

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

**Wednesday, August 10, 1994**

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Executive Session - Personnel, Litigation and Land Acquisition.

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Emergency Management Council Presentation.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, August 10, 1994, with Commissioners Harvey Wolden and Robert Hart present. Commissioner Robby Robinson's absence was excused.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL PRESENTATION.**

Tom Sheahan, Director of Emergency Management, had the members of the Emergency Management Council introduce themselves.

Mr. Sheahan briefly reviewed the 1995 preliminary budget for the Emergency Management Council. The specifics of Personnel and Benefits, Office Supplies, Telephone, Postage, Travel, Rentals, Repairs and Maintenance, Miscellaneous (training and conference registration fees, membership dues, subscriptions) and Capital Outlay were discussed. Mr. Sheahan advised that the total 1995 preliminary budget is \$142,993.

Ray Henery, Mayor of Burlington, moved to accept the preliminary budget as presented by Mr. Sheahan. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Sheahan then reviewed the 1995 Program Paper and advised that the Advisory Council has received copies of this document, but has not commented due to the involvement in fighting the recent wild fires in Eastern Washington. Specifics of the program paper were reviewed and included Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan Development or Updating, Training and Education, Direction, Control and Warning, Radiological and Hazardous Materials Incident Response Capabilities and Maintenance, Tests, Drills and Exercises, Public Information, Hazard Analysis and Assessment, General Program Administration, and Response to Emergencies and Disasters.

A review of the last twelve month's records (July 1, 1993 - June 30, 1994) revealed that 239 incidents were listed, and most incidents were hazardous materials incidents or search and rescue incidents.

Rick Balam, Swinomish Tribal Police Chief, moved to approve the Program Paper as presented. Ray Henery seconded the motion, which was unanimously passed.

Mr. Sheahan opened the discussion regarding the Emergency Operations Center. He advised that various options for the relocation of Emergency Operations are being considered and wanted to alert the Council to that fact. Mayor Dean Maxwell of the City of Anacortes suggested that there are other locations county-wide that may be available and could accommodate a dispatch and emergency preparedness center. Mayor Maxwell suggested starting with a location at the Port of Skagit County.

Mr. Sheahan advised that at the last advisory meeting of the E911 committee, several different issues were discussed concerning the Operations Center. A discussion ensued on the options to move or remodel and the financial implications of each of these options.

Commissioner Hart indicated that a new independent site would be so much easier to set up and determine costs.

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Mr. Sheahan advised that the 911 Committee will aggressively pursue the options available.

Chairman Wolden commented on the advantages of consolidated services and functions in one location.

Mayor Maxwell concurred that the reason functions have been isolated in the past was due to lack of technology. Now that computer technology is county-wide, Mayor Maxwell indicated consolidation may be timely.

John Church, 911 Director, stated that in reality the County is limping along, and is right at the edge as far as handling any more growth at the current location.

Mr. Sheahan stated that it appears that the Council would like the 911 Communications Committee to work on different alternatives to this problem.

Ray Reep, Mayor of Mount Vernon, indicated that this is an admirable project, and pointed out the investment that Mount Vernon has made in communications equipment has subsidized the 911 system for some time.

Dan O'Donnell, Mayor of LaConner, pointed out that it may be necessary in the future to incorporate the 911 communications center with the Sheriff's Office.

As there was no objection to pursuing the 911 Center alternatives, Mr. Sheahan advised that the committee will proceed with reviewing the options discussed.

Jim Carefoot, Adcomm Engineering, advised that E911 is acting as a trigger for consolidation as discussed. An E911 preliminary plan was presented to those assembled and was reviewed. The purpose of the plan is to provide information needed to design and implement an Enhanced (E) 911 system for Skagit County. Various aspects of consolidation were discussed.

Basically, the two options of leaving the system as it is today or consolidating to one system of central dispatch are available. Mr. Carefoot advised that the State has set it up that if the County has a single 911 access point, it triggers the availability of capital funds. This is important as Skagit County is asking for over \$1.3 million dollars. Mr. Carefoot is recommending one public safety answering point, and currently Central Dispatch in Mount Vernon will be the core location.

Specifics of funding and excise tax generated were briefing discussed, including the specific areas where State funds can be applied.

Preliminary financial information was briefly reviewed by Mr. Carefoot for this E911 program. This includes a new telephone system that will be procured from GTE and use of GTE's database for County-wide address information.

Specifics of various capital requests from the State were reviewed by Mr. Carefoot. He advised that the State is not willing to pay for new construction, but will pay for remodeling.

John Church advised that September 11 is National 911 Recognition Day.

ADJOURNMENT.

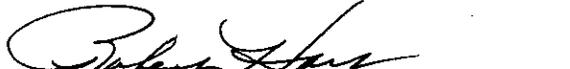
Chairman Wolden motioned to adjourn the proceedings. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON



  
Harvey Wolden, Chairman

  
Robby Robinson, Commissioner

  
Robert Hart, Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
Patti J. Owen, Clerk  
Skagit County Board of Commissioners