

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Tuesday, July 30, 1996**

- 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Commissioner's Staff Meeting.  
Flag Salute.
- 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Planning & Permit Center - Roxanne Michael, Director.  
1) Discussion - Scheduled Public hearing for proposed changes to Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance.  
2) Update on Natural Resource Lands.  
3) Miscellaneous.
- 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Presentation - 1996 Tulip Festival Review/1997 Forecast.
- 1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Bid Opening - Aggregate Crushing Contract (Butler Hill Pit #122 and Upper Samish Pit #171).

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, July 26, 1996, with Commissioners Ted A. Anderson and Harvey Wolden present. Commissioner Robert Hart's absence was excused.

**PLANNING & PERMIT CENTER - Roxanne Michael, Director.**

1. **Discussion - Scheduled Public Hearing for Proposed Changes to Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance.**

Corey Schmidt, Assistant Building Official, welcomed comments from the Board in regard to the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. Mr. Schmidt stated that he would bring the completed Ordinance back on August 12, 1996, for the Board's review for adoption before the end of August.

Mr. Schmidt reviewed an additional item that was requested by the Federal Emergency Management in regard to non-residential buildings, and informed the Board that this would need to be added to the Ordinance.

A discussion ensued in regard to the importance of compliance in order to keep flood insurance costs to a minimum in the County.

2. **Update on Natural Resource Lands.**

Gary Christenson, Senior Planner, stated that the Planning Commission has met approximately 12 times over the last two months and they are now prepared to send a recorded motion to the Board as to designation criteria and conservation measures to protect the Natural Resource Lands. Mr. Christenson stated that a study session with the Board would be set up this month to begin reviewing the recorded motion.

Chairman Anderson stated that Commissioner Hart left word that he was in favor of having a public comment period in this regard. Chairman Anderson stated he would like a Public Hearing held on the matter. Commissioner Wolden announced that he would, as Commissioner Hart, like a 10 day comment period and inquired when the maps would be ready for the public.

Chairman Anderson stated that he is concerned that the County will be out of compliance if we do not have a Public Hearing. Chairman Anderson expressed his desire to have this Public Hearing televised to help get the message out to the public.

Mr. Christenson informed the Board that the Natural Resource Lands map could be made available to the public on Thursday. The time line was discussed if such a Public Hearing was to be held.

Mr. Christenson stated that the public will still be able to comment on the Natural Resource Lands through the when it is part of the Comprehensive Plan and indicated that a Public Hearing held on this portion of the plan, would delay the adoption of the entire Comp Plan. Chairman Anderson stated that the Natural Resource Lands is the most important piece of the Comp Plan and deserves the most attention, as it will affect a large number of residents.

A discussion ensued on the value of written and/or verbal public comment and on the maps, which Chairman Anderson stated are not easily read or understood by the public.

Mr. Christenson reminded the Board that Staff and the Planning Commission has spent a great deal of time in preparing the Natural Resource Lands recorded motion for the Board's review.

Commissioner Wolden stated he is not against holding a Public Hearing, but that due to time constraints, a public comment period might be better.

John Moffat, Chief Civil Deputy, reviewed the Growth Hearings Board status, stating that the County has implied to the Hearings Board that this Ordinance would be ready by the end of August and even though it appears the Hearings Board likes alot of public comment, there are also time constraints that they have mandated. Mr. Moffat stated he will send a letter to the Growth Hearings Board advising them of the direction of the Board of Commissioners.

The Board concurred that a motion in this regard would be delayed until next Tuesday, when Commissioner Hart is also present, as to whether a Public Hearing would be held or having only a written comment period.

3. Miscellaneous.

Roxanne Michael presented a Platted Lots Summary for the Boards review.

PRESENTATION - 1996 TULIP FESTIVAL REVIEW/1997 FORECAST.

Steve Blair, Public Works Staff, reviewed the 1996 Tulip Festival, reporting that the festival, overall, went very well with very few complaints regarding traffic. Mr. Blair stated that traffic volume was down slightly this year due to flowers being topped earlier than usual. Mr. Blair mentioned that various ideas for 1997 have transpired from several meetings between the Sheriff's office and Public Works, which would improve the festival for the public, as follows:

- 1) It has been determined that every one directing traffic needs to be experienced in traffic control and also be certified as a flagger. Mr. Blair mentioned that it would also help if these individuals also had a knowledge of the area.
- 2) There should be meetings with tulip bus drivers to be on same page as far as how bus system is going to be running in order to coordinate traffic flow.
- 3) No left turns at intersections due to safety issues.
- 4) Public Works would like to discontinue the service of delivering barricades to individuals who want to block driveways and Mr. Blair reported that they are working with the Tulip Festival committee in this regard. A discussion ensued in regard to ways to block driveways, rather than using the barricades, which are quite expensive.
- 5) Mr. Blair stated that they will attempt to continue mandatory meetings every morning with personnel who are going out to the field in order to review plans for each intersection. Dave Stafford, Sheriff's office, commented on the teams at the intersections and expressed the importance of these meetings.
- 6) Public Works will also install portable toilets at certain intersections to eliminate personnel having to leave for long lengths of time.
- 7) It was reported that Sheriff Goodman has suggested that Public Works look into portable traffic lights for the intersection and Mr. Blair mentioned that it might be possible to find corporate sponsorships for these lights.

Mr. Blair reported that in regard to cost, the overtime expense Public Works is increasing. In 1995, it was just under \$18,000 for traffic services, which includes the time of installing no parking signs. In 1996, it was just over \$21,000, and this does not include the costs for the time spent on planning. In 1997, it is anticipated that the cost will be a slightly over \$23,000, and that the extra weekend, if the flowers keep blooming, will cost about \$8,000.

Dave Stafford, Undersheriff, reported that costs to the Sheriffs office were about \$15,000 both years. Mr. Stafford stated that they have used cadets at the intersections, at no cost, and exempt employees volunteered during the tulip festival. Mr. Stafford mentioned that they also used assistance through the Washington State Patrol for one motorcycle unit and that Island County Sheriffs Office donated two motorcycle units at no cost other than providing lunch. Mr. Stafford suggested that next year, it would be of great benefit to add aircraft to do some photographing in order to see from the air what might be missing on the ground.

Chairman Anderson suggested that during the Tulip Festival run, it would be beneficial to have runners stay on one side of the road and automobiles on other side to eliminate the chance of an accident. Audrey Smith, Tulip Festival, stated that she would bring this up to Jim Taylor who coordinates the run.

Commissioner Wolden remarked that the costs of traffic control are justified when weighed against the income generated for the County through tourism. Commissioner Wolden stated that he would like to see Channel Drive closed to the general public and keep it to local traffic only and suggested finding another way in and out of that area. A discussion ensued.

Audrey Smith, Tulip Festival Director, remarked on the benefit of the festival to the local economy. Ms. Smith also commented on the barricade situation, stating that the Tulip Festival will try to work closely with the residents in this regard. Ms. Smith also thanked, on behalf of the festival, both of the Public Works Department and the Sheriff's office for their assistance and coordination.

Chairman Anderson reminded everyone that the Tulip Festival is of economic benefit to everyone in the County, not just the Burlington/Mount Vernon area.

Ms. Smith announced that the Tulip Festival is on the Internet now and can be accessed by "tulip.com."

John Gardner, West Shore Acres, commended Public Works and the Sheriff's Department on their efforts during the Tulip Festival and commented on several other issues.

Mr. Stafford stated that he enjoys the collaborative effort between the residents, farmers, departments and the Tulip Festival folks.

**BID OPENING - AGGREGATE CRUSHING CONTRACT (BUTLER HILL PIT #122 AND UPPER SAMISH PIT #171).**

Commissioner Anderson's absence was excused for this portion of the agenda.

There being one bid received in regard to the above referenced contract, Barb Hathaway, Public Works, opened the bid as follows:

- 1) Wilder Construction  
Bellingham, WA  
\$325,000.00

**ADJOURNMENT.**

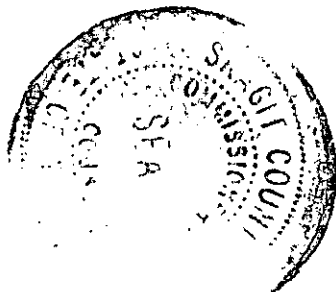
Commissioner Wolden adjourned the proceedings.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON

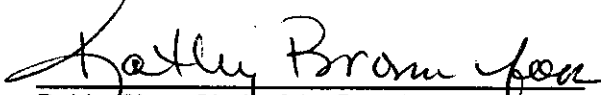
  
Ted W. Anderson, Chairman

  
Harvey Wolden, Commissioner

  
Robert Hart, Commissioner



ATTEST.

  
Debby Sims, Clerk of the Board