

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

Friday, September 30, 1994

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Budget Work Sessions:

8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Public Defender.
8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Senior Services.
9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Prosecuting Attorney.
9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Non-Departmental.
10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. 911 Communications.
10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Capital Funds.
11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Convention Center.
11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. ARIS.

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

City/County Officials Planning Meeting (Hearing Room "A").

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Friday, September 30, 1994, with Commissioners Harvey Wolden, Robby Robinson and Robert Hart present.

CITY/COUNTY OFFICIALS PLANNING MEETING (HEARING ROOM "A").

Co-Chairman Robby Robinson called the meeting to order and expressed regret at the few number of attendees at this meeting.

After an introduction of those present, a discussion ensued concerning a recent letter to the Board of Commissioners from the Mayors of Anacortes, Burlington, Mount Vernon, LaConner and Sedro Woolley regarding the City/County Planning Officials Agreement concerning the implementation of Urban Growth Areas, and the subsequent response of the Board.

Ian Munce, City of Anacortes, explained that the difficulty encountered by the cities is in regards to the implementation of urban growth areas, not the designation of such areas. Mr. Munce stated that the County Planning Department has agreed to work cooperatively with the cities, but, on the other hand, has unilaterally made decisions and indicated that the cities must do certain tasks.

Dave Hough, County Planning Director, reminded Mr. Munce that even though urban growth areas may be designated and adopted, the land within the urban growth area is still within Skagit County jurisdiction. Mr. Hough further indicated that there have been many discussions among city and county planners relating to the use of urban growth areas. Policies adopted are a direct result of those discussions. Mr. Hough further indicated the need to develop interlocal agreements in such areas prior to urban services being provided. The recommended policies are before the Planning Commission and changes were made based on comments made by the cities during hearings before the Planning Commission and the open comment period. Consequently, the Planning Commission has made adjustments to those policies proposed. Mr. Hough reiterated that the process is not over, and that there will be additional public hearings and input.

Mr. Munce stated that the concern is that there are two distinct paths being followed by the County Planning Department at this point. One approach is a cooperative one, and the other involves the County Planning Department giving directives to the cities. This is contrary to the agreement of the City/County Officials Planning group. Mr. Munce indicated that implementation of urban growth areas is intended to be a joint effort with a cooperative approach.

Mr. Hough indicated that the cities have not attended the recent Planning Commission deliberations

concerning future annexation and/or development.

A discussion ensued on the forum of the Planning Commission and public input.

Mr. Munce indicated that there is no opportunity for public input at this point.

Commissioner Hart stated that during the deliberation process, there were public hearings and public testimony processes, and that any private citizen or entity could submit such testimony orally or in writing.

Mayor Dean Maxwell, City of Anacortes, stressed the need to work together to make the mandate of the Growth Management Act work.

Mr. Munce stated when the joint agreement was developed, implementation of urban growth areas was determined to be a joint activity, and that it is Mr. Munce's opinion that there has been a change in direction by the County Planning Staff.

Commissioner Hart strongly disagreed with Mr. Munce's comments. Commissioner Hart indicated that the cities have been allowed much input in the process, but that the County has not had any participation in the decisions the cities are making regarding such areas.

Mr. Hough stated that he distinctly remembers having a number of discussions with city planning directors relating to interlocal agreements that will be necessary for implementation of urban growth areas. Mr. Hough further indicated that the Planning Commission is reviewing every policy proposed, which is in excess of 300 policies, and will be conducting additional hearings to put together a complete document. There will be additional public testimony on the entire document concerning the inter-relationship between County and cities and the impact County policies will have on the cities. Mr. Hough noted that it is important to recognize that the County comprehensive plan deals with all of the unincorporated areas in Skagit County, whether in designated urban growth areas or not, and does not deal with incorporated areas of Skagit County. This fact will be identified in the overview and preface of the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Munce again stated that implementation of urban growth areas was agreed to be a joint effort. Mr. Munce stated that he is seeking recognition of that agreement. Mr. Munce further stated that it is difficult to reach resolution when items are being mandated by the County.

Mr. Hough stated that numerous policies were amended after receiving comments from the cities. The County Commissioners took great political risk with the adoption of interim controls which provided an extreme financial benefit to the cities.

Commissioner Robinson stressed the importance to work together to resolve differences, and that the public process should not be circumvented. Commissioner Robinson stated that there will always be some disagreement and contentious items when involving comprehensive land use.

A lengthy discussion ensued on specific problems and solutions for addressing this difficulty.

Commissioner Robinson indicated that any forum getting various agencies together assists in making the proper decisions for all entities concerned. Commissioner Robinson stressed, however, that it is necessary to understand that some items may be in disagreement.

Dan O'Donnell, Mayor of LaConner, indicated that the cities deserve answers to their letters to the County.

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Mr. Hough indicated that there are issues before the Planning Commission and that it may not be possible to provide definitive answers until those deliberations are completed.

Mr. Munce indicated that the cities appreciate the opportunity to raise this issue and the opportunity to talk directly to the Board.

Commissioner Robinson indicated that it is helpful to have these discussions, but that it is imperative that the public process go forward.

Mr. Munce indicated his understanding that this group cannot take action, but can take proposals back to the individual city councils, and it is not the intent to circumvent the Planning Commission process.

Commissioner Hart moved to approve the minutes of the April 22, 1994 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Maxwell and unanimously carried.

Kelly Moldstad, Skagit Council of Governments, clarified that the city/county planners will meet and decide when the entire policy body will next meet.


ADJOURNMENT.

Commissioner Robinson 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