

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

Monday, October 24, 1994

- 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Executive Session - Personnel, Litigation and Land Acquisition.
- 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Public Works Department - Rich Medved, Director.
- 1) Presentation - Golden Apple Award Received by Skagit County's Wellness Committee.
 - 2) Discussion - Burlington Shop Maintenance Building.
 - 3) Update - Burlington Northern Railroad Petition to Utilities and Transportation Commission - Railroad Crossing Closures.
 - 4) Update - Transportation Systems Plan.
 - 5) Update - Customer Service Strategy.
 - 6) Update - Resource Recovery Facility Request for Proposals.
 - 7) Miscellaneous.
- 11:00 a.m. - Noon Budget Work Session - General.
- CONSENT AGENDA.**
- MISCELLANEOUS.**
- 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Meeting with Housing Authority Board of Commissioners.
- 3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Transfer Ownership of Donated Vehicle from Seattle City Light to Fire District 19 - Warning Vehicle in Dam Failure Disaster.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, October 24, 1994, with Commissioners Harvey Wolden, Robby Robinson and Robert Hart present.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT - Rich Medved, Director.

1. Presentation - Golden Apple Award Received by Skagit County's Wellness Committee.

Pat Pearce, Health Department Director and Co-Chair of the County Wellness Committee, advised that Rich Medved, Public Works Department Director, is the other Co-Chair of the Wellness Committee, and that the County has received the State Evergreen-Everwell "Golden Apple" award presented for worksite wellness programs such as ours. Ms. Pearce advised that these are programs designed to help people make healthy decisions. Current programs within the County were reviewed and it was noted that such programs boost morale and assist people in living a health lifestyle.

Mr. Medved indicated his thanks to the Wellness Committee and added that the wellness representatives are the key to the success of programs.

Commissioner Hart indicated that the wellness program is of benefit to every employee, and also represents a significant savings in time loss away from work and numbers of days sick.

2. Discussion - Burlington Shop Maintenance Building.

Roger Howard, Facilities Director, stated that he recently met with Rich Medved and Charlie Tewalt to discuss the proposed Burlington Shop Maintenance Building. These gentlemen met with Fisher & Sons to review existing plans and were able to find ways to decrease the cost of the building by \$300,000 - \$400,000. The Board clarified the separation of equipment costs and building costs. Mr. Howard advised that the equipment list has been reduced by about half, to \$250,000 from \$400,000. Mr. Howard advised that it is his belief that the total cost can be reduced to \$1.4 million. This amount would include all architectural fees, site work, sales tax, and is a total bottom line figure. Mr. Howard indicated that the actual building would cost around \$770,000.

The Board indicated the need for the County team to make limits and boundaries for the architect so that the definition and scope of the project is clearly apparent. Mr. Howard indicated that having Merritt & Pardini scale down the existing design may be the easiest and most cost-effective method of redesigning the building.

A general discussion ensued on the particulars of various equipment for such a maintenance facility.

The Board indicated the need to contain the building costs to \$750,000 to \$800,000 for the maintenance shop. Commissioner Hart stated that some of the equipment can wait if necessary. Chairman Wolden indicated the need to keep the total project cost at \$1.5 million for both the building and required equipment.

Commissioner Hart noted that the expandability of the building should also be a consideration.

Mr. Howard indicated that he will set up a meeting with Merritt & Pardini to see if they can work within this reduced scope of work.

3. Update - Burlington Northern Railroad Petition to Utilities and Transportation Commissioner - Railroad Crossing Closures.

Ed Hawes, Public Works Department Staff, reviewed with the Board that Burlington Northern petitioned the Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission to close the following Railroad Crossings: Milltown Road, Spruce Street, Green Road and Boe Road. Mr. Hawes displayed the exact locations of these crossings.

Mr. Hawes advised that the Board did not waive the right to a hearing on this matter. Mr. Hawes advised that the subject hearing is quasi-judicial in nature and that the Railroad and other affected entities will most likely have legal representation present during the hearing and formalized reports may be submitted. An Administrative Law Judge will be in charge of the hearings. Burlington Northern generally brings staff people to provide testimony to the Law Judge regarding their point of view on why the subject crossings should be closed. Mr. Hawes advised that the UTC as well as Skagit County has the opportunity to cross-examine such witnesses, and can provide their own testimony if desired. The Public also has the right to be heard and communities can ask to be a party to the proceedings. Mr. Hawes advised that the hearing will take place after the first of the year, and that the UTC must give 20 days notice.

Mr. Hawes asked for direction from the Board as to what role the County should take in this hearing and testimony process.

Commissioner Hart indicated the Board's concern that no individual is denied access to their property. It was Commissioner Hart's opinion that there is no reason to oppose the closures as long as no one is restricted from the use of their property.

Specific problems at each of the crossings were briefly discussed.

After further discussion, Mr. Hawes summarized his understanding that it is the Board's intent that Skagit County will be in attendance at such hearing and provide support as well as cross-examination when formalized reports are presented to the Law Judge. The County will be there to protect the public's interest, but will not provide a formalized report in addition to Burlington Northern's formalized report.

A brief discussion ensued on the importance of public notice to those residents in the area of the subject closings.

Mr. Hawes then reviewed an aerial photograph of the area of a proposed closing at Stackpole Road and asked the Board for their input on safety and signalization and the possibility of closing the Peter Johnson Road crossing rather than the Stackpole Road crossing. Mr. Hawes advised that Burlington Northern could amend the existing petition and add Stackpole or Peter Johnson and receive public testimony on their choice for such closure.

Commissioner Hart indicated that both Stackpole and Peter Johnson crossings should be on the existing petition and allow the public to give testimony. Mr. Medved indicated the importance of giving good notice to the public in this regard. The Board concurred with this plan.

4. Update - Transportation Systems Plan.

Dave Baltz, Public Works Department Staff, advised that he has been working with the Planning Department to produce the transportation element of the comprehensive plan. Mr. Baltz advised that this large undertaking has been broken down into three components: goals and policies, systems plan, and financial plan. The last two items will be combined in the final plan. The plan is completing the process of going through the Citizens Advisory Committee and the Planning Commission and drafts of the transportation element will be available in mid-December.

Mr. Baltz distributed various graphs of information to the Board for their review.

Mr. Baltz also noted that the nonmotorized plan will also be presented to the Planning Commission, and an update will be made available to the Board in the near future.

5. Update - Customer Service Strategy.

Mr. Medved and the Board briefly discussed the continuing customer service program and the positive results therefrom. Commissioner Hart indicated that customer service is a changing corporate strategy and allows staff to know that their ideas are important and have value.

Chairman Wolden indicated that the benefits of such a program are difficult to measure.

6. Update - Resource Recovery Facility Request for Proposals.

Mr. Medved advised the Board that he has received and responded to 3 or 4 letters concerning the use of the Resource Recovery Facility, and that Don McKeehan, Public Information Officer, is working on a weekly press release to keep the public informed. Mr. Medved stated that interviews of three proposals were held on Friday, October 21, and went very well. Each proposal is uniquely different and each has great merit. Mr. Medved advised that a preliminary report will be ready for the Board by November 7.

Commissioner Hart stated that the Board is still waiting to see appropriate flow-control legislation, and that *if any type of dangerous material is considered for processing through the incinerator, it will be necessary to have an advisory ballot, no matter how financially sound the idea may be.* Mr. Medved concurred with the necessity for an advisory ballot.

A general discussion ensued on the fact that privatization may not be the answer and that much information must be compiled prior to a decision being made.

Commissioner Robinson indicated that all options are still open.

7. Miscellaneous.

There were no miscellaneous items for review.

CONSENT AGENDA.

Commissioner Robinson moved to approve the Consent Agenda for Monday, October 24, 1994, as presented by Staff. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion, which was unanimously passed.

• Commissioners' Office:

1. Record of the Proceedings from Monday, October 17, 1994.
2. Record of the Proceedings from Tuesday, October 18, 1994.
3. Resolution - Appointment of Board Member, Mary Lam, to Skagit County Housing Authority Board of Commissioners. (Resolution #15522)
4. Resolution - Appointment of Board Member, Elizabeth Nangle, to Developmental Disabilities Board. (Resolution #15523)
5. Resolution Extending Contract Benefits for Exempt Employees - Sheriff's Office. (Resolution #15524)
6. Personal Services Agreement with Competitive Dynamics, Inc. for employee opinion survey processing of data for the period September 1, 1994 through August 31, 1996 at a rate of \$1,200 for each data analysis/summary report for assigned operational areas of Skagit County Government. (Contract #02196)

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* Health:

7. Contract with DSHS providing \$3,972 for clerical support for the Birth-to-3 Program for the period October 1, 1994 through September 30, 1994. (This contract will replace the contract signed on October 10, 1994). (Contract #02184)

* County Clerk:

8. Appointment and Oath of Office of Sharon King, Deputy County Clerk.

* Public Works:

9. Resolution Calling for Bids - Lyman-Hamilton Highway Guardrail Project, C.R.P. #9402-2. (Resolution #15525)
10. Personal Services Agreement with Materials Testing & Consulting, Inc. for inspection services for the period August 1, 1994 through August 1, 1995 for a maximum amount of \$4,950. (Contract #02197)
11. Cooperative Agreement with Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission for snow removal at two locations adjacent to the Baker Lake Road for the maximum amount of \$620, terminating April 30, 1995. (Contract #02198)
12. Annual Advertising Contract with the Skagit Valley Publishing Company for display advertising for the Public Works Department for the period October 1, 1994 through September 30, 1995 at the rate of \$9.20 per square inch. (Contract #02199)
13. Supplement #4 to Personal Services Agreement with Preston Gates & Ellis, amending the maximum amount payable under this agreement to \$56,000, an increase of \$6,000. (Contract #01689)
14. Personal Services Agreement with Arrow Launch Service for operated boat charter between Anacortes and Guemes Island dock facilities for the period October 12, 1994 through August 31, 1994 at a maximum consideration of \$30,000. (Contract #02200)

MISCELLANEOUS.

- A. An Instructional Services Contract with Brenda Lomsdalen to provide tennis lessons through the County Parks and Recreation Department was presented by Staff for signature. The contract is for the period June 1994 through October 1994 at the rate of \$38 per lesson. Commissioner Hart moved to approve the contract as presented. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. (Contract #02201)
- B. A Resolution was presented to the Board for signature which is an Amendment of a Board member's Appointment to the Skagit County Housing Authority Board of Commissioners. Shirley Osborn was previously appointed through October 22, 1999 and should have been appointed through October 22, 1998. Commissioner Hart moved to approve the Resolution as presented by Staff. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. (Resolution #15526)

- C. 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, October 24, 1994, the Board, by a majority vote, did approve for payment those vouchers included in the above-mentioned list and further described as follows:

Voucher numbers 4012844 through 4013444, 4001-37 through 4001-43, 4007-67 through 4007-99, 4010-597 through 4010-637, 4014-137 through 4014-135, 4017-132 through 4017-152, 4018-06 through 4018-11, 4019-153 through 4019-181, 4020-78 through 4020-91, 4101-215 through 4101-254 (Warrant numbers 120168 through 120842), in the total amount of \$1,196,803.52 (Transmittal #C56-94).

MEETING WITH HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.

Mary Lam, Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, thanked the Board for setting aside this time, and stated that she is looking forward to discussing the goals and purposes of the Housing Authority of Skagit County (HASC). Ms. Lam stressed that HASC wants to continue the partnership with Skagit County for assistance with the crisis situation of housing availability in the County. Ms. Lam advised that members of the Housing Authority Board are appointed officials and serve the County in many ways, and do a fine job of networking and bringing back to the Housing Authority contacts within the community.

Shirley Osborn, as newest member of Housing Authority, stated that she is amazed at the outstanding that the staff does and is impressed with amount of budget dealt with and numbers of people that are directly assisted in their housing needs. Ms. Osborn noted that she is also on the Friendship House Board, and Friendship House is trying to acquire transitional housing for those in need. It was Ms. Osborn's opinion that HASC has been instrumental as a resource.

Pat Parker, Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, briefly reviewed the "Bootstrap Program" and the HASC's success in dealing with other agencies in the County, helping individuals work toward self-sufficiency.

Ms. Lam produced a Housing Authority of Skagit County (HASC) Fact Sheet. John Smith, HASC, directed Board's attention to Weatherization and Repair programs for low-income families and the elderly. This year the repair and weatherization funds total \$390,000. Specifics of the program were briefly discussed.

A review of the various HASC projects throughout the County were reviewed, and also the coordination efforts with Community Action Agency and Skagit County Mental Health were reviewed.

Commissioner Robinson asked for some clarification of the waiting list. Mr. Smith advised that HASC is currently serving people who have been on the waiting list since January of 1992.

Commissioner Hart indicated that one of the reasons for this meeting is that there is a sense that the HASC's mission was constrained by the resolution of the Board establishing the HASC. Commissioner Hart expressed that it is the Board's feeling that the Housing Authority is the ideal forum to take the lead. Commissioner Hart indicated that if the Board's original resolution to set up the HASC is insufficient and does not allow for innovation, changes can readily be made. Commissioner Hart indicated that there needs to be a lead agency to coordinate the activities of the various groups in the County working on the common goal of housing.

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Mr. Smith assured the Board that HASC is taking advantage of every opportunity to apply for funds and are not merely waiting for federal funds. Mr. Smith indicated that no stones are being left unturned, that the HASC belongs to a number of organization, and exchanges information about innovative programs. Mr. Smith further indicated that it is his feeling that HASC is not restrained in homeowner opportunities by the Resolution of the Board.

Specifics of programs in Island and Kitsap counties were briefly reviewed with the Board by Mr. Smith, and it was noted that Island County has not implemented impact fees at this time.

Ms. Lam queried the Board about establishing a line of credit for the formation and development of housing needs in the County.

A lengthy discussion ensued on this option and other funding options and the adequacy of the Resolution forming the HASC.

Commissioner Hart indicated that he is encouraged by the different options that are being discussed, and is glad that it appears that the Resolution is not limiting the HASC.

Ms. Lam suggested that perhaps the Prosecutor should review the Resolution to make sure that rental or purchased housing is authorized by the HASC and that the verbiage is as broad as possible.

A discussion ensued on the city housing authority functions and the fact that such agencies are not under mandate of the Board of County Commissioners.

Commissioner Hart noted in this regard that five housing authorities within the County may be self-defeating.

Ms. Lam asked the Board about the possibility of obtaining County surplus or unused property. Commissioner Robinson stated that if such parcels were available, most would be un-buildable.

After a lengthy discussion on the profiles and income levels of those on the waiting list for housing, Chairman Wolden urged the HASC to let the Board know if there are options and developments that they can assist with.

Ms. Osborn asked if there is any way for the County to provide funding for additional staff. Commissioner Robinson stated that in looking at the budget for 1995, the answer would have to be "no."

TRANSFER OWNERSHIP OF DONATED VEHICLE FROM SEATTLE CITY LIGHT TO FIRE DISTRICT 19 - WARNING VEHICLE IN DAM FAILURE DISASTER.

John Hastick, in charge of Safety of Dams Program for Seattle City Light, advised that as a part of the "Dam Failure" emergency action plan for the facilities in Marblemount, an evaluation indicated one of the most productive items needed is a vehicle to be used in emergency situations to notify residents. Seattle City Light has found such a vehicle, in accordance with specifications designated by Fire District 19, and would like to transfer the title of the vehicle to Fire District 19 at this time.

Mr. Hastick noted that communication to the public is the key of emergency services. Mr. Hastick introduced Ted Coates, Deputy Superintendent of Seattle City Light, who presented the title to the vehicle and a check for \$3,000 for the purchase of equipment to be installed in the vehicle, at the Fire District's discretion.

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Mr. Coates stated that on behalf of Norm Rice and the City of Seattle, it is a pleasure to find a win-win situation and solution for both the local community and the City of Seattle. Chairman Wolden thanked Mr. Coates on behalf of Fire District 19.

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