

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

**Tuesday, October 1, 1991:**

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.            Department of Planning and Community Development - Scott Kirkpatrick,  
Director:

- 1) Discussion - Expiration of Fire District Interim Control.
- 2) RTPO Update.
- 3) Enforcement Report Update.
- 4) Miscellaneous.

3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.            Proclamation - 4-H Week.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, October 1, 1991, with Commissioners Robby Robinson and Ruth Wylie present. Chairman Vaux's absence was excused.

**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - SCOTTKIRKPATRICK, DIRECTOR:**

- 1) Discussion - Expiration of Fire District Interim Control.

Mr. Kirkpatrick explained that the interim control which prohibits the issuance of building permits to parcels located outside of fire districts, will expire on December 31, 1991. Dan Cain, County Fire Marshall, has, in a letter to Mr. Kirkpatrick dated September 19, 1991, recommended that the interim control be made a permanent county ordinance. Mr. Kirkpatrick concurred in his own memo to the Board dated September 23, 1991.

Mr. Cain stated that the interim legislation allows the fire districts to have some say as to what they will protect. Since the fire districts have always responded to calls for assistance from those areas lying outside their territories, the legislation now allows fire districts to be in a position to collect taxes for those areas they already protect. It also allows the fire districts to condition acceptance on appropriate roads, available water and additional fire protection measures. Mr. Cain stated that there may be some areas where an exemption is necessary, so an appeal or variance procedure should be included in the ordinance.

A second issue that Mr. Cain wished to discuss was a request by the fire districts for changes to road access standards. Mr. Cain provided copies of a petition of the fire district commissioners which indicates support for the current access road standards, but asks that private driveway width standards be raised from 12 feet to 16 feet, and that access road or private driveway gradient be decreased from a maximum 12% gradient to a maximum 10% gradient. Mr. Cain stated that the County is presently using 1988 Uniform Fire and Building Codes. When 1991 Codes are adopted by the County, they will require that the County adopt their own access road standards.

A final issue Mr. Cain discussed was that converted forestry land, although it may be sold in 20 acre building lots, does not have to conform to any road standards. Even though the property must be included in a fire district in order to obtain building permits, only by negotiations between the fire district and the developer or property owners can access roads be made to conform to standards that permit fire vehicle access.

Mr. Kirkpatrick stated that putting 20 acre forestry conversion parcels under the County's subdivision ordinance would answer Mr. Cain's last concern.

Henry Campbell, an employee of a local developer, Pschoel and Schultz, stated that he felt driveways should remain at 12 feet, and gradients should remain at a maximum of 12%. He felt that affordable housing will

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be more difficult to achieve, since it is expensive for the developer to meet these more stringent standards in the forestry zone.

Jim Allen, President of the Fire Chiefs Association, indicated that the Bacus Hill development started out as an area of 20 acre building lots with very poor access roads. The developers, Pschoel and Schultz, had done minimal planning of the roads, and they were very bad. Only through the interim controls was the fire district able to compel the developers to improve the roads to a standard that would accommodate emergency vehicles. Using a hypothetical situation, Mr. Allen demonstrated how difficult it can be for emergency vehicles, including the many personal vehicles responding when a volunteer department is involved, to access poorly planned and constructed private roads and driveways.

Mr. Kirkpatrick felt that the ability to protect lives and property should not be traded for housing affordability, as Mr. Campbell would suggest.

More discussion continued, and the Board directed Mr. Kirkpatrick to submit draft ordinances outlining the suggestions made by Mr. Cain for their review.

2) RTPO Update.

Mr. Kirkpatrick reported that he met with Bob Ruby, SCOG Executive Director, representatives of Island County, and Larry Kwarzik of WSDOT. Island County is still unwilling to participate in an RTPO with Skagit County unless WSDOT is the lead agency, and SCOG steps aside. Mr. Kirkpatrick suggested that each County plan individually and come together in a "policy board" setting, leaving SCOG out of the meeting, and designating WSDOT as lead agency.

The Board concurred.

3) Enforcement Report Update.

Provided for review.

4) Miscellaneous.

There were no miscellaneous items for the Planning Department.

PROCLAMATION - 4-H WEEK.

The Board proclaimed the week of October 6-12, 1991, 4-H Week in Skagit County.

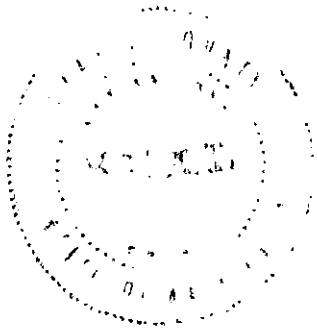
MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

- A. Commissioner Robinson motioned to adopt the resolution authorizing a budget line item change in the amount of \$380,000 for the County Road Fund #117 and \$5,000 for the Solid Waste Operating Fund #401. Commissioner Wylie seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. (Resolution #14076)

ADJOURNMENT:

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

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON

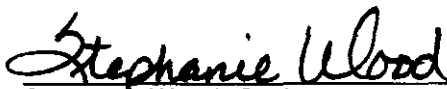


  
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W. W. Vaux, Chairman

  
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Robby Robinson, Commissioner

  
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Ruth Wylie, Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
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Stephanie Wood, Clerk  
Skagit County Board of Commissioners