

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Tuesday, March 12, 1996**

- 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Commissioners' Staff Meeting.
- 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Work Session - Operations Division Manager/District Maintenance Supervisors.

 Flag Salute.
- 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Permit & Planning Center - Roxanne Michael, Director.
 1) Discussion - Update of Critical Areas Ordinance Progress.
 2) Miscellaneous.
- 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Assessor's Office - Discussion on Issues Regarding the State Rates.
- 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Work Session - SKAT Maintenance Operation Facility.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, March 12, 1996, with Commissioners Ted W. Anderson, Robert Hart and Harvey Wolden present.

PERMIT & PLANNING CENTER - Roxanne Michael, Director.

1. **Discussion - Update of Critical Areas Ordinance Progress.**

Jim Cahill, Planning Staff, reported that the Planning Commission has proceeded through many areas of the ordinance and they have the flood issue remaining. Mr. Cahill stated that the document is being developed with the concept of making it more understandable. Mr. Cahill noted that the Planning Commission is working towards a deadline date of March 25, 1996, and mentioned that he would provide a draft as soon as possible to the Board of the progress of the Commission on this ordinance to date.

2. **Miscellaneous.**

1. Chairman Anderson discussed the flood damage in the Cape Horn area and the correspondence the property owners are receiving from the County. A discussion ensued in regard to the options available to the owners of property located in damaged flood plain areas.
2. Tom Karsh, Planning, reported, per the Board's request, stated that there were 28 actual platted lots since December 26, 1995, with 9 short plats.
3. Mr. Karsh also discussed the issue of minimum lot sizes in a residential district according to the recently passed interim ordinance.

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE - DISCUSSION ON ISSUES REGARDING THE STATE RULES.

Mark Leander, Assessor, presented an update on the activities in the Assessor's office during the past year. Mr. Leander discussed the state levy, the tax base and the tax savings. Mr. Leander reviewed the aspect of recapturing dollars at the local level and requested implementing a program to address that issue.

Commissioner Hart inquired about the process of obtaining accurate appraisals. Mr. Leander stated that the appraisers are currently developing more accurate procedures and have incorporated the concept of government working together. A discussion ensued. Mr. Leander also examined the net reduction to the taxpayers based on a gain through efficiency.

Wes Hagen, Deputy Assessor, stated that in all actuality, the Assessor is the only defense that property owners have against the state levy and to ensure equity. Mr. Hagen stated that the Assessor can provide this support for property owners by being knowledgeable and efficient and proceeded to review how this directly relates to staffing concerns.

A discussion ensued in regard to how the State audits the property rates and the ratios involved. Mr. Hagen stated that Skagit County's Assessor's office is ranked number 4 out of 39 counties.

A discussion ensued.

Mr. Leander stated that they are requesting three additional staff positions as follows: an Appraiser, an Office Assistant II, and an Office Aide (Office Assistant I). The Board stated they would take this request into consideration.

Chairman Anderson commended the Assessor's Office on presenting this information with valid documentation in support of this request.

MISCELLANEOUS.

1. Debby Sims, Clerk of the Board, presented an Endorsement to the Skagit-Islands Preferred Care Contract for Stephanie Wood, Personnel Director, to modify monthly rates retroactive to January 1, 1996. This corrects an error that was made in listing the single employee rate for Skagit County Medical Insurance contract recently signed. The Contract stated the rate at \$132.00 and should have stated the rate at \$132.50.

Commissioner Wolden made a motion to approve the endorsement, as presented. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. (Contract #02716).

ADJOURNMENT.

Chairman Anderson made a motion to adjourn the proceedings. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Ted W. Anderson, Chairman


Harvey Wolden, Commissioner


Robert Hart, Commissioner

ATTEST.


Debby Sims, Clerk
Skagit County Board of Commissioners