

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

Monday, February 22, 1993

- 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Introduction and Information Exchange with Representatives of the State Department of Community Development.
- 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Public Works Department - Rich Medved, Director:
- 1) Public Hearing - Vacation of a Portion of Unused County Right-of-Way Known as Old Joe Johnson Road.
 - 2) Miscellaneous.
- CONSENT.**
- MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.**
- 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. 1993 Mapping Center Work Plan and Demonstration.
- 2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Board of Health.
- 1) Update Regarding Local Health Hazard Concerns Due to E.Coli.
- 3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Human Services Status Report - Sedro-Woolley Evaluation and Treatment Center.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met on Monday, February 22, 1993, with Commissioner's Hart, Wolden, and Robinson present.

INTRODUCTION AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

Mike McCormick, Assistant Director, Growth Management Division, State Department of Community Development (DCD), addressed the Board. Mr. McCormick stated that he is attempting to visit with all the counties with newly elected commissioners. In the future, Eric Huart will be the main contact person from DCD for the counties. There is a lot going on with the Growth Management Act (GMA) locally, and in Olympia. He said that DCD would like inform the County what action is being taken at the State level, and in turn, learn how the County is progressing. Mr. McCormick presented a packet of material to the Board stating that the enclosed summary had been sent to the legislators for review. The summary describes briefly where various entities are in their GMA process, discusses future reductions in the GMA budget and grants, and provides information for the County regarding necessary resources. DCD is destined to lose staff due to budget cuts, which means that access to DCD staff will be reduced with the addition of more responsibilities. The DCD will be telling legislature that 25% of the counties will meet the July deadline on the Comprehensive Plan, and the other 75% are attempting to. The legislature is close to having an agreement on a bill which will provide for an addition year of planning. The general desire of the counties would be for an 18 month extension. Urban Growth Requirements are to be met by October 1, 1993. Chairman Hart stated that he testified to the legislative committee that he did not want to see a delay in the GMA process, and others testifying the same day felt that up to a year should be the maximum delay. He said that most of the entities are working in good faith, and if they miss any deadlines it is not reasonable to jeopardize their funding. If there is a delay in meeting a deadline, it is due to public input, and that is the purpose of the Act.

Chairman Hart stated that the process needs to continue. If the July 1, deadline is not met, the responsible Planning Staff member needs to give a legitimate reason for the delay. He said that the efforts of the staff are greatly appreciated.

Commissioner Robinson asked how the cutback of funding from the state is affecting the GMA process.

Mr. Hough stated that it is desired to do Capital Facilities and Community Development Elements and there probably won't be funding available. The authorization of a Capital facilities planner position will be of great help. He would like to have had the position 6 months to a year ago.

Mr. McCormick stated that Mr. Hough was probably right, and hoped that funding reductions would not be as severe as what was outlined in the Gardner budget.

Commissioner Robinson stated that, historically, the State mandates do not provide funding and leaves the burden on the local government. He felt that it is not a legitimate mandate without the proper funding.

Mr. McCormick said that he can tell how serious a situation is by the number of calls received from citizens, and he hasn't received any from Skagit County residents lately. The GMA has created the opportunity for the County and Cities to work together. There is a history of under funding with special districts.

Mr. McCormick stated that the Department of Ecology is working hard and changing positively in their attitude regarding GMA. This will help down the road with the attitude in working with local governments.

Gary Christensen, Senior Planner, asked whether the bills granting extensions on the deadlines are also extending the 7/1/1994, deadline.

Mr. McCormick stated that there is a question whether the deadline is to be 7/1/1994, or 12/1/1994. There are advantages to extending the deadline. It would provide an opportunity to look at regulatory reform and ordinance updates to make them less confusing and cumbersome, and still accomplish what is wanted.

Mr. Christensen stated that the local government appreciates the State's technical assistance. He offered compliments to the DCD for the workshops it has provided and the guidebooks and other materials. The County has a small staff and would like to see the DCD continue to provide the technical assistance as in the past.

Mr. McCormick said that some technical assistance will continue to be provided, but the priority is to have the field staff provide assistance to the local governments. He said that there are six publications yet to be released.

Chairman Hart asked whether Mr. McCormick had any feedback regarding the County staff.

Mr. Huart stated that he has heard positive things regarding Skagit County staff. The County Work Plan Policies are good, and have been well set up. He said that Skagit County is one of the counties that he worries about the least.

Mr. McCormick said that it is helpful to know that while planning under GMA, the County is basically under the old system until it is complete. The existing statutes and ordinances have to be used, which can be

confusing to the public. The public needs to be educated that changes are being made. He said that the packet he distributed to the Board has a lot of information in it that would be beneficial to use for educating the public. He said that DCD has done everything possible to have enough information provided to the local governments. Through July, 1993, this won't be an issue, but in the next biennium funding reductions will cause a reduced supply of informative materials. He expressed his appreciation for the discussion time with the Board, and willingness to return for further discussion if invited to do so.

The Board thanked Mr. McCormick and Mr. Huart for their time and information.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT - RICH MEDVED, DIRECTOR:

- 1) Public Hearing - Vacation of a Portion of Unused County Right-of-Way Known as Old Joe Johnson Road.

Linda Leonhart, Records Clerk, stated that a petition was received from Mr. Vincent Kretz to vacate a 60 foot, unused, unopened, Right-of-Way which crosses his property. Mr. Kretz's property is located in the Clear Lake area off Old Day Creek Road. The road is considered not to be a necessity, and was recommended to be vacated and closed. There are other roads of equal utility for the residents in the area.

Chairman Hart asked how far Mr. Kretz' property was from Highway 9.

Mr. Kretz stated that his property was 4 miles from Highway 9, 1/2 mile past Janicki's.

Ms. Leonhart stated that there is a small portion of the right-of-way which crosses Mrs. Garcia's property within the same Section. It is recommended that this small portion be vacated to her at this time also, and the full details would be outlined in the final order of vacation should the Board approve this recommendation. Ms. Leonhart stated that the recommendation is to vacate the property to Mr. Kretz at no cost, as the County received the right-of-way through a gift deed, other than the public hearing cost of \$86.35.

Chairman Hart opened the public hearing for comment.

Louie Requa, Skagit Surveyors, stated that Mr. Kretz acquired documentation from the Assessors office verifying that he has been paying the taxes on the right-of-way. He presented this documentation to Ms. Leonhart.

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

Commissioner Robinson motioned to vacate the 60 foot right-of-way known as the Old Joe Johnson Road #284 to Mr. Kretz, and the portion to be described in full in the final order of vacation as discussed be vacated to Mrs. Garcia.

Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

2) Miscellaneous.

- A) Mr. Medved presented results of a work session held regarding equipment needs for 1993 purchase. He stated that used equipment ends up costing more than the savings, due to maintenance. It was determined that the purchase of used equipment will be limited to governmental departments as they maintain their equipment better. If a used piece of equipment from a governmental entity is unavailable, a request will come to the Board to bid for the purchase of new equipment. Another benefit is that it is unnecessary to go to bid when purchasing from a governmental entity. Mr. Medved said that he would like to buy a sedan for the County Engineer, or possibly to trade the Commissioner's vehicle.

Chairman Hart said that he realized that the Commissioner's vehicle is available for use by other departments who may need it. It should be for multiple use, with the Commissioners having priority.

Mr. Medved stated that it could be put it in the vehicle pool, where it would receive more use.

Commissioner Wolden suggested transferring it to an employee who needs a four-wheel drive vehicle, rather than purchasing a new one.

Chairman Hart stated agreement with the purchase of good, used equipment.

Mr. Medved stated that it was a unanimous decision of those attending the work session to purchase as he outlined. It is too costly to buy at a low price if it is not the best product for the job. If the specifications are written properly, the best equipment for the job will be found at a reasonable price.

The Board concurred.

CONSENT AGENDA.

* ADMINISTRATION:

1. Out-of-State Travel Request for Shelley Holt to go the National Public Employers Labor Relations Association Annual Conference in Clearwater, Florida. April 18, through 23, 1993. Approximate expense for airfare, registration fees, accommodations, and meals - \$1,709.00.

• PUBLIC DEFENDER:

2. Signature - Contract for Professional Services with Dr. Robert Wheeler, 19105 36th Avenue West, Suite 206, Lynnwood, Washington for the evaluation of clients as requested. Contractor fees are \$175.00 per hour for court time or depositions; \$114.00 per hour for all time spent performing evaluations. Travel time will be charges as time also. (Contract #01576).

* PUBLIC WORKS:

3. Signature - Supplement No. 2 to the City/County Agreement for the Bayview Edison Road, CRP #3121-3. This supplement will access additional funding available from the State to cover the final preliminary engineering and construction costs for this project. (Contract #01365).
4. Signature - Resolution requesting additional funding for the Alger Cain Lake Road, CRP #5354-1. The Local Programs Engineer has been contacted and has given authorization to access additional funds that the State has available. The State will reimburse 83.13% of the additional monies requested. (Resolution #14745).
5. Signature - Supplement No. 3 to the City/County Agreement for the Alger Cain Lake Road, CRP #5354-1. This supplement goes along with the resolution for additional funding. (Contract #01262).
6. Signature - Amending Resolution 12410. On March 12, 1992 the Board passed Resolution 12410 resolving and clarifying a number of discrepancies in Public Works records. It was discovered that there is an error in the descriptions for the County roads known as Jackson Street and South Mill Street. The general public will not be affected, it is a "housekeeping" matter for the Public Works Department. (Resolution #14746).

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

No Miscellaneous items were presented at this time.

1993 MAPPING CENTER WORK PLAN AND DEMONSTRATION.

Geoff Almvig, Mapping Coordinator, stated that the mapping system was originated in 1987. It has been found that 90% of government work relates to graphics and maps. For the first time, the County is putting the mapping information into the computer GIS system. The computer can be requested to compile all information on specific areas, topics, or events, and it will provide it. It will no longer be necessary to run all over to the various departments to gather necessary information, or look through microfilm. Mr. Almvig related the various responsibilities of the Mapping Center personnel to the Board.

Geoff Almvig, Mapping Coordinator - Secondary UNIX Support; Mapping Management, Technical Direction, Revision Security and Control, Quality Control; GIS Project Management, and Engineering Support.

Kaaren Malson, Mapping Technician 2 - Office Supervisor, Base Map Construction; Retrieves and Organizes Assessor Mapping Data, Inputs Data Via COGO and Digitizing Methods; Posts Mapping revisions.

Kin Berry, Mapping Technician 1 - Secondary Engineering Support, Base Map Construction, Posts Mapping Revisions.

Janice Baird, Mapping Technician 1 - Retrieves and Organizes Public Works Road Data, Base Map Construction, Posts Mapping Revisions.

Mr. Almvig explained the digital mapping coverage to the Board. He said that each square on the map represents a Range equaling 36 square miles. The Mapping Center began digitizing at Range 12, the farthest easterly County line, and has just completed the Burlington area. He is hopeful that the Mount Vernon Range will be completed during 1994. The more dense the area, the longer it takes to digitize. He said that the more accurate the maps are, the more uses there are available.

Commissioner Robinson asked what was being done when points of reference used are trees and fence lines that no longer exist.

Mr. Almvig stated that an attempt is being made to have a 40 foot accuracy. He said that in the City of Burlington, they have achieved one to three foot accuracy.

Commissioner Wolden asked whether local surveyor's have access to the information on the system.

Mr. Almvig stated that when they come in to look at the maps in the Public Works vault, they can gather all the necessary information without searching all over.

Mr. Almvig reviewed the Mapping Center's 1993 schedule with the Board. The main projects are to continue base mapping efforts, complete necessary training since switching from the CAD to GIS system, purchase a plotter which will cut printing time from several hours to a few minutes. The biggest project is the GIS pilot project. This will determine what all it will entail to transfer from CAD to GIS. This project will take the remainder of the year and then a demonstration will be presented to the Board. He said that he would like to put the information on-line to test the GIS software allowing other departments to access and print the information. A committee will be formed with other departments and agencies for information needs. Mr. Almvig belongs to a committee organized to change RCW requirements regarding the County being held harmless against erroneous information. It also will look into charging for records in order to use the fees collected to maintain the system. A proposal has been sent to legislature.

Once the system is implemented throughout the County, it will increase the accuracy of work, and will allow other departments to access information as needed.

In response to Chairman Hart's question, Mr. Almvig stated that the memory capacity of the system is reaching the gigabyte range. Luckily, memory space is cheaper than in the past. What used to cost \$400 now costs \$50. The Mapping Center will be getting higher capacity PC's, and operation will be 5 to 10 times faster with the upgrade from the 386 PC to the 486 PC.

The Board will take a tour of the Mapping Center when the new equipment is in place and the pilot program is running.

BOARD OF HEALTH.

- 1) Barb Meier, Nursing Supervisor, reviewed with the Board that 21 E.Coli cases were investigated in Skagit County, all related to patronizing the Jack in the Box restaurants in Burlington and Mount Vernon. Of the 21 cases, 6 were confirmed E. Coli, 5 were primary cases, having a history of patronizing Jack in the Box. Another 5 were presumed positive due to the symptoms being consistent and having patronized Jack in the Box. Four persons were symptomatic and samples were taken for analysis which were timely and presented negative results. Two people refused to

submit samples who were siblings of a child that presented a sample testing positive for E. Coli. Three children from Skagit County were hospitalized, one of which was sent to Children's Hospital and is now home. There were no deaths resulting from E.Coli in Skagit County.

Ms. Meier said that a child with the onset of symptoms on January 31, 1993, tested positive today for E.Coli. This is disturbing as it is well beyond the incubation period. The State Epidemiology Department and the child's mother was contacted. It has been found that small children can remain positive up to a month, which increases the chances of secondary infection. School staff and day care facilities staff are being educated, and are being provided information to educate the kids on the importance of cleanliness.

Ms. Meier stated that the estimated Health Department staff time utilized related to the E. Coli outbreak was equivalent to two full time employees for one and a half weeks. There have been no other new cases.

- 2) Ken Willis, Environmental Health Specialist, addressed the Board. He said that three years ago the Health Department had a student intern that took on the project of distributing Radon Test Kits to County residents that had been provided by the University of Washington (UW). Only half of the kits were returned before the intern's time with the County ran out. Those kits returned that tested positive for radon were all from Commissioner District Three. The hazard of radon is equivalent to smoking a pack of cigarettes a day, or having 500 chest x-rays per year. There are two UW students in an independent study class available to the Health Department that have handed out the 60 remaining test kits and information. They will receive no pay, but will be reimbursed for mileage, and possibly some postage. The County will receive the information from the kits and the students' reports. The main areas of concentration are up Highway 9 just south of the Whatcom/Skagit County line, Cape Horn, Birdsvew, Concrete, and just East of Sedro-Woolley. Radon is a natural recurring problem due to radioactive materials released from the earth. The materials get trapped in particles in the air and are breathed into the lungs and stay there. The information and reports are expected to be completed by late spring, and Mr. Willis will share the information with the Board when he receives it.

HUMAN SERVICES STATUS REPORT - SEDRO-WOOLLEY EVALUATION AND TREATMENT CENTER.

JoAnn Angevine, Human Services Director, introduced herself to the Board. Ms. Angevine stated that she had been with the County and working with the North Sound Regional Support Network since 1974. Her office provides contract management for various advisory Boards, such as Substance Abuse, Mental Health, and Developmental Disabilities. Ms. Angevine related various other programs and projects that her office is involved with expressing concern for the future of some of them due to the Gardner budget. The Substance Abuse Program, and MICA are both slated for drastic funding reductions. She said that with the proposed reductions, the County administered programs would cease to exist.

Ms. Angevine said that Senate Bill 5400 provides that by 1995 this region of the state will treat 85% of the mentally ill within the confines of the region. As early as 1988 there were plans to build inpatient facilities. There is one in Mukilteo presently, and the one in Sedro-Woolley will be opening in April. The Sedro-Woolley facility will have 15 beds, and will be a locked-in, involuntary treatment center. When a person is referred to the facility, within 72 hours it will be required to hold a court hearing to determine whether the person is incapacitated. If he is deemed such, he will be held 14 more days. There will be an impact on

the Court, Staff, Public Defender, and Prosecutor. It is hoped that the Court will be willing to travel to the facility for hearings, as the interred have to be transported one by one.

Chairman Hart felt that locating the facility next to the Portal and Pioneer facilities was a positive move. He felt that it was logical to be in close proximity for those no longer needing involuntary containment to be able to go to Portal if they are not ready for full release. Also, if it is necessary for someone to go from Portal to an involuntary containment facility they could be referred to the Sedro-Woolley Evaluation and Treatment facility rather than Western State Hospital.

Commissioner Robinson stated that he thought the Judges had already expressed a positive position on traveling to the facility.

Ms. Angevine stated that she did too, but was surprised with a negative attitude more recently.

Mr. Woodmansee stated that the hearings will require a court reporter and a court clerk as well as the Judge. The law can only provide transportation of the court personnel, not courtroom security.

Ms. Angevine stated that no felony or class 3 sex offenders will be accepted to the facility.

Commissioner Robinson commented that Ms. Angevine takes good care of business and community problems.

Chairman Hart said that he appreciated County Management and staff handling their positions without concerning the Board.

ADJOURNMENT


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

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY


Robert Hart, Chairman


Harvey Wolden, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Connie Carter, Clerk of the Board.

Robby Robinson, Commissioner

