

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Monday, December 2, 1996

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Public Hearing to Amend the 1996 Budget for Election Services.

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Public Hearing - Proposed 1997 Skagit County Budget.

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Public Works Department - Jan Keiser, Director.

- 1) Introduction of New Employee.
- 2) Updates of Divisional Projects/Programs for:
 - a) Surface Water Management Division
 - b) Engineering Division
 - c) Operations Division
 - d) Solid Waste Division
- 3) Miscellaneous.

11:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. Public Comment Period.

CONSENT AGENDA

MISCELLANEOUS

1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Possible Action - Proposed Conservation Futures Tax.

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Executive Session - Personnel, Litigation and Land Acquisition.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, December 2, 1996, with Commissioners Ted W. Anderson, Robert Hart and Harvey Wolden present.

PUBLIC HEARING TO AMEND THE 1996 BUDGET FOR ELECTION SERVICES.

Chairman Anderson opened the public hearing. Alicia Huschka, Budget/Finance Staff explained the supplemental budget requests for Election Services and Public Health. Upon query from the Board, Ms. Huschka stated that the entire requested amounts are covered by the Federal Government for the primary election and by State grants for the Health Department.

There being no public comment forthcoming, Commissioner Wolden moved to close the public hearing. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion. Commissioner Wolden moved to approve the supplemental budget as detailed by staff, totaling \$108,000 for Election Services and \$74,541 for Public Health. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously. (Resolution No. 16375)

PUBLIC HEARING - PROPOSED 1997 SKAGIT COUNTY BUDGET.

Chairman Anderson opened the public hearing. Mike Woodmansee, Budget/Finance Director, reviewed the budget formation process. Mr. Woodmansee advised that the public has had two weeks to review the proposed budget, and the focus today would be for public comments generated by the budget documents. The total budget is \$70,836,889, which represents an increase of slightly over \$8,000,000. Mr. Woodmansee attributed the increase to courthouse foundation repairs and renovation of the courthouse itself. Mr. Woodmansee explained that these funds, approximately \$1,500,000 will be generated from reserves set aside for this purpose. A \$3,000,000 project to construct a 911 dispatch center is totally grant funded. Also included is construction of the Burlington Road shop for approximately \$1,200,000. Further, the River Improvement Fund has several major grant funded projects for dike improvement projects totalling \$780,000. These four projects total approximately \$6,000,000. Mr. Woodmansee advised that over 20 positions were requested from various County departments, and none of these additional positions were granted in order to stay within the 3% increase guidelines established by the Board.

A brief discussion ensued on the anticipated millage rate that is yet to be established by the County Assessor.

Rebecca Love, Mount Vernon, asked the Board to consider funding a half-time position for a waste reduction coordinator.

A discussion ensued on the benefits of recycling and the impact to the waste stream.

Jan Keiser, Public Works Director, clarified that the household hazardous waste specialist was trying to include recycling under his responsibilities, but found that both programs suffered. Consequently, the recycling coordinator position has been eliminated. Commissioner Wolden indicated that there is a possibility that some grant funding may be available for this type of position. Commissioner Anderson indicated his desire to look at a grant to fund this type of position.

Mark Backlund, co-chair of Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC), read a letter into the record from SWAC concerning the elimination of the waste reduction/recycling coordinator. Mr. Backlund noted the lack of communication from SWAC to the Board of County Commissioners. He stated that quarterly meetings with the Board will be proposed for 1997.

Lois Bertolino, Anacortes, President of Citizens for Clean Industry, stated the need to focus on the recycling program, and stated her disappointment at the loss of the waste reduction/recycling coordinator. Ms. Bertolino also objected to the \$20,000 included in the budget for the continuation of mothballing the incinerator. Mr. Bertolino also queried the Board on the implementation date of solid waste districts.

Ernie Ward asked about the mission of the County government, and noted excessive demand on State and Federal funding through the use of grants. Mr. Woodmansee stated that this amount is approximately 22%. Mr. Ward questioned the cost of acquiring grants. Mr. Woodmansee gave a brief explanation of the process of acquiring grants. Mr. Ward also questioned the interference of the Board to the dike and flood control districts that are better handled through the local dike and drainage districts. Mr. Ward also urged the County to privatize some County functions to be more profit driven reduce costs.

There being no further public comment forthcoming, Commissioner Wolden moved to close the public hearing. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Hart moved to adopt the 1997 Budget as presented in the total amount of \$70,836,889. Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously. (Resolution No. 16376)

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

1. Introduction of New Employee.

Jan Keiser, Public Works Director, introduced Tommae Davis, Office Assistant III.

2. Updates of Division Projects/Programs for:

Surface Water Management: Dave Brookings reviewed the flood watch of last week, and advised that no sandbags were dispatched, but many drainage complaints were received. Mr. Brookings advised that his department is meeting today with the Department of Ecology regarding available grant monies. There is a flood control committee meeting tonight. Progress is being made on the Burrows Bay project. Mr. Brookings briefly discussed the public hearing on the drainage utility scheduled for Wednesday evening. Chairman Anderson noted that he has had much contact from the Drainage Utility Committee concerning the amount of the per lot assessment. Mr. Brookings further stated that he would be meeting with other River Managers from Northwest Washington on Friday.

Engineering Division: Dave Sheridan updated the Board on the Railroad Avenue project, Green Road Railroad Crossing closure, and Highway 20 improvements proposed by the Swinomish Tribe.

Operations Division: Cliff Butler, Maintenance Road Superintendent, advised that the road crews are addressing drainage problems and service requests, and are cleaning up some minor wind damage. Mr. Butler outlined several specific areas of concern.

Solid Waste Division: Due to Robin LaRue's illness, there was no report from Solid Waste.

3. Miscellaneous.

There were no miscellaneous items for discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was no public comment today.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Wolden moved to approve the Consent Agenda for Monday, December 2, 1996. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

* Commissioners Office:

1. Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Anacortes to provide a Boating Safety Program. The term of this Agreement shall be from January 1, 1997, through December 31, 1997. (Contract No. 03268)
2. Resolution amending Resolution #12329, abolishing the Risk Management Advisory Committee and replacing it with an ad-hoc Risk Management Policy Review Panel to be chaired by the Administrative Officer. (Resolution No. 16377)
3. Personal Services Agreement with Bruce Stiller, Ph.D, to provide training of "First Steps" for Skagit County Kindergarten teachers on November 14th and 15th in accordance with the Juvenile Justice Grant. Compensation is a lump sum of no more than \$1,375.00 and includes a fee for training of \$375.00 per diem, hotel and travel. (Contract No. 03269)

* Planning:

4. Concomitant Agreement approving the rezone of the Winston Anderson property located on Guemes Island from Rural to Neighborhood Business. (Contract No. 03270)

* Public Works:

5. Resolution approving the Interlocal Cooperative Agreement with the Port of Skagit allowing the Skagit County Public Works Department to provide materials, equipment rental, and perform work on a reimbursable basis during the five calendar year period 1996 through 2000. (Resolution No.16378, Contract No. 03271)
6. Resolution approving the Interlocal Cooperative Agreement with the Town of Concrete allowing the Skagit County Public Works Department to provide materials, equipment rental and perform work on a reimbursable basis during the five calendar year period 1996 through 2000. (Resolution No. 16379, Contract No. 03272)
7. Professional Services Agreement with Chinook Enterprises to provide roadside maintenance in Skagit County for a maximum of 900 hours per year. Compensation shall not exceed \$36,000. (Contract No. 03273)

* Department of Emergency Management:

8. Interlocal Agreement with Dike District #12 allowing Skagit County the use of Dike District #12's headquarters complex during a "Declared Emergency". (Contract No. 03274)

MISCELLANEOUS

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, December 2, 1996, the Board, by a majority vote, did approve for payment those vouchers included in the above-mentioned list and further described as follows:

1. Voucher nos. 160018 through 161014 and PW9600002953 through PW9600003241 and payroll warrants numbered 82646 through 83537 in the total amount of \$1,167,412.80 (Transmittal No. P-26-96).
2. Voucher nos. P1-101001 through P1-101019, P1-256001 through P1-256002, P1-258001 through P1-258040, P1-259001 through P1-259005, 7007-453 through 6007-459, 6007-461 through 6007-465, 6012998, 6012420 through 6012444 (Warrant nos. 164624 through 164707) in the total amount of \$1,364,124.90 (Transmittal No. C54-96).

POSSIBLE ACTION - PROPOSED CONSERVATION FUTURES TAX

Tom Karsh briefly reviewed the recent public hearing held on this matter. Mr. Karsh explained two housekeeping (typographical) language changes to the proposed ordinance. A brief discussion ensued on the intent of the Board to tax "real" property or all property including personal property within the County.

Chairman Anderson noted that he had talked with the County attorney to ascertain whether this tax could be a "voluntary" tax. According to legal counsel, the tax would have to be uniformly applied to all taxpayers.

Commissioner Wolden expressed concern that the tax would apply to both personal property and real property.

Commissioner Hart noted the need to encourage processors and others to come to Skagit County to assist the farming community. He further stated that this tax will not be an answer to solve all of the problems, but feels that this program will serve as a catalyst to attract private funding, which is absolutely essential.

Commissioner Hart moved to adopt the ordinance to establish a Conservation Futures Property Tax Fund. Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion.

Chairman Anderson stated his reasons why he would not vote for this tax. He stated he felt this matter should go through the Planning Commission process and that the tax is not needed. He feels the emphasis should be on preserving the farmer, and that is where the County should focus attention.

Commissioners Wolden and Hart voted for passage of the ordinance. Commissioner Anderson did not vote. The motion passed. (Ordinance No. 16380)

ADJOURNMENT.

Chairman Ted W. Anderson made a motion to adjourn the proceedings. Commissioner Harvey Wolden seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Ted W. Anderson, Chairman


Harvey Wolden, Commissioner




Robert Hart, Commissioner

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ATTEST:



Debby Sims, Clerk

Skagit County Board of Commissioners