

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

Tuesday, November 29, 1994

- 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Commissioners' Staff Meeting.
- 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Planning Department - Dave Hough, Director.
- 1) Discussion - Planning Commission Schedule.
2) Code Enforcement Report.
3) Miscellaneous.
- 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Discussion - North Cascades Multiservice Center Update.
- 1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Bid Opening - Pioneer Highway Shoulder and Surface Preparation.
- 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Public Hearing - Consideration of Available Options Regarding the Future of the Skagit County Resource Recovery Facility (Hearing Rooms "A" and "B").

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, November 29, 1994, with Commissioners Robby Robinson, Harvey Wolden and Robert Hart present.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT - Dave Hough, Director.

1. Discussion - Planning Commission Schedule.

Gary Christensen, Planning Department Staff, advised that the Planning Commission intends to have the Land Use Element completed before the Christmas holidays. The Planning Commission will meet six more times prior to the holidays and will devote 3 meetings to this element.

Dave Hough, Planning Department Director, stated that completion of the Land Use Element will mean that the Economic Development, Environment and Capital Facilities elements will be the only elements remaining completion after the first of the year.

Staff further advised that March 1 is the tentative release date of the entire Comprehensive Plan.

2. Code Enforcement Report.

The Code Enforcement Report was reviewed.

3. Miscellaneous.

- A. Mr. Hough reviewed with the Board the proposed March's Point Independent Urban Growth Area as approved by the Planning Commission unanimously. Mr. Hough further stated that the City of Anacortes Urban Growth Area was determined to be the current city limits of Anacortes by a 5-2 vote of the Planning Commission.
- B. A discussion ensued on comprehensive plan programs that will provide relief to landowners who cannot fully maximize development of their property due to limitations.
- C. A brief discussion ensued on the annexation of the Bouslog property near Burlington and the necessity to change the urban growth boundary for Burlington.

- D. The Board executed a Resolution previously approved concerning the Administrative Appeal of James and Kenneth Renner.
- E. Staff presented a Resolution calling for a Public Hearing on December 14, 1994 at 10:00 a.m. concerning Interim Controls for Platted Lots Recorded Prior to March 1, 1965. Commissioner Hart moved to approve the Resolution as presented by Staff. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. (Resolution #15562)
- F. Staff presented a Resolution calling for a Public Hearing on December 13, 1994 at 2:00 p.m. concerning Interim Controls for the March Point Industrial Area. Commissioner Hart moved to approve the Resolution as presented by Staff. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. (Resolution #15563)

DISCUSSION - NORTH CASCADES MULTISERVICE CENTER UPDATE.

Steve Williams and Bob Bippert from the State of Washington reviewed with the Board a Disposal Plan for the Northern State Multi-Service Center which will be presented to the Legislature on Thursday, December 1. This report is broken into sections entitled Introduction and Purpose, Background, Other Circumstances, Compliance with the Proviso, Tenancies, Activities in 1994 and Current Funding, Disposal Options and Plans, Department of General Administration's Plan, and Conclusion. Specifics of the plan and disposal options were discussed.

Chairman Wolden clarified with Messrs. Williams and Bippert that the State is looking at developing the site rather than abandoning and disposing of the facilities.

Mr. Bippert indicated that major areas of concern include the removal of condemned buildings to reduce cost of future new construction, decentralizing the heating system to allow tenants to control their own costs, and transferring ownership to the U.S. Department of Labor that portion of the facility that they currently occupy. Mr. Bippert noted that the property was advertised for sale, but no viable offers were received.

Chairman Wolden noted that all buildings must be occupied to maximize utilization and reduce costs, and a brief discussion ensued on methods of bringing tenants to this site.

Mr. Bippert noted that progress is being made and good things can happen with the site to make it a useful addition to the County and improve the economic situation in the area.

Commissioner Robinson noted that this campus is an asset to the State and the community for the future.

The Board noted their support for this project and interest in pursuing the development of this property. Chairman Wolden acknowledged the progress being made and noted the need to make the commitment to long-term development at the site.

Kelly Moldstad, Skagit Council of Governments, noted that it is necessary to spend money to make money, using the example of the Port of Skagit County, and noted the optimism involving a private/public partnership for this beautiful campus.

Commissioner Robinson acknowledged the potential problems with zoning and land use issues concerning the development of the Comprehensive Plan.

Commissioner Hart expressed that the County would cooperate in obtaining the necessary permits to get demolition accomplished on the site.

BID OPENING - PIONEER HIGHWAY SHOULDER AND SURFACE PREPARATION.

Chairman Wolden waived the reading of the Notice of Call for Bids, as published in The Skagit Argus. The following bids were received and opened:

Lakeside Industries
Bid Bond attached, No acknowledgement of Addendum #1
\$267,766.31

Wilder Construction Co.
Bid Bond attached, Acknowledgement of Addendum #1
\$278,490.80

Thomco Construction
Bid Bond attached, Acknowledgement of Addendum #1
\$276,689.32

Associated Sand & Gravel
Bid Bond attached, Acknowledgement of Addendum #1
\$233,002.68

Staff advised that the engineer's estimate for this project is \$265,986.50, and that a recommendation for award of the bid will be forthcoming within the next week.

PUBLIC HEARING - CONSIDERATION OF AVAILABLE OPTIONS REGARDING THE FUTURE OF THE SKAGIT COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY (HEARING ROOMS "A" AND "B").

Chairman Wolden opened the Public Hearing, and introduced Rich Medved, Director of Public Works. Mr. Medved indicated to the assemblage that individuals from Northwest Air Pollution Authority, the State Department of Ecology and the County Health Department were present to answer questions during the hearing.

Mr. Medved briefly reviewed the history of the operation of the incinerator. Mr. Medved noted that the incinerator was shut down in May of this year due to the cost escalation of operation and the Supreme Court ruling concerning the hazardous classification of incinerator waste. This ruling was effective May 2, 1994. The incinerator ash generated by the incinerator would have been classified as hazardous waste had it remained open and the cost of disposing hazardous ash jumped from \$45-\$50 per ton to \$350 to \$400 per ton. Therefore, the decision was made by the Board to close the facility.

Mr. Medved advised that in July 1994 private sector companies were invited to submit their proposals to operate the facility. Fifty-one individuals obtained copies of the Request For Proposal (RFP), 7 of these submitted responses, and a 7-person review committee was formed to review the submitted proposals. On October 27, 1994, the three top proposers were interviewed by the review committee. In addition, the County has considered two proposals of their own, i.e. keeping the facility closed permanently or reopening and operating the incinerator as before. On November 7, 1994 a preliminary draft report was released that analyzed all of these options. There were four critical criteria considered including: The proposal had to

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be legal, had to be technologically do-able, had to be environmentally sound, protecting the public health and safety, and must be economically beneficial to the citizens of Skagit County. Mr. Medved stated that the Report was distributed to the Solid Waste Advisory Council, local libraries, Northwest Air Pollution Authority, and the County upriver satellite office. The Board also generated a request for public input to discuss the future of the facility.

Mr. Medved advised that 73 written letters were received of which 44 letters opposed firing up the incinerator, 4 letters are in favor of reopening the incinerator, and 16 letters contained a variety of attachments on pertinent information on dioxins and other toxic emissions. Mr. Medved stated that 4 or 5 letters requested an advisory ballot. Mr. Medved noted that responses have been received from the Swinomish Tribe, the Audobon Society, the County Health Department, and the Cities of Anacortes, Burlington, and Sedro Woolley.

Brian Stephan, Public Works Department Staff, reviewed the two County options of either operating the incinerator or closing it down permanently. Mr. Stephan advised that an ash treatment system would be necessary so that the resultant ash is not deemed hazardous waste. Equipment replacement would be necessary to get the plant back to optimum operating capacity. Running the facility as a transfer station could be done with some minor building alterations to allow for more efficient operation. Specifics of the upgrades necessary were briefly discussed.

Mr. Medved then introduced Bill Frederick of the HRS Group, which submitted one of the privatization proposals. Mr. Frederick advised that their proposal is well explained in the preliminary report. Mr. Frederick advised that the proposed facility is considered to be environmentally safe and has met all safety standards, and will have the capability to meet even more stringent standards that are now in draft form from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Mr. Frederick assured those assembled that this will be a high quality, high standard plant, and that the operational costs which have been presented within the proposal are attainable. It was discussed that investments to upgrade and maintain the plant will be required every five years.

Mr. Medved then introduced Bill Carlson, Wheelabrator Environmental Systems, who stated that since 1975, Wheelabrator has burned over 55 million tons of solid waste and successfully operated rotary kilns similar to Skagit County's in Florida. If Wheelabrator is successful in leasing the facility, it would be the smallest facility in their system. Mr. Carlson indicated that Wheelabrator is a \$1.3 billion dollar a year company, and is basically a full-service provider in environmental businesses, and is the one proposal with the most experience in the State of Washington. Mr. Carlson briefly reviewed some of the specifics of his company's proposal. At the end of the 14 year term of Wheelabrator's proposal, the facility will have kept pace with environmental controls and will have substantial life remaining. Mr. Carlson urged those concerned to contact the City and County of Spokane to verify Wheelabrator's track record. Mr. Carlson stated that his company has never been cited, which is indicative of the manner in which they do business.

Earl Angevine, an officer of ACDI, was introduced by Mr. Medved, who briefly reviewed a letter from the County Health Department dated October 18, 1994 concerning incineration of environmental waste, and excerpts from the Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC) of the solid waste management plan. Mr. Angevine introduced John Clason, the president of ACDI. Mr. Clason advised that there will be complete funding for the plant to be operational and updated. ACDI has proposed the largest and most extensive refurbishment program. Mr. Clason advised that a significant portion of the revenues generated by the facility will be shared with the county. ACDI is also proposing a 14 year initial term with renegotiation of the lease after that time. Mr. Clason assured those present that ACDI is backed by significant resources. Proposed sources of fuels were briefly outlined by Mr. Clason. Mr. Clason advised that 15% of the wastestream would

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be medical waste and that there would be no hazardous or toxic waste burned, therefore all emissions would be totally safe. The facility will meet new stringent dioxin emission standards. In summary, Mr. Clason stated that significant savings would be gained by the County if ACDI's proposal is accepted and great benefit to County citizens would accrue.

Mr. Medved advised that court reporters are available to take statements and that such reported testimony will become a part of the public record and will be distributed for the Board to review. Documentation and exhibits could also be submitted to the court reporters.

Chairman Wolden asked the group assembled to make constructive testimony concerning the future of the incinerator, that such testimony will be limited to three minutes, and that a question and answer period will follow after all who wish to speak have done so.

Donna Caffrey, Mount Vernon, urged the Board to save the healthy environment and economic well-being of the County. Ms. Caffrey indicated that the Health Department research is lacking. Ms. Caffrey asked the Board to close the incinerator permanently and that the consequences of the unforeseen can not be determined at this time. It was Ms. Caffrey's opinion that the Spokane incinerator has become an environmental disaster, and that the Board should say "no" to risk.

Marilyn Hardison, Anacortes, indicated her preference to close the incinerator as it is a source of air pollution, fear and mistrust. Ms. Hardison expressed her concern for the health of children and all residents of the County. Ms. Hardison urged the Board to take at least a year to consider this decision and that she would be willing to pay higher taxes rather than put health at risk. Ms. Hardison stated that "when in doubt, do without."

Joe Waldron, Mount Vernon, stated that government run industry does not work, and that private industry can do a better job of running the incinerator.

Ruth Aven, 275 Barrel Springs Road, Bow, indicated that the proposals submitted are outstanding, and that she strongly supports making the incinerator operational again. Ms. Aven indicated that she feels the *incinerator can be run safely and efficiently.*

Al Udd, 1073 Josh Wilson Lane, Bay View, presented the Board with an article on a plant in Finland that is dealing with waste similar to the proposals submitted.

Roger LaRue, Country Club Drive, Burlington, urged the Board to start up the incinerator and burn municipal solid waste. Mr. LaRue indicated that the investment should not be idle or torn down. Mr. LaRue further stated that the County should not become a dumping ground for out-of-County waste. Mr. LaRue noted that incineration technology allows burning without being a threat to public health.

Cheryl Harrison, 1313 Maple Street, Clear Lake, stated her concern about use alternatives. None of the proposals are acceptable, according to Ms. Harrison, especially high volume plastics. Dioxins are one of the most deadly toxins known to man and are created by incineration. Ms. Harrison indicated that she would prefer that the incinerator be permanently shut down, and that she would rather bear the costs of closing down the incinerator rather than endure possible health risks.

Steve Treloar, Anacortes, a former incinerator employee, urged the Board to reopen the facility with either public or private operation. Mr. Treloar stated that technology should be kept up to date and maintained.

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Ernie Dahl, Bow, sated that burning garbage can be accomplished safely and should be done by private industry. Mr. Dahl stated that the money can be better spent on flood control.

Mike Anderson, Sedro Woolley, stated that doing nothing is the best thing to do at this point. Mr. Anderson indicated the need for an advisory vote of the people.

Gerald Steel, Marblemount, stated that he has read the entire preliminary report and would like to recommend long-hauling. Mr. Steel expressed future concerns such as unforeseen costs and environmental impacts. Legal responsibility of the County will be maintained for long-term health problems that may arise. Mr. Steel indicated that the option of the County running the incinerator is much more costly than long-hauling. Mr. Steel stated that the Board was wise to review privatization options even though this is not the solution to the problems. Mr. Steel stated that HRS and ACDI have little or no experience in solid waste incineration, but that the Wheelabrator proposal is credible. In summation, Mr. Steel requested that the Board continue long-hauling, as this is the cheapest and best option for Skagit County.

Henry VanderPol, 1400 Riverview Lane, Mount Vernon, stated that environmental groups shout the loudest, but do not offer any solutions. Mr. VanderPol indicated that the County needs the incinerator, which will be under the watchful eye of government.

George Julius, Guemes Island, urged the Board to close the incinerator permanently.

Renee Elliott, Anacortes, expressed her concern about the effects of emissions on the dairy and food industries that depend on the environment for their living. She further stated that adding dioxins to the mix of our environment would be a mistake.

Dennis Parent, 1141 Bayview-Edison Road, Bay View, is in favor of long-hauling garbage. Mr. Parent indicated that more research is needed on the private proposals and the pollution generated from the incinerator.

Barb Edwards, Mount Vernon, stressed the need for the development of recycling education and programs.

Mark Barrington, Mount Vernon, stated that if the incinerator can be run economically, it should be done. Mr. Barrington stressed the need to take responsibility for our actions and to increase public involvement in recycling. Mr. Barrington urged the Board to reopen the incinerator and plan for the future.

Joyce Siniscal, Anacortes, stated that she is in favor of developing a recycling plan for the County and is against burning garbage. Ms. Siniscal warned about the dangers of dioxins and that no private corporation can guarantee that profit motives will not override health concerns.

Ross Barnes, Fidalgo Island, expressed his concern that the financial information available in the proposals is based on speculative costs and unknown variables and is therefore not responsible fiscal management. Mr. Barnes indicated that there are too many imponderables and that the Board should continue with long-hauling the County's garbage and mothball the incinerator at this time.

Lois Bertolino, Guemes Island, stated that she is against the privatization of the incinerator, that it should be mothballed and that long-hauling should be continued, with added programs developed for recycling.

Marvin Moena, Mount Vernon, indicated that the incinerator was a mistake in the first place and that the taxpayers need to get this monkey off their backs. Mr. Moena indicated that private industry can do the job

with the environmental issues regulated by the EPA, OSHA, WISHA and others.

Eleanor Powers, Mount Vernon, urged the Board to look beyond financial loss or gain and not rely on right-sounding phrases like "non-hazardous waste." Ms. Powers indicated that the more waste is handled, the more expensive and risky it becomes. Ms. Powers stated the need to reduce waste at its source, and stressed that there are no safe doses of dioxin.

Glen Bartlet, LaConner, stated that it is a shame that the Board is being blamed for this problem. Mr. Bartlet urged the Board to put this matter to the citizens for a vote and to provide incentives for recycling.

Bekky Love, Mount Vernon, presented EPA documents regarding the reassessment of dioxin, and indicated that clean-up can be very expensive, especially for self-insured governments such as Skagit County. Ms. Love noted that the waste reduction approach of Thurston County in establishing a long-range commitment to recycling and waste reduction is the avenue that should be considered. Ms. Love stated that the County should pay off the mistake, not compound it, and should ship our waste elsewhere. Ms. Love urged the Board to begin a partnership with citizens, businesses and County government to turn back the amount of waste and encourage recycling. Ms. Love stated that the Board should take the conservative approach and protect our health, environment, and the welfare of County citizens.

Suzanne Thostenson, LaConner, indicated that she has been diagnosed with cancer and that many things that were once considered environmentally safe are not. Ms. Thostenson stated that the safe thing is to reduce, reuse and recycle.

Debbie Aldrich, Bow, representing the Skagit Environmental Council and herself, believes that the incinerator should be closed down. Ms. Aldrich stated that private companies or Skagit County should not operate the incinerator and that there is need for further education on recycling. Ms. Aldrich urged the Board to keep people involved in this process. Ms. Aldrich stated her concerns for cleanup costs, dioxins and the close proximity of an elementary school to the incinerator. Ms. Aldrich indicated that to her knowledge Spokane citizens are very concerned about the incinerator in their area.

Jim Bertolino, Guemes Island, indicated concerns that the HRS proposal involves former incinerator employees. Mr. Bertolino stated that there have been public stands against the incineration of medical waste and the profit motives should not be a factor in the decision. Mr. Bertolino further stated that municipal incineration is a dying industry, and that recycling should be a key part of any solution. Mr. Bertolino urged the Board to close down the incinerator and continue long hauling.

Bill Joy, 725 E. Russell Road, Concrete, stated that there are conflicting statements in each privatization proposal and that he is in favor of long-hauling and shutting down the incinerator.

Peggy King, 318 Old Highway 99, Alger, stated that if a fine incinerator exists and should be up and running.

Mark Backlund, Anacortes, and a SWAC member, stated that he is in favor of shutting down the incinerator with modifications and development of a greatly enhanced recycling and waste reduction program. Mr. Backlund indicated that this would be highly cost effective and the least polluting option. Mr. Backlund indicated that long-hauling is the most flexible option and noted that recycling creates 6 times as many jobs for the same amount of trash processed.

Connie Funk and her son, Evan, 1197 Dodge Valley Road, Mount Vernon, indicated that they are here on behalf of the children of Skagit County. Ms. Funk indicated that no one can guarantee there are not health

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risks with incineration. Ms. Funk opposes the reopening of the incinerator, and stressed the need to work toward reduction and reusing.

Bill Stensland, Mount Vernon, stated that the incinerator is an extremely valuable facility, is fully permitted and ready to work. Mr. Stensland urged the Board to have the scientific evidence submitted substantiated by experts. Mr. Stensland believes in the viability of the incinerator, and stated that unqualified managers and supervisors led to the downfall of the plant.

Helen Day, North Fourth Street, Mount Vernon, stated that the Board should be concerned about health issues rather than costs, and advised that she does not want the incinerator reopened. Ms. Day submitted several newspaper clippings in this regard.

Steven Lospalluto, Dunbar Road, Mount Vernon, warned of the possible effects of emissions on natural resource based businesses in the County.

Zell Young, Mount Vernon, cautioned the Board not to make the same mistakes as made by previous Boards. Mr. Young advised that private companies always tout economical feasibility.

Ferdie Businger, 321 Solstice Lane, Guemes Island, felt the incinerator should be kept closed, but stated that an advisory ballot may be necessary to give all of the citizens a voice in this decision. Mr. Businger suggested that perhaps a fact-finding moratorium should be considered, and stressed the need to encourage recycling and less waste.

Ellen Nolson, Sedro Woolley, endorsed everyone's interests in recycling and cutting down waste, and expressed the need to be responsible for our own waste and handle it within the County.

Ed Little, SWAC member, thanked the Board for allowing the public to be involved in these decisions. Mr. Little briefly discussed the composition of SWAC and stated his desire to have greater attendance at SWAC meetings. Mr. Little noted that the Solid Waste Management Plan is very balanced, and no matter what decision is made regarding the incinerator, the Board has made this an open process. Mr. Little stressed the need to recycle, reduce, educate and privatize. Government, stated Mr. Little, cannot furnish the kinds of services desired and taxpayers cannot afford to pay for the kinds of services that will be demanded in the future. 100% of recycling is done by private enterprise, and individuals need to become responsible for their own waste.

Glen Campbell, Mount Vernon, echoed Mr. Little's comments and stated that behavior only changes when it becomes uncomfortable not to.

Celia Chandler, Blodgett Road, Mount Vernon, expressed her horror at the thought of reviving the incinerator, and challenged each proposer to provide scientific evidence for safety concerns.

Clee Richardson, Anacortes, indicated that the incinerator is a well-conceived and well-designed plant. Mr. Richardson further noted that recycling needs to be encouraged.

Ken Skead, Mount Vernon, stated that the citizens of the County do not want to import garbage and that the Board should consider the will of the people. Mr. Skead further warned the Board to carefully review the privatization proposals and not trust the promise of technological efficiencies.

Sharon Dufka, Mount Vernon, stated that private industry should not be considered. Ms. Dufka urged the

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Board to consider the wishes of the citizens which include environmental and health concerns.

Mary Roach, 1369 E. Fairhaven, Burlington, indicated that repeated political promises have been heard in order to get the people to approve something they do not want. Ms. Roach pointed out that the County has a "state of the art" incinerator that is not functioning. Ms. Roach stated that she does not want the incinerator reopened.

Paster Rich Lang, LaConner, stated that the issues have been definitively addressed. Mr. Lang encouraged the Board to wait to make a decision. Mr. Lang further stated that long hauling is irresponsible and we need to deal with our own waste. Mr. Lang cited several health concerns and thanked the Board for opening up the process of decision-making. Mr. Lang expressed his dislike for the government and massive distrust of private enterprise.

Kate Scott, Anacortes, stated that opening the incinerator would be a disincentive to recycling, and stated her concerns that importation of garbage and burning of hazardous waste will put the County's clean, safe environment at risk.

Barbara Bond-Howard, 1061 Josh Wilson Road, Mount Vernon, stated that long-hauling is not the answer. Ms. Bond-Howard further commented on the need to utilize recycling.

Ann Walker, Mount Vernon, expressed concern for the health of the County's children.

Eleanor Donovan, 1448 Irvin Road, Anacortes, pointed out there are additional toxic elements other than dioxins that need to be considered.

Juanita Schlieff, Mount Vernon, stressed the need to focus on ways to encourage recycling.

Ms. Dufka stated that self-interest of those before have put the County in this boondoggle position. She encouraged the Board to listen to the people and consider all aspects of the problem.

Ms. Aldrich clarified that she is not for giving our problems to other areas in the State, but the area we long-haul the waste to has a lower water table and is therefore less affected.

Ms. Love queried the Board on the criteria being used to make this decision and Chairman Wolden indicated that the Board is looking at everything.

Ms. Love queried Northwest Air Pollution Authority if they have reviewed the privatization proposals as far as emissions. Mr. Randles of NWAPA stated that if emission parameters were to change, NWAPA will become involved, and that the existing permit would take precedence. Mr. Randles further stated that the waste proposed to be burned does not constitute a change and clarified that the permit, therefore, would not change.

Al Udd, Bay View, asked Staff what quantity of garbage is produced by the average household. Brian Stephan, Public Works Department Staff, stated that there are 85,000 citizens who produce 65,000 tons of garbage, or 2/3 of a ton per person.

Ross Barnes, Sedro Woolley, asked how to get input into this decision-making process. Chairman Wolden responded to check the agenda for the Board as advertised in the Skagit Valley Herald. Commissioner Hart urged those present to become a part of the process and make comments.

Mr. Barnes asked for clarification of the ash treatment process and Mr. Carlson stated that the process is a phosphoric acid treatment which immobilizes the metals in the ash so that the metals do not leach out. Mr. Carlson confirmed that this method is utilized in several dozen operations throughout the country.

Mr. Little stated that he would like to see hard financial costs on what it will cost each taxpayer if the incinerator is shut down forever. Mr. Little noted the need to determine what is going to be done with the facility including dismantling or modification for other uses. Financial ramifications should be known. Mr. Little encouraged the Board to take a hard look at the Solid Waste Management Plan and implement it so as to move forward to have a waste management plan that makes sense.

Becky Peck, Bay View, asked what it would cost to build a new transfer facility. Staff advised that the cost would be \$3,000,000, which includes acquiring the land.

Gerald Steel, Marblemount, stated that the ACDI proposal was the most speculative of the three proposals being considered. Mr. Steel noted several conflicts in the documents presented. Mr. Angevine clarified that some financial data was not included in the original proposal and that the selection committee had asked for additional information that has since been included. A discussion ensued on the amount of medical waste proposed to be burned in this proposal. Mr. Steel pointed out to the Board that there are substantial discrepancies and differences in the submitted proposal and pro forma that need to be addressed.

Mr. Steel noted that Wheelabrator has the greatest experience in municipal waste. Mr. Steel further pointed out that ACDI has not had any experience and Mr. Steel did not like the idea of making Skagit County testing grounds for such a proposal. Mr. Clason responded that ACDI is working with a firm that has the broadest range of experience burning medical waste, and that medical waste is only one part of the stream being proposed. A lengthy discussion ensued on the qualifications of Zurn Nepco, the company working with ACDI in this regard.

Ms. Siniscal stated that the majority of people speaking are against the reopening of the incinerator, and most have spoken for programs increasing recycling incentives.

Chairman Wolden stated that individuals need to be responsible, and that government cannot afford to subsidize recycling efforts. A discussion ensued on the need to change the UTC rates on individual garbage cans, and the need to get State Legislature participation in creating regulations that provide incentives to individuals. Chairman Wolden stressed that the Board is committed to maintaining the tipping fees at \$80/ton, and in supporting recycling efforts within the County.

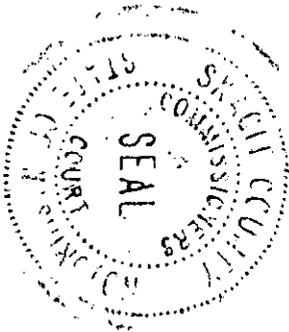
Ms. Aldrich questioned the proposers on some of their employees being former County employees and/or SWAC committee members. Ms. Aldrich further questioned Tamara Gordy of the Department of Ecology on the possibility of gaining more DOE grant money to clean up the problems in Skagit County. Ms. Gordy indicated that waste reduction and recycling programs are at the top of DOE priority lists and that grant monies are available to every county in the state to fund such programs.

There being no further public comment forthcoming, Commissioner Hart moved to close the public hearing. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

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

Harvey Wolden, Chairman

Robby Robinson

Robby Robinson, Commissioner

Robert Hart

Robert Hart, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Patti J. Owen

Patti J. Owen, Clerk
Skagit County Board of Commissioners