Management Act.

Finally, Mr. Kirkpatrick reported that the State Department of Health remains without water quality standards, as are required in the Act. Apparently, the Department of Health does not intend to draft standards until Initiative 547 is settled.

2) Discussion - Benchmark Requirements on Building Sites Located in the Flood Plain.

Commissioner Rohrer had requested of Mr. Kirkpatrick an explanation of this subject.

Mr. Kirkpatrick explained that the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Geodetic Survey have established certified benchmarks throughout the United States. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has always required that benchmarks be established within 200 yards of a new building site that is located in the floodplain. The Public Works Department, Mr. Kirkpatrick explained, has kept a record of all benchmarks recorded in Skagit County, and sometimes, using the Public Works data, it is possible to quickly establish a benchmark. However, if an established mark is not close enough to the building site for accurate measurement, a survey may be required.

Mr. Kirkpatrick explained that the importance of benchmarks can also be noted when a homeowner wishes to mortgage a home. Some mortgages require certification that the house meets benchmark requirements. If these are not met, the cost of insurance can increase significantly.

Mr. Kirkpatrick related that sometimes surveyors are too busy to be immediately available for benchmark certifications, so that the homeowner must spend additional time waiting for a survey, as well as additional money, but that it is a mistake not to require benchmarks, and can cost the homeowner 10 times as much in insurance fees if the house is located below the benchmark.

3) Staffing Update.

Mr. Kirkpatrick reported that his department is recruiting a building inspector to replace Don Lehl, whose last day was today.

4) Enforcement Update.

Enforcement statistics were unavailable.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

A. In accordance with action previously taken, the Board approved for signature the resolution authorizing a grant application to the ALEA financial assistance program for enhancement of seven boat launches on the

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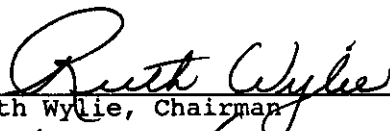
Skagit River, and pledging a matching share for the project. (Resolution #12582)


ADJOURNMENT:

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

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON



  
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Ruth Wylie, Chairman

  
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W. W. Vaux, Commissioner

  
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Dave Rohrer, Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
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Stephanie Wood, Clerk  
Skagit County Board of Commissioners