

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Monday, September 17, 1990

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Public Works Department - Mark Spahr, Director

- 1) Update: Incinerator Operations/Landscaping
- 2) Recycling Report: Curbside/In-House
- 3) Proclamation: Household Hazardous Waste Awareness Week
- 4) Professional Services Contract: Hazardous Waste Training
- 5) Discussion: Contract for Private Operation of Guemes Ferry
- 6) Discussion - Long Range Ferry Plan
- 7) Change Order: South March's Point Road, et al
- 8) Rock Grant/Dike Improvement Project - Drainage District No. 21
- 9) Rock Grant - Private
- 10) Out-of-State Travel Requests
- 11) Miscellaneous

CONSENT AGENDA

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, September 17, 1990, with Commissioners Ruth Wylie, W. W. Vaux and Dave Rohrer present.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT - MARK SPAHR, DIRECTOR

1) Update - Incinerator Operations/Landscaping

Jeff Monsen, Assistant Director, Public Works Department, introduced Don King, Supervisor of the Skagit County Incinerator, who presented a report on the operation of the Incinerator, summarizing the amount of materials going through the plant and some of the things that are happening at the plant at the present time.

Mr. King noted that in July the refuse stream increased 16% over last year. In August the refuse stream increased 8% over last year. The plant is operating at 82.25% of capacity. He noted that in the month of August 4 gear boxes were broken on the bucket conveyors from large pieces of metal jamming in the conveyors. What he is emphasizing is that it is important to get large pieces of iron out of the waste stream. Chairman Wylie asked if they could check those loads when they are coming in? Mr. King said they could go to the driver and identify where they are coming from.

Chairman Wylie asked if they were getting as much electricity as possible now? Mr. King advised that in the last two weeks they have managed to increase the electrical generation pretty dramatically.

Mr. Monsen commented that as staff positions are filled at the Incinerator, they will be able to get this information to the Board at least every other week so they can see the trends as they are happening.

Mr. Spahr said that if trends continue as they are, the Incinerator will be at capacity in 4 or 5 years.

Mr. Monsen distributed a sketch of the proposed layout for the landscape work at the Incinerator. Laurie A. Freeman of Landscape Associates reported to the Board on the progress of the work.

Ms. Freeman said that the landscaping is coming along well. There is a lot of groundwork being done and preliminary irrigation work underway as well. She noted that the County has been most cooperative in getting in-house materials such as rock and top soil delivered to them. The irrigation supplies are to be delivered this date.

Ms. Freeman further reported that the plant material list the Board has has been taken partly from the original plan proposed. Some additional things, such as color interest and food for wildlife, have been added per her recommendation.

Commissioner Vaux asked about the plan for the northwest corner of the property? He asked if Ms. Freeman was aware of the fact that there is going to be a shop building there? Ms. Freeman said she was not aware of that. Commissioner Vaux asked that Mr. Monsen walk Ms. Freeman through this.

Chairman Wylie asked if there were trees on the south and east lines of the property that need to come out eventually? Ms. Freeman indicated that there is a nice mix of cedars and some fir on the property. It is nicely laid out as it is.

2) Recycling Report: Curbside/In-House

Ric Boge, Recycling Coordinator, reported.

Curbside Recycling - Five pickups have been done to date. Fifteen thousand pounds of material have been netted. In talking with Terry Knutzen, he continues to report that the program is running smoothly. About 80% of the people signed up have been putting out bins of recycled material. Relative to the fluctuation in figures, a better understanding of the picture will occur over time. There have been over two tons of non-combustible materials removed from the waste stream.

Commissioner Vaux asked if the County is working with Terry Knutzen to increase participation? Mr. Boge said he asked Mr. Knutzen about that and his preference is not to increase participation at this time.

In-House Recycling Program - Mr. Boge reported that the in-house recycling program has completed a two month trial period. Over 3,000 pounds of recyclable items have been picked up. Although the program has gone well, some changes need to be made.

Mr. Boge further reported that correspondence has been received from CTC with some suggested changes in the program. He invited Debbie Brigham of CTC to report.

Ms. Brigham reported that in the short time since they have been involved in the County In-House Recycling Program, they have become aware of the fact that their overhead is not met with the amount of recyclable materials that are picked up.

Ms. Brigham gave an example of how this problem was handled at the hospital. The hospital has invested in buying 10 large totes. Someone is selected to take pieces out and dump them, then they are picked up by CTC at a central point. Five totes are picked up and 5 are left for the next time.

Mr. Boge said the County pays a little over \$500.00 per month for waste to be taken away from County offices in the dumpsters. With more recyclable material

picked up, this cost could be cut. Currently, the custodial crew is not actively involved in this program. In talking with Sharon Dubois about the program, she is willing to consider having the custodial crew involved in the pickup and delivery to the central point. The general waste baskets might be skipped one night a week, with recyclable materials picked up on that night. A central collection point would need to be established.

Commissioner Vaux asked if recycling boxes were in every office? Mr. Boge said they were not in every office as lots of offices have confidential papers. He said he has encouraged people not to put confidential paper in the recycling containers.

Chairman Wylie said she would like to see the County continue with CTC as they are providing a good service. She asked Mr. Boge where a good location would be for storing the recyclable materials for pickup? Mr. Boge said there is some space at the front of the old incinerator. There is room downstairs to do some creative things to handle both recycling and incinerator transfer materials.

Mr. Boge said that the totes are 60 gallons and on wheels and run about \$60.00 each. The County will probably need 10 totes.

Chairman Wylie said she felt the idea of custodial staff picking up recyclables one night a week was a good one. She also asked that Mr. Boge to look into the cost of a shredder.

3) Proclamation: Household Hazardous Waste Awareness Week

Commissioner Vaux read a proclamation proclaiming the week of September 23 to 29, 1990 as Household Hazardous Waste Week. Commissioner Vaux motioned approval of the Proclamation declaring the week of September 23 to 29, 1990 as Household Hazardous Waste Awareness Week. Commissioner Rohrer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

4) Professional Services Contract: Hazardous Waste Training

Mark Spahr reported that more formalized training regarding proper handling of contaminants is important. A contract has been negotiated with James Hinman, a retired chemist living in Shelter Bay. Theresa Thinnis of the Recycling Department provided background information on Mr. Hinman.

Commissioner Vaux motioned to approve for signature a Contract for Professional Services with James Hinman to prepare and provide instruction on the proper handling of hazardous and moderate risk waste to the Skagit County Department of Public Works, including all incidental expenses to be billed at cost to the County. Commissioner Rohrer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

5) Discussion: Contract for Private Operation of Guemes Ferry

Mark Spahr reported. There are four counties in the state who operate ferry systems. Three of those counties have operations comparable to Skagit County. Of those three, one county ferry system is operated by private contract, Pierce County. Several months ago discussion was had with Pierce County and why they operate their system that way. They provided an analysis of private operation versus public operation. Their figures indicated they realized an approximately 33% decrease in costs going with the private company. If the same figures worked in Skagit County that would be a savings of in excess of \$100,000 per year.

Mr. Spahr further reported that he and Charlie Tewalt are now in the process of working with the Pierce County document as the foundation and making some changes to "Skagitize" the Pierce County document. A copy of the document will also be

provided to the Guemes Ferry personnel so they may provide input. There are significant differences between the two ferry operations.

Mr. Spahr indicated that it is their intent to provide the Board with a firm cost estimate, a comparison of what the County crew cost is, and what a private contractor would be paid to operate the ferry. It is the goal of staff to have a document within two weeks for internal review and by mid-October to advertise for proposals. They would expect to receive a statement of qualifications and estimated costs.

Chairman Wylie asked if in the proposal a bond would be requested for the ferry itself? Mr. Spahr replied that the language reads that any damage caused by contractor error would be the contractor's responsibility, or any damage caused by the County would be the County's responsibility. If damage is a mutual responsibility, then the cost would be shared. He stated he is planning on working with the Risk Manager on this matter.

Four members of the Ferry Committee were present for discussion around the Guemes Ferry: Al Bush, Glen Beal, Charlie Jones and Max Benjamin. Commissioner Vaux introduced Mrs. Benjamin.

6) Discussion: Long Range Ferry Plan

Mark Spahr recommended to the Board that a consultant be hired for the long range ferry plan. He stated that one of the reasons a long range plan is requested is a state requirement. Mr. Spahr provided a graph analysis of the ridership from 1978 until August of 1990. What is being seen is that the transportation system is being stressed. If it continues at the rate we have been seeing recently there will be some capital needs.

Mr. Spahr also provided another graph which showed the total number of round trip passengers. The ferry will have moved 151,000 people by the conclusion of 1990. In August there were approximately 10,000 more people than in August of 1989.

Mr. Spahr said that in addition to growth there are other reasons why a plan is warranted. They have been in contact with the City of Anacortes and the City is planning on constructing a park immediately adjacent to the Guemes Ferry operation. There is concern regarding parking on city property. A parking problem may be developing on the property adjacent to the terminal. It is a complex issue.

Mr. Spahr said that last week he and Charlie Tewalt interviewed four consultants and selected one, Parsons Brinderhof of Seattle. They will be working with them regarding the scope of the budget next week. They will provide capital improvement information sufficient to meet the CRAB office request.

Commissioner Vaux asked Mr. Spahr his opinion relative to the County doing the long range plan in-house. Mr. Spahr said there are three fundamental principles on whether a consultant should be hired: 1) when you don't have staff resources to dedicate to a project; 2) if you don't have expertise to perform the work (the County does have the expertise); or 3) if you get into controversial issues it is wiser to hire someone who is independent.

Chairman Wylie asked if part of the study can be done by the consultant and part with the cooperation of the Ferry Committee and the County? Mr. Spahr replied that it could be structured that way.

Chairman Wylie asked for public comment.

Al Bush stated that he is concerned about why they are just hearing about this

now. These issues have usually been brought to the committee's attention so they can work with the Commission and the County to solve any problems. He added that he is very opposed to hiring a consultant. The study done in 1977 is still very accurate and it is very close to the projections being done now. Those are expenses the taxpayer should not have to pay.

Glen Beal advised that they don't know what the long range ferry study will encompass in every detail, however, the information we have indicates it may not need to be as detailed as proposed. Perhaps the state would be satisfied with something less than a full blown consultant's plan. He said they do not see a problem with ridership because of the excess capacity of the ferry as it is. In terms of long range, there are alternatives. Does this mean we are going to be told what is going to happen to us in the future with this study? What will the study be used for? Mr. Beal added that they feel that Guemes Islanders should be involved at every level. He feels they have been placed in a reactive situation lately and is concerned about that.

Max Benjamin concurred with what the other committee members said. He noted that on Thursday night there was a meeting on the island. Every household on the island received an invitation to attend. A unanimous vote was taken at the meeting directing the committee to do what they could to stop the spending of \$50,000 for a study. Mr. Benjamin said that he has had difficulty obtaining information from the Public Works Department and found some of the information in the reports to be inaccurate but they have attempted to inform people as best as they could. He added that he had had difficulty obtaining a copy of a letter from the Department of Transportation providing the parameters of the study from the Public Works Department. Mr. Benjamin said he had contacted members of the Department of Transportation who said that ample time had been given to the Public Works Department to do the study in-house and that the study did not have to be complete or complex.

Stan Moon suggested that the 1977 study could be updated. He said he has problems with the scope of the study proposed by the Public Works Department. The Public Works Department at no time approached the committee or island as a whole to discuss the goals and needs of the people on the island and their feelings about this. There has been an increase in passengers but the ferry is not working up to capacity. He added that they are opposed to the outside production of this long range plan. It should have been started and done in conjunction with the Planning Department and the Public Works Department for the past few months.

Raleigh Jones said he uniformly agreed that \$50,000 for the proposed study for long range plans expenditure is not necessary. It could be done in-house.

Theresa Benjamin expressed concern about Mr. Spahr's reaction as a new person on the island and suggested he may have a conflict of interest in the way he looks at the ferry. She felt he gets irritated by the wait, while other residents look at it as an opportunity to chat with friends. She added that she does not see a growth problem. All that needs to be done is to help the people to make it run more efficiently. Adjustment time to living on the island takes about five years and if people don't adjust they move off the island. Sometimes people are unable to handle the fact that there is no ferry run after 6:00 p.m. at night.

Mr. Spahr emphasized that he tries to leave personal feelings out of this. As an engineer he says he is seeing the beginning of very serious problems if nothing is done. He stated that the way he personally has adjusted is to leave a car on the Anacortes side and car pool. He reported that he is hearing the Anacortes constituency and there are some serious issues that group has made him aware of. The neighborhood is heavily impacted by the Guemes Ferry operation. In terms of the alternatives for mitigating the impact, this is a very complex

issue and there needs to be some long range planning. Mr. Spahr again emphasized that he tries very hard to leave his personal biases out of this. Mr. Spahr also noted that with regard to Mr. Benjamin's comment about not receiving correspondence, they have forwarded all correspondence to him. In terms of effort that goes into the long range plan, the Ferry Committee is probably very right - they could come up with some estimates.

Mr. Benjamin said he concurred with many things Mr. Spahr has said. There needs to be more parking and more emphasis on managing the system. Currently, there are only 30 parking spaces on the dock. Those 30 spaces were identified in the 1977 study and there are still 30 spaces. Also, people in the neighborhood do complain about the cars parked there. The increased traffic is not all bad as it means the more the system is used the more it will pay for itself.

Jim Dugan of Guemes Island said he feels the biggest problem with most people will be parking on the Anacortes side. There are probably 50 to 60 cars parked up on the hill where the park is going to be when it is the fourth of July or another holiday.

Commissioner Vaux said that some preliminary exploration has been done with the City of Anacortes. There are no willing sellers at this point. At least within reasonable walking distance of the ferry.

Mr. Spahr said he would hope that when voters take action on the transportation system that is being proposed in November, there will be a bus stop at the ferry terminal. At this point in time that is an unknown factor.

Chairman Wylie clarified that what she hears is the committee is saying there does not need to be a long range study. Chairman Wylie asked the Board for their response on this matter.

Commissioner Rohrer said there needs to be a plan, whether it is done by the County or someone from outside is hired.

Chairman Wylie said she would like to see some kind of plan from the Public Works Department and the Planning Department on how this could be done. She said, however, she does understand the need for a consultant after all the transportation hearings they have been through. There is a sizeable issue regarding land use on Guemes Island. They will work with Planning Department staff as much as possible on this.

Mark Spahr said there is a tremendous potential population increase in terms of summer home people using the property on a year round basis. Information has been received from the Planning Department regarding the number of building permits issued per year. It does not explain the growth that has been seen. Mr. Spahr also noted that they would use the Planning Department as much as possible. His goal is to set up a time with the consultant this week and developed a proposed scope of work. The cost will be less than \$50,000.

Commissioner Vaux said he believes that the long range plan could be done in-house as the County has the expertise to do this. Outside information can be obtained from asking the right questions from the right people.

Chairman Wylie agreed that there needs to be a plan and expressed concern about whether the Public Works Department can do that.

Commissioner Rohrer said there is no reason they cannot see how much the consultant is going to cost, although he feels the expertise exists within the County to handle this.

After further discussion, it was agreed that Mr. Spahr would come back with a proposal. It was also agreed that the Public Works Department would prepare a scope of work.

7) Change Order: South March's Point Road, et al

Commissioner Rohrer motioned to approve a change order to the South March Point et al Overlay Project on the Swan Road Bridge between Mount Vernon and Clear Lake at a total cost estimated to be \$5,525.00. Commissioner Vaux seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

8) Rock Grant/Dike Improvement Project - Drainage District No. 21

Commissioner Vaux motioned to approve a resolution for a Rock Grant/Dike Improvement Project from Flood Control Account No. 9027 at a cost of \$1,100.00. Commissioner Rohrer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. (Resolution No. 12655)

9) Rock Grant - Private

Commissioner Vaux motioned to approve a resolution for a rock rip-rap grant from Flood Control Account No. 9028 to Robert Murdock from the Dukes Hill Quarry to Rip-Rap approximately 100 feet of the left bank of the Samish River adjacent to his property located in Section 6, Township 36 North, Range 4 East W.M. Commissioner Rohrer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. (Resolution No. 12656)

10) Out-of-State Travel Requests

Charlie Tewalt, Supervisor, Road Department, indicated that the County would be reimbursed for a portion of the requests for out-of-state travel for Dub Queen and Rick Owens to attend a Western Snow and Ice Fleet Management Conference.

Commissioner Vaux motioned to approve out-of-state travel requests for Dub Queen and Rick Owens to attend a Western Snow and Ice Fleet Management Conference in Greeley, Colorado October 8-11, 1990 with the understanding that \$600.00 toward this expense will be donated by the State Association. Commissioner Rohrer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

11) Miscellaneous

There were no miscellaneous items.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Vaux motioned to approve the consent agenda of September 17, 1990. Commissioner Rohrer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

* Petitions for Property Tax Refunds:

1. Computer Services, P.O. Box 584, Anacortes, WA 98221, in the amount of \$47.99, because of clerical errors in listing property. (007690)
2. Clyde Wood, 2239C Wicker Road #20, Sedro Woolley, WA 98284, in the amount of \$51.11, due to senior citizen exemption. (010390)
3. Georgia Busha, 722 Joy Place, Burlington, WA 98233, in the amount of \$108.69 due to senior citizen exemption. (010490)
4. Sauk River Sites, 3333 Taylor Avenue North, Seattle, WA 98109, in

the amount of \$21.87, due to clerical error in listing. (010190)

• Public Works:

5. Signature: ; Ordinance Establishing Parking Restrictions on a Portion of Samish Point Road, #3960. (Ordinance # 12657)

* Parks, Recreation and Fair:

6. Signature: Easement across County Property.

School Facility Rental Agreements:

7. Lincoln School Gym
8. LaVenture School Gym
9. Centennial School Gym
10. Fair Contract: Cascadian Farm - No Charge/Educational Exhibit for space in the Commercial Exhibit.
11. Fair Contract: Veteran's of Foreign War - \$159.50 for space in Commercial, Outside.

* Records Management - Contracts for Professional Services:

12. Geoffrey Almvig Computer Consulting
13. Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc.

* Commissioners Office

14. Record of the Proceedings from September 10, 1990.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

1) Commissioner Vaux motioned to approve a resolution amending Resolution No. 12458 authorizing the Road superintendent and the Director of Parks and Recreation to bind the County by contract in certain situations. Commissioner Rohrer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. (Resolution No. 12658)

2) Commissioner Vaux motioned to approve a resolution to Call for Public Hearing Authorizing Supplemental Budget in the amount of \$854,450 for the Current Expense Fund #001. Commissioner Rohrer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. (Resolution No. 12659)

3) Commissioner Vaux motioned to approve a resolution to Call for Public Hearing Authorizing Supplemental Budget in the amount of \$26,000 for the Parks and Recreation Fund #114. Commissioner Rohrer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. (Resolution No. 12660)

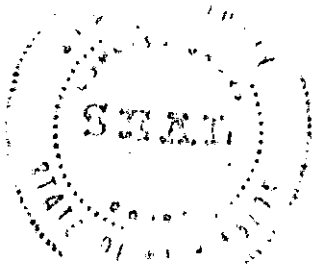
4) Commissioner Vaux motioned to approve Voucher numbers PDRAWSEP380 through PDRAWSEP423 and payroll warrants numbered 6455 through 6498 in the total of \$15,094.48. Commissioner Rohrer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. (P-20-90)


ADJOURNMENT


Commissioner Vaux motioned to adjourn the proceedings. Commissioner Rohrer

seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON

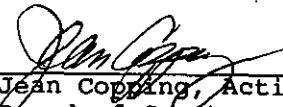



Ruth Wylie, Chairman


W. W. Vaux, Commissioner


Dave Rohrer, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Jean Copping, Acting Clerk
Board of County Commissioners