

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

Monday, January 11, 1993:

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Board of Health.

- 1) Request for County Participation in Healthy Kids Program.
- 2) Discussion of Potential On-Site Sewage Problems at Edison and Blanchard.
- 3) Department of Ecology Watershed Sewage Survey Grants Proposal.
- 4) Wet Season Soils Review Brochure.

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

- 1) Introduction of New Employee.
- 2) Public Hearing - Consideration of Speed Reduction on Wildwood Lane and Wildwood Lane South.
- 3) Signature - Professional Services Contract - American Management Systems, Inc.
- 4) Signature - Resolution - Extension of Repayment Date Interfund Load to Solid Waste Operating Fund.
- 5) Miscellaneous.

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Executive Session - Land Acquisition.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, January 11, 1993, with Commissioners Robert Hart, Harvey Wolden, and Robby Robinson present.

BOARD OF HEALTH.

- 1) Request for County Participation in Healthy Kids Program.

Geri Prater, Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), discussed with the Board the possibility of the County providing matched funds for the Healthy Kids Program. The County's participation in this program would provide funding in the amount of \$23,000. Ms. Prater stated that studies have shown that children on the State Health Program are not using it as they should. There is a need for an outreach program to bring the children in that are on the system, and to add those children to the system that are eligible. There will be a cost to the County initially, but by insuring the use of the program it will save money that is presently lost on unused appointments. The Federal Department of Health will match 50%, and the State Department of Health will provide for mileage, postage and similar costs, but no funds for staff costs exist. The requested \$23,000 from the County would provide for one full time position to provide service in the outreach program, therefore creating increased revenues for the County by reducing the County's expense for providing service to these patients.

Barb Meier, Public Health Nurse, stated that the Well Child clinic has access to only 26 percent of the medical coupon eligible children in the County. There is no follow-up system in place to see that eligible children referred to the program make use of it.

Chairman Hart asked whether the County's 1993 Budget had allowed for this funding request.

Mike Woodmansee, Budget/Finance Director, said that this expense was not included in the 1993 Budget, but programs benefiting children are more likely to receive funding than any other requests outside the Budget. As the proposed program progresses over 1993, it will be apparent what reimbursement revenues

will come in. He said that the County would actually be contributing an amount up to \$23,000 depending on the reimbursements. If the number of children expected to be added to the well child program reaches the 645 number, after reimbursements the County would be contributing closer to \$10,000.

Ms. Prater said that DSHS is working with Northwest Graphics to produce a coloring book. Seafirst Bank is being solicited for funding. The revenues from the books will be contributed to the Skagit County Health Department in support of the Well Child Clinic. Ms. Prater stated that there are other providers of Well Child Care, but priority will be given to referring clients to Skagit County Health Department.

Commissioner Robinson stated that Mr. Woodmansee feels the proposal is acceptable even though it is outside the budget, and agreed with him. Commissioner Robinson motioned to provide the \$23,000 in matched funds to DSHS for the Healthy Kids Program.

Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Woodmansee will present a budget revision to the Board at a later date reflecting the approved funding.

2) Discussion of Potential On-Site Sewage Problems at Edison and Blanchard.

George Ridgeway, Environmental Health Specialist, reviewed with the Board a map indicating primary locations of on-site sewage in the Edison and Blanchard areas. He stated that Don Leonardson from the State Department of Health (DOH) - Shellfish Division, met with the Board in August, 1992, to alert them of potential problems to shellfish growing areas in proximity to the Edison and Blanchard on-site sewage problem areas. The State DOH checked for safe waters going into the shellfish growing areas and a letter was addressed to Commissioner Robinson which was received at the first of 1993, regarding the endangered Approved status of the Samish Bay water quality. Mr. Ridgeway addressed the Board's attention to surveys provided showing high levels of fecal coliform between the Edison Slough and Samish Bay, and Blanchard and Samish Bay. Mr. Ridgeway surveyed the Blanchard and Edison areas the week of January 4, 1993, and found 30 homes, 14 businesses, and 5 or 6 empty buildings in Edison, and 35 homes, 1 or 2 businesses, and 1 or 2 empty buildings in Blanchard. In the 1930's a program was implemented to drain the farm land in the surrounding area into the Edison Slough. It is presumed that many residences have since hooked into that system and the sewer drains into the Slough. He did not believe that all the homes have their sewage running into the local waters.

Mr. Ridgeway felt that the residents tend to be edgy when they notice the Health Department testing in their area, and suggested gathering community leaders together to explain what is happening and what needs to happen to pinpoint and resolve the key problems. If only one or two homes were the offenders, they could be required to correct the problem. If there are numerous homes presenting the problem, it could be beneficial for the community as a whole to be required to correct it.

Commissioner Robinson asked whether the DOE Grant had specific guidelines that could include the subject problem.

Mr. Ridgeway stated that the problem at hand does not have time to wait for the grant to be in place. It needs to be addressed immediately. There is a possibility that Approved areas could have a status change to Conditionally Approved or Prohibited. Conditionally Approved would allow harvesting of shellfish with close monitoring of the water quality. If a Prohibited status is designated, no harvesting would be allowed. If action is not taken soon to improve the water quality in the shellfish growing areas, the bi-valve and crab industry will be seriously affected.

Bill Dewey, Manager, Taylor United, Inc. Samish Bay Shellfish Farm, addressed the Board. Mr. Dewey stated that the 1400 acres of the area his company farms has been in existence for 70 years and has always carried an Approved designation. The State Department of Health performed a quarterly water sampling two years ago and found high levels of fecal coliform. The growers were notified that monthly sampling

would be taken, which never resulted in the same high levels. The tributaries leading to Samish Bay, however, are showing higher levels, such as in Colony Creek, Samish River and Edison Slough. There is dilution in the fecal coliform levels when it reaches the Bay. A new regulation passed at the National level in 1992, requires that shellfish harvesting be closed (Prohibited) if even one source of contamination is found. This would mean that if there is even one failing septic system in Edison or Blanchard, it may shut the shellfish businesses down. If the area is designated Conditionally Approved an analysis would be performed by the State and a determination made when a growing area would be closed for harvest due to rain situations. When the water quality levels are determined to be Conditionally Approved the County becomes required to create Shellfish Protection Districts.

Mr. Dewey stated that when this topic was discussed in August, 1992, the Board was requested to create a Shellfish Protection District before it became mandated. If there is a contamination problem, the State is responsible for the Bay, but the County is responsible for the failing septic systems in the towns and farm run-off. He said that the largest oyster Company in the State is in Kitsap County. They sued the owners of failed septic systems and were prepared to sue the County too, if they had not stepped in to provide assistance.

Mr. Ridgeway said that presently, the On-site Sewage Program processes between 600 and 700 permits per year. The majority of these permits are processed in the spring and summer. The DOE Centennial Clean Water grant would provide funds to hire someone to assist with a survey of the Edison and Blanchard area. The grant has been applied for and the Board's signature will be required when the language is formatted appropriately. This grant also allows for funds to be used for correcting sewer problems, education, or setting up revolving loans to assist the public in correcting septic problems. He felt that the revolving loan option for Edison and Blanchard at this time would be premature. He felt that once the grant was implemented and the study is begun more failing septic systems would be found. He will attend a meeting on January 14, 1993, regarding the Centennial Clean Water Grant application process. He suggested that Jim Freeman, Senior Planner-Resource Planning, may be able to research a type of grant for assisting with a community sewer system.

Chairman Hart stated that the discussion appeared to focus on a concern for the possible closing of the shellfish harvesting. There is apparently an urgency that needs to be addressed.

Commissioner Wolden felt that it would be a good idea to have funds available to get the necessary clean-up projects underway.

Commissioner Robinson felt that holding meetings with the community leaders would be a good course to follow to address the issues.

Dr. Howard Liebrand, Skagit County Health Officer, stated that the slack time in the permitting process affords an opportunity to have staff perform on-site inspections in the areas of concern. He felt that even when the permitting work load becomes busier it would take precedence. The contamination in shellfish can cause Hepatitis "A" and other health concerns. He felt it was more important to clean up the problem at hand. He stated that it was important to locate which homes are the cause and source of the contamination.

John Sandell, Sam Bell Road, Bow, stated that raw sewage is obvious in the Edison Slough. He voiced concern regarding the possibility of mound systems failing along the Samish River. He believed that some

of the homes on the hill above where he lives are bypassing their mound systems and ditching to the river.

Bob Ratfield, a Samish Island resident representing Samish Bay, stated that the freezing temperatures provide a good time to check the ditches for raw sewage.

Mr. Ridgeway felt that it would cause public distress if County officials were to drive by and scout individual problems. He felt that the best process would be to inform the members of the communities of the problem and request a response to what they would do to correct the problem. There would still be a length of time involved if a new mound system was required, it would not be installed until spring or summer due to weather.

Tom Karsh, Permit Center Coordinator, stated that the purpose in coming before the Board was to apprise them of the situation at hand. He said that there are 150 to 200 sewage complaints received and resolved each year. The desire is to take a more proactive approach by looking for the source of the problems and tracing the obvious raw sewage origin. Mr. Karsh agreed with Dr. Liebrand in that the public health issue is more important than the septic permit issuing process. If the County does not take voluntary action on this situation, it will be forced.

Dr. Liebrand stated that it will take two or three months to gather sufficient data to determine the exact sources of the septic problems. There needs to be funds available for the repairs, and the grant application deadline is in about six weeks.

Mr. Sandell stated that he would like to take the Board to view failing septic systems that were permitted last year. He felt that there is a problem to face beyond the Blanchard and Edison situation which includes the Samish River. He expressed appreciation to the Board for their efforts in saving the local water quality.

Mr. Ridgeway will research the availability of funding to assist in correcting the on-site sewage problems at Edison and Blanchard and keep the Board informed.

3) Department of Ecology Watershed Sewage Survey Grants Proposal.

Due to time constraints, this item will be discussed on Monday, January 25, 1993, at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as possible.

4) Wet Season Soils Review Brochure.

Due to time constraints, this item will be discussed on Monday, January 25, 1993, at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as possible.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT - RICH MEDVED, DIRECTOR:

1) Introduction of New Employee.

The Board welcomed Jeffrey Nichols, Engineering Tech III, as introduced by Doug Barnet, County Engineer.

2) Public Hearing - Consideration of Speed Reduction on Wildwood Lane and Wildwood Lane South.

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

Ed Hawes, Traffic Technician, presented a map of the subject area to the Board. He stated that in accordance with RCW 46.61.400, all County roads are 50 mph unless otherwise posted, urban are 25 mph, unless otherwise posted, and freeways are 55 mph, unless otherwise posted. This RCW was amended so that basic speed on county roads is 35 mph, unless otherwise posted. There are a few roads in Skagit County that had not been reviewed for appropriate speed posting. Such is the case with Wildwood Lane and Wildwood Lane South. They are currently unposted and the enforceable speed limit is 35 mph. The Traffic Division is recommending that the road be posted at 25 mph to remain consistent with the surrounding speed limits. The residents of the area have requested a 15 mph speed limit. The lowest limit that can be considered is 20 mph.

Chairman Hart opened the hearing for public comment.

- Charles McClement, Wildwood Lane, stated that there are a lot of children in the area. The residents of the area put signs up depicting children playing in hopes that traffic would slow down. He said that it hasn't helped.

Mr. Medved stated that Mr. Hawes established a comfortable and safe speed for the area. He said that the concerns surrounding the current speed are justified, but if the speed is lowered too much it will create as much of an enforcement issue as is currently present.

Mr. McClement felt that a 25 mph speed limit would not be sufficient to slow traffic, and again requested that the speed be reduced to 20 mph.

Mr. Barnet stated that he respected Mr. McClement's concerns, but he agreed with Mr. Medved that lowering the limit too far would create additional enforcement problems.

Mr. Hawes stated that there is a Radar Reader Board Program that could be used by the residents to assist with the traffic problems. A radar gun could be set up on the road which reads the passing traffic speed and displays it on a board for the motorist to see in passing. This could be borrowed from the County for two days to a week at a time. The Sheriff's Department would also send a Deputy to assist the residents with the program.

Mr. McClement stated that he would like to discuss this option with the Wildwood Lane Association members.

Seeing and hearing no further comment from the public, Commissioner Robinson motioned to close the public hearing. Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Commissioner Wolden motioned to approve the proposed speed reduction on Wildwood Lane and Wildwood Lane South to 25 mph. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3) Signature - Professional Services Contract - American Management Systems, Inc.

Greg Thramer, Public Works Controller, presented a contract for approval and signature to the Board with American Management Systems, Inc. This contract will provide for accounting software consulting services for the Public Works Department in order to integrate with the Skagit County Auditor's system. This will accomplish getting all County offices on the same system, provide a better information system for the Public Works Department, and reduce labor costs.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to enter into the contract with American Management Systems, Inc. as presented in the amount of \$5,500. Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. (Contract #01515).

4) Signature - Resolution - Extension of Repayment Date Interfund Load to Solid Waste Operating Fund.

Mr. Thramer presented a resolution for approval and signature to extend the interfund loan to the Solid Waste Operating Fund until December 31, 1993.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to adopt the resolution as presented. Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. (Resolution #14704).

5) Miscellaneous.

A) Mr. Medved stated that frost in County roads is between 8 and 10 inches. He anticipates road restrictions to be necessary when thawing begins. A press release will be prepared to alert the public to the possibility of road restrictions to be printed in The Skagit Valley Herald January 12, 1993.

B) Mr. Medved stated that on Tuesday, January 12, 1993, the Public Works Department Managers will be having a retreat to increase communication and present ideas for departmental improvements.

C) Mr. Medved said that on January 28, 1993, there will be a bi-annual meeting of the entire Public Works Department at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be to recap 1992, and set 1993 goals. He invited the Board to attend.

CONSENT

* Boundary Review Board:

1. Signature - Resolution approving the annexation of "Summersun" to the City of Mount Vernon. (Resolution #14705).

* Planning and Community Development:

2. Contract for Professional Services with Skagit Conservation District, 227 North 4th Street, Mount Vernon, Washington 98273, from January 1, 1993, through December 31, 1993. County shall compensate the contractor in an amount not to exceed \$25,000. This contract covers the 1993 portion of the 1992-1993 Skagit Conservation District Annual Work Plan. (Contract #01516).

MISCELLANEOUS

- A) 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.

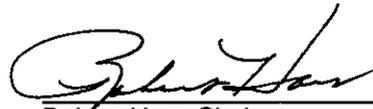
As of this date, January 11, 1993, the Board, by a majority vote, did approve for payment those vouchers included in the above-mentioned list and further described as follows:

- 1) Warrants #91780 through #91790 (Vouchers #2018584/3000001 through 2018590/3000009) in the amount of \$202,072.53. Transmittal Number CO1-93.
- B) The Board approved and signed a Memorandum of Agreement with CommonGround: The Dispute Resolution Center of Skagit County, 321 W. Washington, Suite 323, Mount Vernon, Washington 98273, in the amount of \$3,000 per month to be paid quarterly, beginning January 1, 1993, through December 31, 1993. (Contract #01517).
- C) The Board approved and signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Upper Skagit Bald Eagle Festival, P.O. Box 571, Concrete, Washington 98237, for the County to provide funds in the amount of \$1,500.00. The Contractor shall plan, organize and operate the annual Festival. Contract begins January 1, 1993, and terminates December 31, 1993. (Contract #01518).
- D) The Board approved and signed an Agreement with Programmed For Success, Inc, (PFS) 503 Vista Bella, Suite 7, Oceanside, California 92057-7007, for the establishment of a license agreement for the use of PFS products by the County. This contract will provide record management software for the Skagit County Parks Department. Contract amount is \$3,992 plus taxes. (Contract #01519).
- E) The Clerk of the Board presented Record of the Proceedings from August 11, and 12, 1992, that had been approved previously, but were misplaced from the permanent files. Commissioner Wolden motioned to have Commissioner Robinson sign the minutes and stamp signatures from the previous Commissioner's that had been present for those proceedings. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Wolden motioned to adjourn the proceedings. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Robert Hart, Chairman



Harvey Wolden, Commissioner



Robby Robinson, Commissioner

ATTEST:



Connie Carter, Clerk
Skagit County Board of Commissioners

