

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

Wednesday, July 7, 1993:

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Hearing Examiner Recommendation - Denial - Agricultural Variance #AGV-92-066 of Milton Egbers, 1414 McLean Road, Mount Vernon.

11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Discussion - Disposition of Indigent Remains (SB 5026 & HB 1195).

CONSENT AGENDA.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, July 7, 1993, with Commissioners Robert Hart, Harvey Wolden, and Robby Robinson present.

HEARING EXAMINER RECOMMENDATION - DENIAL - AGRICULTURAL VARIANCE #AGV-92-066 OF MILTON EGBERS, 1414 MCLEAN ROAD, MOUNT VERNON.

Grace Roeder, Associate Planner, stated that she did not recall notifying Mr. Egbers of the day's meeting regarding his agricultural variance. Since Mr. Egbers was not present, Ms. Roeder recommended continuing the meeting to another date in order to give Mr. Egbers the opportunity to be present.

Chairman Hart motioned to continue the public meeting to Tuesday, July 13, 1993, at the hour of 10:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as possible, in the Commissioner's Hearing Room, 202A, Skagit County Administration Building, Mount Vernon, Washington.

Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION - DISPOSITION OF INDIGENT REMAINS (SB 5026 & HB 1195).

Chairman Hart stated that the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) is not longer responsible for the disposition of indigent remains, and the responsibility has been turned over to individual counties.

Chairman Hart stated that Skagit County assisted with the disposition of 187 unclaimed remains last year. He said that when he spoke to other Commissioners of other counties at the WASAC Conferences, the majority of the counties provide for cremation only of unclaimed remains with no funeral service. There is a provision in the language of their policy in regards to the preservation of evidence.

Dick Lemley, Lemley Funeral Chapel, stated that his business had only one truly unclaimed remains last year. He said that historically, friends of the deceased made application to DSHS for the disposition of the remains, but if they felt they were going to be held responsible, they stopped the application.

Bob Evans, Evans Funeral Chapel & Crematory, stated that he has had cases as Mr. Lemley referred to. He felt that family members have been abusing the available burial assistance. Mr. Evans stated that Mr. Lemley had one unclaimed and unknown deceased in the past year, and felt that the number may increase to 5 or 10 a year.

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Chairman Hart stated that there is obviously a need for developing a system to deal with unclaimed/indigent remains. He felt that cremation only with no services would be the most economical method.

Mr. Evans stated that the issue between cremation and burial for the entities involved is the cost factor. He expressed concern regarding the possibility of family appearing to claim remains after cremation, and being opposed to the method. If unclaimed remains were buried and family showed up, the remains could be exhumed. Cremation cannot be undone. Mr. Evans stated that the cost for burial only with no service is approximately \$1,200.00, cremation costs approximately \$800.00 or \$900.00 dollars. He said that another issue to consider is what to do with the remains after cremation.

Chairman Hart stated that he heard that one of the other Washington counties has a contract for the cremation of unclaimed remains at \$135.00 each.

Dave Needy, Prosecuting Attorney, stated that Fred Johnson, Prosecuting Attorney and Coroner for Wakiakum County developed materials regarding what his county is doing regarding indigent remains that are forthcoming.

Mr. Lemley asked who will be responsible for the cremation of unclaimed remains if family shows up and objects to the action taken.

Chairman Hart stated that the County will determine what action to take and will be responsible and liable. The Commissioner's office will give direction and authorization for the expenditure of funds.

Commissioner Wolden asked how long remains will be kept before disposition to wait for family. He felt it would be possible that a greater expenditure could be created if family shows up after disposition.

Commissioner Robinson asked Mr. Needy what a practical time frame would be to wait before disposing of remains.

Mr. Needy stated that it is usually known right away whether there is any family. He said that publication is posted and action taken.

Chairman Hart stated that if relatives are in the area, or if the deceased had been in the hospital or a nursing home, there would probably be directions for disposition.

Mr. Kendall stated that it sometimes takes a couple days to locate known family

Mr. Evans asked what action would be taken if families refuse to pay the funeral home that performs the disposition.

Mr. Needy stated that the County will pay the funeral home and send the bill to a collection agency to receive payment from the family. He stated that there will need to be a working relationship between the funeral homes and the County. He said that the County Coroner and the Prosecuting Attorney's Office will be out of the circle at the point of the body being turned over to family or the funeral home.

Bob Taylor, Administrative Officer asked who initiates the process of locating next of kin.

Mr. Needy stated that the Count Coroner usually starts the process.

Chairman Hart stated that there is also a need for arrangements for a fee schedule, and distribution of work performance between the funeral homes.

Mr. Kendall stated that it has worked the best to go by district. He said that there are two funeral homes in Commissioner District Two, and he can rotate those.

Mr. Lemley stated that if burial is performed, cemetery fees must be considered. cemetery.

Mr. Evans stated that he had checked with cemeteries throughout the County and felt that there were many who would be willing to coordinate at a reasonable cost.

Chairman Hart stated that the County will need to determine whether cremation or burial will be used, not the funeral directors.

Mr. Evans stated that at Grandview Cemetery there is a common vault that unclaimed remains are placed for a minimum price. If the remains are claimed, the claimant reimburses the funeral home.

Mr. Taylor stated when Mr. Needy receives the Wakiakum model some of those present today will review it and present recommendations to the Board. There will need to be a public hearing to adopt an ordinance regarding the indigent remains disposition issue. He suggested forming a committee to review the information from Wakiakum County, and make recommendations to the Board for an ordinance to adopt for Skagit County.

A committee will be formed including Mr. Needy, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Kendall, Mr. Evans, Mr. Lemley and Mr. Anderson. This committee will return at a later date to make a recommendation to the Board.

CONSENT AGENDA.

• COMMISSIONER'S:

1. Record of the Proceedings for Monday, June 21, 1993.
2. Record of the Proceedings for the Week of June 28, 1993.

* BEST S.E.L.F.:

3. Signature - Interlocal Cooperative Agreement - Best SELF Program Work study - with Skagit Valley College. Work study funding does not become available until July 1, 1993, and the County will reimburse the College for costs incurred prior to July 1, 1993. The County will also reimburse the College for unfunded work study costs related to the 1992 Best SELF program in the amount of \$4,203.39. (Contract #01702).

* HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

4. Signature - Contract amendment for the provision of RN Oversight for Personal Care Services extending the contract period through June 30, 1994. The Unit Rate for the contract service year is \$63.28. (Contract #
5. Signature - Personal Services Agreement with Elizabeth Graham commencing June 22, 1993, and terminating June 23, 1993, in the amount of \$50.00, for blood screening. (Contract #01703).

* PUBLIC DEFENDER:

6. Signature - Contract for Professional Services with Skelton and Tims. (Contract #01704).

* PLANNING:

7. Signature - Resolution approving the Washington State Department of Transportation Rezone Request #REZ 93-003, Sims Road and Highway 20, Sedro-Woolley. (Resolution #14928).

* SENIOR SERVICES:

8. Signature - Resolution - Bid Award for Senior Catering Services. Island Hospital to provide services for Anacortes Nutrition site only, per the bid specifications submitted, and was the only bidder for the Anacortes area. Affiliated Health Services to provide for the Sedro-Woolley/Mount Vernon/Burlington areas per the bid specifications submitted, and was the only bidder for these areas. (Resolution #14929).

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, July 7, 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 #98769 through #99328 (Vouchers #3008145 through #3009556) in the amount of \$647,075.16. Transmittal #C29-93.
- 2) Warrants #96439 through #96569 (Vouchers #96439 through #96569) in the amount of \$369,638.64. Transmittal #R14-93.

- B) Connie Carter, Clerk of the Board presented a resolution to the Board for adoption and signature calling for bids for the construction of a parking lot for Skagit County southeast corner of Third and Kincaid Streets. Bids to be opened July 28, 1993, at 1:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as possible, in the Commissioners' Hearing Room, 202A, Skagit County Administration Building, 700 S. Second, Mount Vernon, Washington.

Commissioner Wolden motioned to approve the resolution as presented. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion which carried unanimously. (Resolution #14930).

- C) Bob Taylor, Administrative Officer, presented a resolution to the Board, for adoption and signature, amending Skagit County Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual to maintain compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Commissioner Wolden motioned to adopt the resolution as presented. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion which carried unanimously. (Resolution #14931).

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 of the Board
Skagit County Commissioners

