

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Tuesday, January 7, 1997

- 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. Commissioners' Staff Meeting.
- Flag Salute.
- 8:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Public Comment Period.
- 9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Discussion - Juvenile Probation Department Volunteers.
- T 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Establishing an Accident Prevention Program and County Safety Committee.
- T 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Parks Projects Update.
- T 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Facilities Projects Update.
- 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Approval - Uncollectible Personal Property Taxes.
- CONSENT AGENDA.
- MISCELLANEOUS.
- 1:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Staffing Plan for Skagit County Cooperative Extension.
- 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Work Session - Skagit River Feasibility Study.
- 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 Tuesday, January 7, 1997, with Commissioners Robert Hart and Ted W. Anderson present. Commissioner Wolden's absence was excused.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.

There was no one present for the public comment period portion of the agenda.

DISCUSSION - JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT VOLUNTEERS.

Lyle Poolman, Juvenile Probation Director, discussed the number of community accountability boards that consist of approximately 60 people, some who have volunteered for 20 years, dealing with juvenile diversion. Mr. Poolman reported that an annual banquet is given in honor of these volunteers recognizing their value to our community, at which small inexpensive items are presented (mugs, etc.) in appreciation for the time and effort put forth by the volunteers. Mr. Poolman continued by discussing the issue of several outstanding bills for these items and for food at the banquet that are unpaid due to compliance issues with the Auditor's office, and requested that the Board sign a Resolution approving Juvenile Probation Department expenditures for community volunteers in order to proceed. Mr. Poolman reported that these costs would not exceed \$400 per year. Commissioner Anderson noted that \$400 per year is a minor charge for the diversion service these volunteers are providing, stating however, that he also understood the Auditor's concern.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve the Resolution, as presented. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. (Resolution No. 16412).

ESTABLISHING AN ACCIDENT PREVENTION PROGRAM AND COUNTY SAFETY COMMITTEE.

Dave Fleming, Risk Manager, discussed the federal and state accident prevention programs and how they have changed their venues from compliance more towards education. Mr. Fleming mentioned this is a generally a housekeeping measure. Mr. Fleming stated that Ric Boge, Training Administrator, will be branching his training responsibilities to include first aid education, blood pathogen education, airborne pathogen education, defensive driving, fall prevention training, and several other areas of safety interest. Mr. Fleming reported that this resolution assigns more of that county wide safety training to the training administrator and provides for a long overdue committee comprised of management and employees. Mr. Fleming stated that the Risk Management Advisory Committee is now replaced with an ad hoc committee. The County Safety Committee would be in addition to the ad hoc committee, addressing only employee safety,

Ric Boge, Training Administrator, stated that this Resolution proposed to create an accident prevention program for the county and mentioned that a major element of employee safety is the development of a safety committee on the administrative level of the entire organization with responsibility of employee safety. Mr. Boge reviewed the responsibilities of the committee and discussed various parts of the Resolution, emphasizing that the goal of this committee will be to maintain an already good safety record, and continue to comply, however, transferring a portion of the focus to safety education.

Commissioner Anderson expressed this as a great idea, stressing the importance of keeping the workplace safe, encouraging safety education to be expanded out to the job sites.

Commissioner Hart asked about the selection process for developing the committee and Mr. Boge stated that there would be a balance of management and employees, stating that specifics are indicated in the Resolution. Commissioner Hart emphasized the importance of developing a process. Commissioner Anderson suggested that there be some rotation of department heads on the committee.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve the Resolution, as presented. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. (Resolution No. 16413).

PARKS PROJECTS UPDATE.

Northern State Recreational Area -

Mr. Aarstad also reported that in regard to the Northern State recreational area, Mr. Sam Kaiser has sent a letter stating that he is not interested in renewing the lease on the grazing land. Mr. Aarstad mentioned that the Call for Bids will be on today's consent agenda for signature with a bid opening of January 21, 1997. Mr. Aarstad stated that bid packets will be available at the Parks Department.

Fairgrounds -

Mr. Aarstad commented on the recent snow that caused damage to the fairgrounds and mentioned that this emergency situation required quick action. Mr. Aarstad stated that Tony Rees, Facility Coordinator of the Skagit County Fair, was present today to report on the recent situation and to request consideration for future emergency situations.

Mr. Rees reported to the Board that the entire goat barn roof collapsed and that there were two boats stored in the barn, which sustained some damage. Mr. Rees stated that the boatowners will be contacting their personal insurance companies in this regard. Mr. Rees reported that Parks personnel and Dave Fleming, Risk Manager had visited the site to assess the damage. A contractor was called on Thursday to begin hauling the roof debris at a cost of approximately \$3,700, and Mr. Rees stated that the debris removal has been completed. Mr. Rees mentioned that now they need to know how to proceed, further mentioning that he would not suggest rebuilding in the same location, as the site has very poor drainage. Commissioner Anderson agreed that this was not a good location. Mr. Rees mentioned that they will be contacting different fair animal groups and meeting with superintendents to gain input and ideas as to relocating the animal sections. He also stated that they had met with Mike Woodmansee, Budget/Finance Director, and discussed the master plan in regard to rebuilding. Commissioner Anderson cautioned them about making a hasty decision in regard to immediate replacement and suggested maybe something possibly temporary in the interim, eliminating more 'hodge podge' of buildings as has occurred in the past.

Mr. Aarstad stated that they would gather input from the various groups of interest and return to the Board with more information. Mr. Aarstad stated that he hoped they would be able to put something together by mid-February. Commissioner Anderson concurred that they should proceed with this plan of gathering additional input from the ones involved in the fair.

Mr. Aarstad announced that it is now time to proceed with securing entertainment for the 1997 fair and turned the discussion over to Lori Anderson. Ms. Anderson reported that a survey was conducted in order to gather input as to what entertainers people would like to see at the fair and discussed the results, stating that Johnny Cash, Patti Loveless, Trisha Yearwood and Kathy Mattea were favorites. Ms. Anderson mentioned that the cost for top entertainment such as those requested were in the range of \$30,000. Ms. Anderson anticipated ticket sales to be in the area of \$15 to \$25 per ticket, which would include admission to the fair and hoped to sell 1,000 preferred seats. In this regard, Ms. Anderson requested an additional \$25,000 from what was previously requested in order to buy the entertainment. Ms. Anderson reminded the Board that this would be reimbursed with ticket sales.

Commissioner Hart asked about booking availability and Ms. Anderson reported that they are currently in contact with entertainment people to find out who is available. Commissioner Anderson reported on the importance of starting early in procuring a headline act.

Ms. Anderson agreed as to the importance of generating early interest. Commissioner Anderson mentioned that there is always a certain amount of risk involved when booking entertainment and she stressed the importance of booking as far in advance as possible. Commissioner Anderson also suggested going to service groups to sell tickets. Commissioner Anderson commended Mr. Rees and Ms. Anderson on the strides taken and the considerable improvements made since they have been involved at the fairgrounds. Commissioner Anderson mentioned that he has no problem with underwriting them on this issue of securing entertainment. Commissioner Hart stated that good entertainment improves the image of the fair. Commissioner Hart also commented on the revitalization of the fair committee and the noticeable positive effect on the fair.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to authorize to underwrite the Skagit County Fair in an additional amount of \$25,000 to enable securing entertainment for the 1997 fair. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Hart asked about asbestos abatement and demolition of buildings on the Northern State grounds and Mr. Aarstad reported on the current activity. Commissioner Anderson inquired about RV park and Mr. Aarstad reported that a contract is currently being reviewed. Commissioner Anderson reported a favorable response to the development of this RV park and discussed the concept of public/private partnerships. Commissioner Hart reminded Mr. Aarstad that there were some concerns discussed previously in regard to the original design and wanted to be certain not to tie up the entire area with recreational activity. Mr. Aarstad stated that since the meeting in October, those details have been resolved.

FACILITIES PROJECTS UPDATE.

Roger Howard, Facilities Manager, provided an update on several projects, one being the Courthouse Foundation project. Mr. Howard stated that the project is still underway with the removal of the soil nearly complete. Mr. Howard mentioned that currently they are experiencing some minor settlement in the building, and that in one particular area supplementary support is necessary and Mr. Howard discussed the situation in more detail. The Contractor will provide this supplementary support at a cost of approximately \$900 and emphasized that this settlement is very minor and that this is not a safety concern. Mr. Howard proceeded to update the Board on the continuing project, explaining how the new mat foundation will be installed. At the completion of that work, crushed gravel will be hauled in followed by the steel. It is not anticipated that the elevator will be down longer than two to three weeks and removal of the sewer lines will continue. Mr. Howard reported that the construction is on schedule with a completion date of April of 1997.

Mr. Howard next discussed the Burlington Vehicle Maintenance Facility, reporting that the goal is to provide an efficient layout and that the design is within budget. Mr. Howard reviewed the project, which is located at the north end of the county yard in Burlington, the site being finished with crushed surfacing. Mr. Howard presented the floor plan, discussing various aspects of the plan, stating that this is a simple metal pre-engineered building. Mr. Howard provided a cost estimate on the project, showing the initial estimates and the final estimates, with a total estimate figure of \$1,400,000. Mr. Howard stated that bids will be opened next Monday with anticipated completion of the project in Spring or early Summer.

Mr. Howard presented a Personal Services Agreement with Semrau & Lisser for the term of January 6, 1997, until terminated, to provide services of, under the direction of the Director of Facility Management and in compliance with the City of Mount Vernon's ordinances and regulations, design and provide construction documents, including but not limited to plans and specifications for a new parking lot on County property located in the City of Mount Vernon commonly known as the "Blade" parking lot. Compensation will not exceed \$25,000. Mr. Howard stated this project will be started in April and that the parking issue will be resolved before the project is underway. Commissioner Hart suggested that the City of Mount Vernon be advised of the project schedule. Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve the Resolution, as presented. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. (Contract No. 03320).

In regard to the recently purchased Brakefield building, it was announced that Bob Taylor, Administrative Officer, and Mr. Howard will proceed with the remodel project. Mr. Howard also briefly reported on the scheduled carpet replacement throughout various buildings on the campus. Commissioner Hart asked about the old Courthouse carpeting, due to remodel plans, and Mr. Howard mentioned that remodel projects have been taken into consideration in regard to carpet replacement. Mr. Howard also reported that Ross Bailey, Maintenance, has arranged to have pay phones installed for the public use within the facility and announced that signs will be installed to indicate where these phones are located.

Commissioner Anderson pointed out that Mr. Howard has been given many projects over the past year and commended him on the admirable job he has done. Commissioner Anderson also asked Mr. Howard to look into the possibility of providing "in" boxes to hang outside each of the Commissioner's offices. Mr. Howard stated he would have Ross Bailey look into the request.

APPROVAL - UNCOLLECTIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES.

Kathy Hill, Auditor, stated that the Treasurers office has made a diligent effort to collect taxes and presented the Board with the specific amounts of uncollected taxes. Ms. Hill stated that if the Board had any questions, they could be addressed to Judy Menish, Treasurer, and Clyde Williams, who were both present today. Mr. Williams stated that even though these amounts may be written off with the Boards approval, these amounts can still be collected at a later date if the Treasurer's office should find in the future that funds in any of the accounts become available to attach to the debt.

Ms. Menish commended Mr. Williams on his sedulous attempt to collect these debts and pointed out that this is a very minimal amount (\$1,453.83) of uncollectible taxes.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve the Resolution regarding cancellation of uncollectible taxes, as presented, in the total amount of \$1,453.83. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. 16414).**

CONSENT AGENDA.

Commissioner Hart made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- Commissioners Office:

1. Record of the Proceedings of December 30, 1996.
2. Record of the Proceedings of December 31, 1996.
3. Record of the Proceedings of January 2, 1997.
4. Annual Contract Renewal with Skagit County Medical Bureau regarding the continuation of benefits changes. **(Contract No. 00174).**
5. Delegation of Canvassing Board authorizing certain persons to act as representatives in regard to issuing absentee ballots, inventory of absentee ballots, securing absentee ballots to be issued, and absentee ballots which have been voted and returned. The delegation of authority shall be in effect January 1, 1997 through December 31, 1997. **(Approved).**

- Public Defenders:

6. Personal Services Agreement with Paula Plumer for the term of January 1, 1997, until terminated, for the contractor to provide a service of handling district court caseloads not to exceed 50 cases per month in 1997. The contractor will also handle all dependency cases throughout 1997 including all cases open as of January 1, 1997. **(Contract No. 03322).**

- ARIS:

7. Personal Services Agreement with Northwest Youth Services for the term of January 1, 1997, until December 31, 1997, to provide individual and/or family therapy and anger management education and counseling. Compensation will be in the amount as outlined in Exhibit "B" of the contract. **(Contract No. 03323).**
8. Personal Services Agreement with Alicia Acosta-Thomas for the term of January 1, 1997, through December 31, 1997, to provide services of individual and/or family therapy. Compensation will be \$65 per 50 minute session and \$20 per hour for travel. **(Contract No. 03324).**

9. Personal Services Agreement with Mary Kay Barbieri for the term of January 1, 1997, through December 31, 1997, to provide services of individual and/or family therapy. Compensation will be \$60 per hour. (Contract No. 03325).
10. Personal Services Agreement with Susan Radkins for the term of January 1, 1997, through December 31, 1997, to provide services of individual and family therapy. Compensation will be \$40 per 50 minutes therapy hour, if the session is in the office or the school. Mileage to and from school meetings will be paid at \$40 per hour. (Contract No. 03326).
11. Personal Services Agreement with Larry D'Arienzo for the term of January 1, 1997, through December 31, 1997, to provide services of individual and/or family therapy. Compensation will be \$60 per 50 minute therapy session for individual and family therapy and \$20 per hour for travel. (Contract No. 03327).

• Parks:

12. Personal Services Agreement with Hunnicutt and Associates, Inc. for the term of November 19, 1996, until terminated, to provide services of appraisal review to substantiate the existing values of the current appraisal or if necessary to establish new values based upon common review appraisal techniques and the material outlined by the IAC guidelines. Compensation for completion of the appraisal review will not exceed \$1,500. (Contract No. 03328).

MISCELLANEOUS.

1.
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, January 7, 1996, by a majority vote, did approve for payment those vouchers included in the above mentioned list and further described as follows:

Vouchers #6017-423 through #6017-424, #6017-426 through #6017-427, #6017-441, #6017-452 through #6017-453, #6019-532 through #6019-533, #6019-535 through #6019-538, #6019-540 through #6019-541, #6019-544, #6019-547, #6019-550 in the total amount of \$220,421.65, and Warrants #167282 through #167378. (Transmittal No. C02-97).

2.
Staff presented a Resolution appointing Garl Long as Prosecuting Attorney effective January 13, 1997. Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve the Resolution as presented. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. (Resolution No. 16418).

3.
Staff presented a Resolution Calling for Bid to Lease County-Owned Land for Cattle Grazing or Crop Farming. Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve the Resolution, as presented. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. (Resolution No. 16417).

4.
Staff presented a Resolution establishing 1997 Salary Increases and Health and Welfare Benefits for Non-Union Employees. Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve the Resolution as presented. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. (Resolution No. 16416).

5.
Staff presented a Vendor Services Agreement with Catapult Construction to provide services of removing the goat barn roof and haul away debris. The term of the agreement will be from January 3, 1996, until terminated. Compensation will not exceed \$3,988.60. Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve the agreement, as presented. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. (Contract No. 03329).

6.
Staff presented a Resolution certifying that Judy Menish, qualified and County Treasurer of Skagit County, State of Washington, certifies the designated and listed banks as depositories for all public funds held. Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve the Resolution, as presented. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. 16415).**

7.
Staff presented a Resolution regarding the Skagit County Treasurer's List of Property Tax Refunds made during the year 1996. Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve the Resolution, as presented. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. 16419).**

STAFFING PLAN FOR SKAGIT COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION.

Bob Butler, Northwest Cooperative Extension Chairperson, discussed the upcoming retirement of Woody Bernard, who has been acting as the Interim Cooperative Extension Chairperson. Mr. Butler discussed the possibility of developing a position which will encompass a variety of responsibilities under one management person, as it appears there is potential for growth for WSU in Skagit County. Mr. Butler mentioned that the plan is that they will develop a search committee, hoping to include one of the Commissioners on the committee, and then to develop an encompassing position description. Mr. Butler stated that in all probability, Skagit County will eventually have their own WSU unit. Commissioner Anderson suggested that Commissioner Hart would be the likely Commissioner to serve on that committee, as he is very knowledgeable in that area. Mr. Butler expounded on the support of the Board in Skagit County and discussed the potential available in the county to build on and to develop an organization encompassing all the various units together. Mr. Butler stated that he hopes to see a strengthening in this areas extension component , as well as the research and the learning center.

Mr. Bernard discussed the WSU learning center concept and it was further discussed how important a Bachelors Degree has become in the common workplace.

Mr. Bernard discussed other projects under way and also discussed the potential of moving the offices to the research unit and asked if the Board was aware of any update in this regard. Commissioner Hart stated that he would pursue this, as he had not heard of anything beyond the interest of putting the funds into a new research center rather than temporary buildings and that there was not an interest in building a new facility unless it was the expanded learning center. Mr. Bernard asked about the GTE building availability and Commissioner Hart stated that the owner is not interested in selling at this time. Mr. Bernard also stated that there is new building being built behind the extension office, which will be a four story building and that there may be a possibility of leasing a floor . Commissioner Hart reiterated that he would rather put emphasis in the new extension, research and learning center. A brief discussion ensued in regard to the proposed position being developed and budget constraints.

Mr. Butler asked that if the Board had suggestions for committee members, to please contact himself or Mr. Bernard.

ADJOURNMENT.

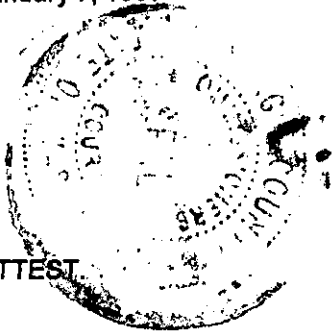
Commissioner Hart made a motion to adjourn the proceedings into Executive Session. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Harvey Wolder, Chairman

Robert Hart, Commissioner


Ted W. Anderson, Commissioner



ATTEST



Debby Sims, Clerk
Board of Commissioners