

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Monday, December 7, 1992

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Public Works Department - Rich Medved, Director.

- 1) Public Hearing - Amending Chapter 12.,18 of the Skagit County Code Relating to Ordinance No. 11125, Solid Waste Disposal.
- 2) Discussion - Solid Waste Disposal Options.
- 3) Resolution - Adopting 1993 Annual Road Program.
- 4) Resolution - Road Closure, South Campbell Lake Road.
- 5) Signature - Memorandum of Understanding, Use of United States Geological Survey Water Resource Division Minicomputer Facilities.
- 6) Discussion - Parking Alternatives During Haul-out of M.V. Guemes Ferry.
- 7) Miscellaneous.

11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Calls for Public Hearings.

- 1) Proposed Addition of a New Section to Skagit County Code 15.04.020(4), 1991 Edition of the Uniform Fire Code.
- 2) Proposed Amendment to Skagit County Code 15.04.030, 1991 Edition of the Uniform Fire Code.

CONSENT AGENDA.

MISCELLANEOUS.

1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Public Hearing - Adoption of 1993 Budget for Skagit County.

2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Public Hearing - Supplement to 1992 Budget - Public Health Fund.

2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Executive Session - Personnel and Litigation.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, December 7, 1992, with Commissioners Robby Robinson, Ruth Wylie, and W. W. Vaux present.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT - RICH MEDVED, DIRECTOR.

- 1) Public Hearing - Amending Chapter 12.18 of the Skagit County Code Relating to Ordinance No. 11125, Solid Waste Disposal.

Commissioner Robinson waived the reading of the notice of public hearing as advertised in The Skagit Argus.

Don King, Solid Waste Division Manager, stated that several public work sessions were held regarding amending SCC 12.18. The proposed amendments being presented are the results of discussions and recommendations from the work sessions. Mr. King distributed copies of the proposed amendments to those people in attendance.

Chairman Robinson opened the hearing for public comment.

- Don Bockleman, Day Creek, stated that the proposed ordinance amendments allows Skagit County to

dictate the disposal of Solid Waste. He felt that the County should remove itself from the garbage business. He expressed disagreement with the proposed changes.

- Mr. Martin, 618 Puget, asked whether pricing to the public for solid waste disposal was included in the proposed changes.

Mr. Medved stated that there was no cost involved as this was an update of the existing ordinance.

- Lewis Norton, 1582 Mountain View Road, felt that increasing tipping fees contributed to illegal dumping on the back roads in the County.

Ken Willis, Environmental Health Specialist, stated that the County recognizes the illegal dumping problem and measures are being taken to resolve them.

- Carol Ehlers, 1356 Wind Crest Lane, Anacortes, voiced concern over the need to further educate the public regarding recycling and proper disposal of food garbage.

- Mr. Bockleman asked whether there had been any public involvement regarding the proposed amendments.

- Mr. King stated again that there had been many public work sessions that the public could have attended.

Commissioner Wylie stated that the purpose of the day's public hearing was to consider the proposed changes to the existing code by removing outdated and extinct points in the code.

Seeing and hearing no further comment from the public, Commissioner Vaux motioned to close the public hearing.

Commissioner Wylie seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Commissioner Vaux stated that tipping fees in surrounding counties are equal to, or higher than Skagit County's. The State puts the responsibility of dealing with solid waste on the counties. The County is presently working with the cities to achieve better recycling results. The recycling program in effect is a good one, but the public needs to participate more for it to be effective. He felt that the proposed changes to the ordinance were reasonable and motioned to adopt the changes as presented.

Commissioner Wylie seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. (Resolution #14659).

The following items were heard out of order for the best use of staff time.

3) Resolution - Adopting 1993 Annual Road Program.

Doug Barnet, County Engineer, presented to the Board the proposed 1993 Annual Road Program. The Program is based on the 1993-98 Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) adopted in July of 1992. All projects that are scheduled for the first year of the TIP are included in the Program. The Annual Road Program must be adopted before the 1993 County Budget is approved. State funding sources will be known in early 1993.

Commissioner Vaux motioned to adopt the 1993 Annual Road Program as presented. Commissioner Wylie seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. (Resolution #14653).

4) Resolution - Road Closure, South Campbell Lake Road.

Conrad Claybo, Road Supervisor, stated that it is necessary to replace the caps on the pilings at the

westerly end of the bridge on South Lake Campbell Road. All residents have been notified, as well as the fire department and there is no opposition to the road closure. The road will be closed to through traffic Wednesday, December 16, 1992, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Commissioner Vaux motioned to approve the road closure as recommended, Commissioner Wylie seconded the motion which carried unanimously. (Resolution #14654).

5) Signature - Memorandum of Understanding, Use of United States Geological Survey Water Resource Division Minicomputer Facilities.

Dave Brookings, Flood & Drainage Control Engineer, stated that U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has a large data base and water resource information that would be valuable to the County. The information would provide instant information and graphing capabilities. Gauging stations could be monitored over time, and it would be possible to research history of the watersheds. Computer hardware will need to be purchased and the cost would be approximately \$2,000 per year for the network connection for the receipt of the information. USGS will provide on-site training.

Commissioner Wylie motioned to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding with USGS as presented.

Commissioner Vaux seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. (Contract #01485).

2) Discussion - Solid Waste Disposal Options.

Mr. King provided copies of the discussion item information to the members of the public who attended the session.

Mr. King stated that the Inman landfill is scheduled to close no later than 1995, and possibly as early as the middle of 1993. The situation needs to be resolved. Long range planning is being done, and major efforts are being made to educate the public to reduce waste, recycle, and protect the environment. Three options were presented for discussion:

The costs indicated on the information provided to the Board were calculated as if Inman landfill was closed in 1993. There will be monitoring costs for 30 years beyond closure. Incinerator costs were not increased other than for cost of living. In all three options a three percent inflation was reflected.

The options presented were:

1. Preprocess the waste stream and longhaul.

If the waste stream was preprocessed and longhaul and incinerator was utilized there would be a reduced cost at the incinerator due to less volume being processed. The initial costs would be higher due to necessary repairs. The tipping fees for 1994 were estimated to be \$93.00 per ton.

A question was posed regarding the 1994 projection of 2,000 less tons of garbage indicated on the handout.

Mr. King stated that wood waste tonnage was removed from the figures assuming it would go to private parties.

2. No preprocessing, use the incinerator and longhaul.

There would need to be a larger transfer facility for this scenario. Tipping fees were projected to be \$101.00 per ton in 1994.

3. No incinerator and longhaul everything.

In this scenario, closing the incinerator and longhauling everything, the cost would be at \$117.00 per ton and increase to \$118 per ton at the first of 1995.

Mr. King stated that in each scenario there would be zero debt by the year 2000, with the exception of the incinerator bond.

Mr. Medved stated that there would be a penalty fee to Puget Power for the closure of the incinerator. The fee to Puget Power would be approximately 1.25 million dollars, due and payable 30 days after closing the incinerator.

Mr. King stated that there is still a lot of metal and glass in the waste stream. The public needs to be more concerned with recycling in order to reduce costs. He felt that the County was still 10 years away from an efficient recycling program.

Mr. Bockleman felt that by the year 2000 there would no longer be revenues generated from the incinerator due to increasing electrical costs. He felt that the best alternative would be to shut down the incinerator and use a pick line.

Mr. King stated that the incinerator generates much more energy than it uses.

Chuck Decker, C & D Recycling, stated that the cost of a pick line would be approximately \$400,000, totaling 12.5 million over the next 4 years. He felt that recycling needed to be encouraged more. He requested that there be another public meeting held in the evening so that other members of the public could attend that cannot leave work during the day in order to discuss this issue further. He said that he could present a seven year plan to the Board at that time.

Mr. King stated that a Request for Proposals (RFP) will be advertised in the near future regarding long haul possibilities, but a decision on which process to follow needs to be made before calling for RFP's.

A question was posed whether a long haul site could stop accepting solid waste from the County at some point in the future, should that option be taken.

Mr. Medved stated that the firms interested in longhaul will need to be willing to negotiate a long term contract with ceiling prices.

A representative from Environmental Waste stated that he felt that the County was doing a good job in utilizing the incinerator and creating energy, and with the recycling efforts.

An unknown member of the audience stated that C & D Salvage ran experimental tests on mining materials from the landfill, and had guaranteed disposal for the materials. He felt that 65% of the landfill could be

saved by volume. He felt that this avenue should have been considered three to five years ago when it was originally brought up.

Commissioner Vaux stated that over the years the County has bent over backwards to accommodate C & D, their rate increases, and have given total support to them.

Mr. Decker agreed that the County had accommodated his business, but that the mining operation had been approved at one time then stopped indefinitely for health reasons.

Chairman Robinson directed the discussion to be continued Monday, December 14, 1992, at 7:00 p.m., in Hearing Room A, of the County Administration Building, 700 S. Second, Mount Vernon.

6) Discussion - Parking Alternatives During Haul-Out of M.V. Guemes Ferry.

Erling Bigness, Guemes Ferry Manager, stated that in performing 12 month haul-out of the ferry, it would be more cost effective than the required 18 month haul-out. A passenger vessel will be provided during the haul-out. By having the haul-out in the summer, there is better weather allowing for quicker performance and the Guemes Island kids are not needing daily transportation to Anacortes for school.

During the haul-out time, a four to six block area in close proximity to the Anacortes/Guemes Island Ferry landing gets congested with Guemes Island residents' cars that are left on the mainland. There is a parking lot, belonging to Cap Sante Marina, between 9th and 11th Streets, on Q Avenue, available at no cost for parking. The passengers would need transportation to and from the ferry. Various shuttle services were contacted and an estimated \$400.00 per day would be the cost for transporting passengers, one vehicle with driver, and necessary insurance coverage. Mr. Bigness stated that it was his desire to address the situation in the most cost effective manner, and requested direction from the Board.

Commissioner Wylie asked whether the County ever provided shuttle service before.

Mr. Bigness said that the State Ferry Service has provided shuttle service before but the County has not.

Chairman Robinson asked whether preliminary arrangements were being addressed with Cap Sante Marina.

Mr. Bigness said that they have been discussing the situation. The lot will hold 200 vehicles. The Ferry Advisory Board is supportive of the idea as long as it is cost effective. He is estimating the total transportation costs to be approximately \$3,000. Mr. Bigness would like to get to work on the necessary contract negotiating in order to have the plan in place in time for the haul-out next summer.

The Board recommended that Mr. Bigness proceed with negotiating a contract for alternative parking during the M.V. Guemes haul-out.

7) Miscellaneous.

A) Mr. Medved presented an invoice from Valley Paving & Construction and copy of a check from Glen Emmerton, 1447 Eagle Drive, Burlington, Washington, payable to Valley Paving & Construction in the amount of \$698.75. Mr. Emmerton had an asphalt driveway installed, and requested the County to repair the portion of road in front of his home. Rather than having Valley Paving & Construction

make two separate trips, the County agreed to pay for 10 tons of asphalt paving to repair the road in front of Mr. Emmerton's home. Mr. Emmerton paid Valley Paving & Construction and the County Auditor now needs documentation supporting the reimbursement to Mr. Emmerton.

Commissioner Vaux motioned to approve reimbursement to Mr. Glen Emmerton in the amount of \$698.75. Commissioner Wylie seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. A copy of the minutes will be considered sufficient supporting documentation and be provided to the County Auditor.

- B) Mr. Medved presented an invoice from E.Z. Plumbing, Inc., and a copy of a check from Robert C. Moe, 1224 Hillwood Drive, Mount Vernon, Washington, payable to E.Z. Plumbing in the amount of \$862.26. Mr. Moe paid for a booster pump to be installed which increased water pressure to his home. Booster pumps that had been installed for other Samish Farms Water customers had been paid for by the County. The County Auditor needs proof of the Board's approval in order to reimburse Mr. Moe.

Commissioner Vaux motioned to approve reimbursement to Mr. Robert C. Moe in the amount of \$862.26. Commissioner Wylie seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. A copy of the minutes will be considered sufficient supporting documentation and be provided to the County Auditor.

CALLS FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS.

- 1) Proposed Addition of a New Section to Skagit County Code 15.04.020(4), 1991 Edition of the Uniform Fire Code.

Dan Cain, Skagit County Fire Marshall, presented a resolution for signature to call for a public hearing for the consideration of amending Sections 15.04.020 and 15.04.030 of the Skagit County Code, Relating to the 1991 Edition of the Uniform Fire Code.

Commissioner Vaux motioned to adopt the resolution as presented. Commissioner Wylie seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. (Resolution #14655).

Said hearing will be held Monday, December 21, 1992, at the hour of 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as possible, in the Commissioner's Hearing Room, 202A, County Administration Building, 700 S. Second, Mount Vernon, Washington.

- 2) Proposed Amendment to Skagit County Code 15.04.030, 1991 Edition of the Uniform Fire Code.

Dan Cain, Skagit County Fire Marshall presented a resolution for signature to call for a public hearing for the consideration of amending Chapter 15.04.030 of the Skagit County Code, Relating to the 1991 Edition of the Uniform Fire Code.

Commissioner Vaux motioned to adopt the resolution as presented. Commissioner Wylie seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. (Resolution #14656).

Said hearing will be held Monday, December 21, 1992, at the hour of 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as

possible, in the Commissioner's Hearing Room, 202A, County Administration Building, 700 S. Second, Mount Vernon, Washington.

CONSENT AGENDA.

* Commissioner's Office:

1. Record of the Proceedings for the week of November 30, 1992.
2. Signature - Resolution allowing three building permits on the Plat of Kwonesum to be issued. (Resolution #14657).

• Health Department:

3. Consolidated Contract with the Washington State Department of Health commencing January 1, 1993, and completing December 31, 1993. Maximum consideration shall not exceed \$249,806.00. (Contract #01486).
4. Signature - NWRC Acknowledgement of Assessment Results Senior Health Screening Annual Review Final Report.

• Human Services:

5. Contract Amendment with Skagit Community Mental Health Center Contract #2115-83471, increasing the amount of reimbursement to the agency for new services under the Drug/Alcohol contract. This will allow for the provision of mental health/drug alcohol counseling to dually diagnosed individuals. Performance period is November 6, 1992, through June 30, 1993. The County shall reimburse the agency a sum not to exceed \$90,000. (Contract #01023).

* Planning and Community Development:

6. Signature - Resolution approving Clark's Skagit River Cabins Comprehensive Plan Amendment, #CPA-92-015. (Resolution #14658).

* Public Works:

7. Signature - Service Agreement with Chemical Waste Management, Incorporated for Disposal of Dry Cell Batteries. Dave Fleming, John Moffat, Rich Medved and Jeff Hegedus have all approved this Service Agreement to dispose of 55g drums of waste dry cell batteries. Estimated cost per drum based on a 20 drum per load is \$164.50. This includes collection cost, Oregon tax, and transportation costs. The previous disposal cost was 215.00 per drum. (Contract #01487).

MISCELLANEOUS.

- A) The Board approved and signed (Resolution #14660) approving the 1992 Interlocal Agreement (Contract #01488) between Whatcom County and Skagit County for prisoner shuttle transportation. Skagit County shall pay Whatcom County \$20,000 for prisoners transported during the year of 1992.
- B) The Board approved and signed (Resolution #14661) approving the 1993 Interlocal Agreement (Contract #01489) between Whatcom County and Skagit County for prisoner shuttle transportation. Skagit County shall pay Whatcom County \$20,000 for prisoners transported during the year of 1993.
- 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, December 7, 1992, the Board, by a majority vote, did approve for payment those vouchers included in the above-mentioned list and further described as follows:

- 1) Warrants #93176 through 93178 (Vouchers #93176 through #93178) in the amount of \$870.00. Transmittal #R-26-92.
 - 2) Warrants #28971 (Vouchers #116260) in the amount of \$2,857.12. Transmittal #P-25-92.
 - 3) Warrants #93054 through #93175 (Vouchers #93054 through #93175) in the amount of \$644,450.76. Transmittal #R25-92.
 - 4) Warrants #89876 through 90668 (Vouchers 2016759, 92110332, P100033 through #2016038, 9211001, P102001) in the amount of \$649,400.89. Transmittal #C44-92.
- D) The Final Plat of Rolling Ridge Estates No. 4 was signed.

PUBLIC HEARING - ADOPTION OF 1993 BUDGET FOR SKAGIT COUNTY.

Chairman Robinson waived reading the notice of public hearing, as published in The Skagit Argus.

Mike Woodmansee, Budget/Finance Director, read the 1993 Budget Message into the record. Summarily:

The initial discussion will focus on the Current Expense Fund due to 33 of the County's 36 operating functions being included within this budget. The requests submitted by Skagit County departments and offices exceeded the County's 1993 Current Expense Fund budget by \$4,499,526. This meant that the County was facing a shortfall equal to 22 percent of the Current Expense Fund budget. It is foreseen that the County will have more responsibilities with less resources to function from. Two of the County's largest revenue sources are property tax and sales tax which are decreasing due to rising unemployment. Timber revenues from state and Federal forest lands will diminish in the future, which is the County's third largest revenue source. These three revenue sources will provide 60 percent of the operating revenue for 1993. Skagit County population has increased by 17 percent since 1989. State and Federal mandates are increasing the responsibility of local governments to provide funding for public services without providing resources. A lawsuit exists with Nookachamps area residents dating back to the 1950's alleging improper

actions by the County and dike districts regarding dike construction and maintenance. In excess of \$3,068,000 was cut from departmental budget requests resulting in a balanced budget for the Current Expense Fund.

Changes were necessary to improve the operation of Skagit County government. The Short Range Planning function are to be separated from the Planning Department and combined with the Permit Center. The accounting positions in the Parks and Recreation, Sheriff, and Health Departments are being removed from the budget. It is planned to centralize departmental accounting into a single position reporting to the Budget/Finance Director. Parks and Recreation and Sheriff Departments will be granted positions requested that are not accounting related. The Health Department will have a position upgraded to an Office Supervisor from an Office Assistant. These changes will enable a more efficient use of the County's financial accounting system, make available an Accountant/Internal Auditor able to work with various departments on financial and accounting issues, and make better use of existing employee resources without adding positions. One current position will be shifted in January, 1993 from Data Processing to the Auditor's Office. Creation of reports and maintaining programs for payroll and financial reporting will reside in the Auditor's Office.

Issues and Challenges facing Skagit County in 1993, include extending criminal justice funding that expires in 1993. The \$2,000,000 received for 1989-1993, funded 16 positions in the County's criminal justice system. GMA mandates will continue to require a lot of effort from the Board, many County departments, as well as the citizens of the County. Solid waste issues are still being addressed. Development of the Northern State Property is still in process. A Public Service Building is planned to be built beginning in 1993. A bond issue of 5 to 7 million dollars would have to be authorized by the Board. The bonds would be repaid, with interest from the Current Expense Fund property tax levy. The County is trying to acquire Burlington Northern Railroad right-of-way near Highway 9, hoping to connect with the Centennial multi-use trail being constructed by Snohomish County. The County is host for the North Sound Regional Support Network which has a mental health facility opening in 1993. There will be operational and logistical impacts for the County to manage. The County will face the challenge of implementing a county-wide drainage plan, hopefully in 1993. The County will be involved in the development of the newly voter-approved transit system. Also will be the development of the first county-wide Critical Water Supply plan, the nationally honored Best SELF program, and the restructure of the Permit Center.

Chairman Robinson opened the hearing for public comment.

- Darrell Heiner, 2230 Martin Road, Mount Vernon, Washington addressed the Board. He felt that the deletion of the accounting positions was not well planned. He felt that there was no software in place to handle the necessary accounting functions for the Health Department, and that the timing of implementing the consolidating the positions was a political maneuver. He felt that the current LGFS system was not capable of handling the types of medical, grant, and contract billings generated by the Health Department. He argued that the Public Works Department, until recently, had their cost accounting handled by the consulting firm of D.K. Dennis.

Mr. Woodmansee stated that he had a similar conversation with Mr. Heiner approximately three weeks prior to this meeting. At the end of the conversation, he understood Mr. Heiner to say that, as an accountant, the explanation of consolidating the accounting positions made sense. Mr. Woodmansee said that up until two years ago the Public Works Department did not have in-house accounting. They now have a fair amount of their accounting in-house and are continuing to implement the systems. He said that LGFS has

many functions that can be utilized by all departments. It can track grant costs and handles receivables. Mr. Heiner was looking into a separate software package to perform receivables that he is currently doing by hand. The system that the County has performs payroll functions for the County as well as for smaller taxing districts and pays invoices. It is approximately 60 systems in one. Mr. Woodmansee stated that the County is in need of County Accountants, not departmental accountants. The current accounting system has many capabilities that the Health Department has not utilized.

- Mr. Bockleman felt that the County was trying to balance the budget at the expense of Mr. Heiner because he ran for County Commissioner. He felt that the Budget Director's position could be eliminated and the responsibilities handled by the County Treasurer and Auditor Departments.

- Bud Norris, 3780 College Way, Mount Vernon, Washington 98273, requested, and received, clarification of the budget amount. He asked what percent of the Current Expense was sales tax revenues, and whether there was anticipation of a down-turn of property or sales taxes.

Mr. Woodmansee replied that 4 million dollars was sales tax revenue, and no down-turn of property or sales taxes are anticipated.

In answer to questions Mr. Norris asked, Mr. Woodmansee stated that the reduction in timber revenues will not impact the 1993 County budget, and land acquisition expenditures reflect anticipated sales of bonds.

Mr. Woodmansee clarified for Mr. Norris that temporary part-time employee positions were not required to be included in the budget figures as each department has a line item for these positions.

When Mr. Norris asked how many new positions were being added in 1993, Mr. Woodmansee stated that there would be 5 or 6, as stated in the Budget Message.

Mr. Norris asked how much more money was to be spent on computer upgrades.

Mr. Woodmansee stated that approximately \$500,000 is budgeted for 1993 to implement the remaining packages from AMS for the Public Works Department. This will allow them to expand into the current system, begin information systems; and for geographical information systems.

In response to a question from Mr. Norris, Mr. Woodmansee stated that the Permit Center will remain under the direction of Administrative Services until the Board deems otherwise. The 1993 Budget reflects this organization.

- Mr. Ian Sayer, 1459 Jura Lane, Anacortes, addressed the Board. Mr. Sayer stated that when his wife, Kathy, was hired with the County it was for the position of Office Supervisor, not an accounting position. He felt that with the increased property taxes there should be plenty of money to operate the County as before. He felt that it did not make sense to cut three positions, then hire four others. If there wasn't going to be enough money for personnel, then there shouldn't be any for software or new buildings. He felt that the best method to save money would be to cut positions from the top.

- Barbara Rudge, 1471 Rosario Road, Anacortes, addressed the Board. Ms. Rudge felt that the restructuring of the Planning Department to move the Short Range Planners into the Permit Center under the direction of Administrative Services would not improve nor make the short range planning process more

efficient.

Commissioner Vaux stated that four out of five Planning Department staff members that contacted him felt that it would work.

Ms. Rudge felt that short range planning decisions create long term effects to the Comprehensive Plan. She was concerned that in the attempt to improve the effectiveness of short range planning it could undermine the long range Plan.

Commissioner Wylie stated that there would need to be a transition period wherein the communication would need to be kept open between the related departments to effectively implement the change.

- Ranger Kidwell-Ross, spokesperson, Habitat Watch, P.O. Box 146, Bow, Washington 98232, addressed the Board. Mr. Ross said that Habitat Watch found out very recently that the short range planning function was proposed to be moved to the Permit Center. He said that Habitat Watch was against this proposal. Their organization distributed a survey to people that were not members of the organization regarding their opinion of the proposed restructure. The 10 responses received reflected negative opinions. He stated that the Board members of Habitat Watch were opposed to the restructure feeling that the short and long range planning functions needed to be under the same direction to work cohesively. He posed questions regarding how the restructure would affect public input on short range planning matters, the advantage of restructuring, and the importance of timeliness over quality. He stated that when this type of restructure was attempted in the past, it was abolished being considered as counter-productive.

- John Thayer, Skagit County Environmental Health Specialist, 1021 S. 19th, Mount Vernon, Washington 98273, addressed the Board. Mr. Thayer presented a letter to the Board signed by 16 members of the Skagit County Health Department regarding the deletion of Mr. Heiner's accounting position in the 1993 Budget. The letter reflected concern regarding the proposal of sharing an accountant with two other departments when the Health Department budget is \$1,665,346. It reflected upon the difficulties experienced in 1986 when the Health Department's Accountant position was eliminated. There were fewer grants and the Health Department budget was only \$870,870.48. The letter encouraged the Board to retain the Health Department Accounting position.

- Debbie Aldrich, Bow, Washington 98232, addressed the Board. Ms. Aldrich stated that she had been involved with the GMA and Comprehensive Plan processes. She felt that it would be inappropriate to restructure the Short Range Planning function into the Permit Center.

- Dan O'Donnell, Mayor, LaConner, Washington, asked whether the proposed budget reflected a 7.8 percent increase in the Current Expense fund over 1992.

Mr. Woodmansee said that was a close estimate. Property or Road Levies cannot raise more than 6% over the highest level in the past three years. Even if assessed valued doubled, the County portion could only go up six percent. Local voters approved the increase beyond the six percent level. Any property tax over \$10 per \$1000 was voted on by the public.

Carol Ehlers, Anacortes, stated that the 1993 Proposed Budget was much easier to read, therefore creating the crowd present. She found that many employees were part-time or grant funded and appreciated seeing the designation. She felt that the inclusion of organization charts would be helpful to better understand who

is responsible for which departments and divisions. She also felt that an alphabetical index would be helpful.

In regards to the Short Range Planning function being restructured into the Permit Center, Ms. Ehlers felt that the decision should be made in a public forum. She feared that the County would end up with a lot of short plats which would create an additional cost to the County for roads. Ms. Ehlers felt that day and elder care facility permitting were not short range items and should not be considered as such. She felt that the attempt for timely and expeditious short range planning should also be more efficiently planned. She also felt that Capital Improvement Plan decisions should be made with a permanent Planning Director in place.

- Belinda Chambers, 1511 Lily Lake Road, Bow, Washington, stated that she was against the proposed restructuring of the Planning Department.

- Ed Stauffer, Alger, Washington, requested that the Board not rearrange the Planning Department, or table the idea for reconsideration. Mr. Stauffer requested to make an appointment with Chairman Robinson to address other questions he had.

Jeffrey Langlow, Colony Creek Road, Bow, addressed the Board. He stated that he originally attended GMA and Planning Commission meetings because he felt they were worthwhile. He felt that the environment was being considered by these groups and that the feelings of neighbors in project areas were being considered in their decision-making. He stated that he felt that the Planning Director was dismissed because he had the nerve to request MDNS's. He felt disappointment in the County for taking so long on the GMA, and that the good will and concerns of citizens trust is not being respected. He stated that it was important to leave the structure of the Planning Department as it is.

Mr. Bockleman stated that he would like to see equipment rental for Solid Waste and Roads broken down further next year.

Mr. Woodmansee stated that the majority of equipment rental is for Roads, but that all equipment and supplies are purchased by Equipment and sold to Roads.

Commissioner Vaux motioned to continue the public hearing to 2:00, December 8, 1992, or as soon thereafter as possible, in the Commissioner's Hearing Room, 202A, 700 S. Second, Mount Vernon, Washington.

Commissioner Wylie seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING - SUPPLEMENT TO 1992 BUDGET - PUBLIC HEALTH FUND.

This item was continued to follow the continuation of the Public Hearing - Adoption of 1993 Budget for Skagit County, at 2:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as possible, Tuesday, December 8, 1992.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Wylie motioned to adjourn the proceedings, Commissioner Vaux, seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY



Robby Robinson, Chairman




Ruth Wylie, Commissioner



W.W. Vaux, Commissioner

ATTEST:



Connie Carter
Clerk of the Board.

