

**Record of the Proceedings  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Tuesday, February 11, 1997**

- 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Commissioner's Staff Meeting.
- 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Work Session - Operations Division Manager/Road District Supervisors.  
Flag Salute.
- T 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Public Works Department - Jan Keiser, Director.  
1) Public Hearing - Consideration of Speed Limit Revision on Reservation Road, No. 40210.  
2) Public Hearing - Road Name Changes and Clarifications of Various County Roads.  
3) Signature - Personal Services Agreement with Palmer, Groth, & Pietka, Inc. for Appraisal Services regarding Reservation Road Right-of-Way Acquisition, CRP#4021.  
4) Divisional Updates:  
a) Operations Division.  
b) Solid Waste Division.  
c) Surface Water Management Division.  
d) Engineering Division.  
5) Miscellaneous.
- T 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Planning & Permit Center - Roxanne Michael, Director.  
1) Discussion and Possible Appointment of Conservation Futures Advisory Committee.  
2) Discussion of the Technical Advisory Committee process for the Critical Areas Ordinance Update.  
3) Update of the Planning Commission's deliberation of the Draft Comprehensive Plan.  
4) Miscellaneous.
- T 11:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. Proclamation - Proclaiming February 15 - 22, 1997, as FFA Week in Skagit County.
- 11:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Discussion and Authorization of Property Assessment Action Plan.
- 11:45 a.m. - Noon. Setting 1997 Skagit County Property Tax Levies Rates.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, February 11, 1997, with Commissioners Harvey Wolden, Robert Hart and Ted W. Anderson present.

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT - Jan Keiser, Director.**

**1. Public Hearing - Consideration of Speed Limit Revision on Reservation Road, No. 40210.**

Chairman Wolden opened the Public Hearing. Steve Blair, Traffic Safety, discussed the issue stating that this was initiated by request from the LaConner School District. The department recommends lowering the speed limit to 25 miles per hour in the vicinity of the Swinomish School and playground. A discussion ensued in this regard.

There being no public comment forthcoming, Commissioner Hart made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Hart made a motion to approve the consideration of speed limit reduction as outlined by Mr. Blair, including signage indicating that it is a school zone. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**2. Public Hearing - Road Name Changes and Clarifications of Various County Roads.**

Chairman Wolden opened the Public Hearing. Mr. Blair discussed the various changes and explained that these changes are in correlation to the implementation of the re-addressing and E-911 systems, mentioning that most of the items will be changes made in-house to County records and will not affect residents.

The road name changes would occur to Glenn Road, Persons Road, T. Loop Road, Pamela Street, Eric Street, Marie Street, James Street, West Skyridge Drive, Minkler Road, Conrad Road, Andis Place, McLaughlin Road, Deception Wye Drive, Steelhead Lane, Valentine Whye Drive, Yokeko Wye Drive, Christian Camp Rd. and Sauk Prairie Road.

Road name clarifications will take place on Railroad Avenue and Township Street.

There being no public comment forthcoming, Commissioner Anderson made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve the Resolution, as presented. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. (Resolution No. 16452).

3. Signature - Personal Services Agreement with Palmer, Groth, & Pietka, Inc. for Appraisal Services regarding Reservation Road Right-of-Way Acquisition, CRP#4021.

Jim Karcher, Right-of-Way Agent, presented the personal services agreement as reference above. Mr. Karcher explained that this would be for the appraisal on eight parcels for right-of-way acquisition on Reservation Road. The total bid price for the appraisals is \$1,600 and the work will be completed by February 28, 1997.

Commissioner Hart made a motion to approve the Contract, as presented. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. (Contract No. 03379).

4. Divisional Updates:

Operations Division -

Cliff Butler reported that ditching crews are working and drainage situations being addressed, patching crews are out, and other routine maintenance is being done. A discussion about the heavy amount of rain and the impact of such, was held.

Chairman Wolden complimented the crews on the good job that has been done on the South Skagit Highway this year.

Solid Waste Division -

Robin LaRue, Solid Waste Division Manager, discussed a problem of recycle bins filling up quickly and how this has been addressed. The recycling trailer has also been filling quickly and Mr. LaRue reported that they are in the process of obtaining quotes to purchase a larger container.

Mr. LaRue discussed the recent work sessions regarding disposal districts and the possibility of developing an excise tax and the consultant has determined that this would probably not be a solution. Mr. LaRue asked for direction from the Board on the next step. Commissioner Hart discussed some action in Olympia on this issue and suggested Mr. LaRue look into this, as it appeared that other Counties are in the same situation. Mr. LaRue stated he would look into this.

Surface Water Management Division -

Dave Brookings, Surface Water Management, stated that they are working on the drainage utility and commended the Assessors office on their assistance in this regard. Mr. Brookings stated he is also looking at developing a strategic plan for the drainage utility, emphasizing the need to have the drainage utility commission up and running to assist him as he proceeds in addressing the challenges. A discussion ensued regarding the filling of the vacancies and the development of the recommending advisory committee. The Board concurred that a work session should be set up in this regard to iron out some of these concerns in developing this committee.

Engineering Division -

Don McKeehen, Traffic Safety Coordinator, briefly updated the Board on the Highway 20 corridor safety project. Mr. McKeehen stated that the goal of this project is to increase traffic safety and reduce accidents. Mr. McKeehen reported that since this project has been in place, there has been a reported reduction in accidents and an even greater reduction in "injury" accidents. Mr. McKeehen announced that he will keep the Board informed about results of this project as more information is received from the State Department of Transportation. Mr. McKeehen stated that a slide presentation is available regarding the corridor project available through Mr. McKeehen.

Mr. McKeehen also discussed the possibility of another corridor project covering the section on Highway 20 starting at the Eastern city limits of Sedro Woolley and extending towards Anacortes.

5. Miscellaneous.

Public Works had no miscellaneous items today.

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, February 11, 1997, by a majority vote, did approve for payment those vouchers included in the above mentioned list and further described as follows:

Vouchers #7007-36 through #7007-40, #7007-42 through #7007-57, #7010-37 through #7010-44, #7010-46 through #7010-52, #7010-54 through #7010-57, #7014-11 through #7014-27, #7014-29 through #7014-33, #7017-41 through #7017-42, #7017-44 through #7017-49, #7017-51 through #7017-72 in the amount of \$797,310.52 and Warrants #169151 through #169769. (Transmittal No. C07-97).

PLANNING & PERMIT CENTER - Roxanne Michael, Director.

1. Discussion and Possible Adoption of Conservation Futures Advisory Committee.

Roxanne Michael discussed the advisory committee, stating that committee member suggestions have been received from Soil Conservation, Skagitians To Preserve Farmland, and the Skagit Land Trust. A discussion ensued in regard to the criteria for selecting the members and the terms for these committee members. Mr. Karsh stated that a Resolution will be developed for next week's Consent Agenda for signature.

2. Discussion of the Technical Advisory Committee process for the Critical Areas Ordinance update.

Jim Cahill, Planning, reported on the possibility of taking several approaches in order to take a more direct approach on some of the issues. Commissioner Volden stated we need to detect what the economic impact is and address the issue. Commissioner Hart discussed some of the other areas that need to be addressed. Commissioner Anderson commented on the agricultural exemption and other issues that are impacting residents.

3. Update of the Planning Commission's deliberation of the Draft Comprehensive Plan.

Gary Christenson, Senior Planner, updated the Board on the Planning Commission discussions, stating that the Commission has reviewed a number of issues that are before them since the last update. Mr. Christenson stated that one issue recently discussed is the rural areas and continued by explaining how re-designation requests are being handled. The development of a mechanism to allow evaluate individual requests due to any mapping errors or such is being considered. Mr. Christenson also discussed "clustering" and reported that this term has been changed to be called "private open space/reserve." A lengthy discussion ensued in regard to the cluster portion of the issue.

Mr. Christenson reported that a recommendation on the plan should be coming to the Board in mid-March. The Board commended the volunteers on the Planning Commission on their dedication and time they have put into this plan. The Board also extended appreciation to Mr. Christenson in this regard.

4. Miscellaneous.

1.  
Ms. Michael announced that in regard to the Growth Management Hearings Board public participation program appeal, it is necessary to develop a program for public participation for our Growth Management Act legislation. Ms. Michael reported that the Planning Department would call for a Public Hearing in this regard.

2.  
Ms. Michael presented and briefly reviewed the Planning & Permit Center annual report. The Board commended Ms. Michael on her progress over the last year within the Department, noting the many impediments confronting her this

**PROCLAMATION - PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 15 - 22, 1997, AS FFA WEEK IN SKAGIT COUNTY.**

Ted Anderson read the Proclamation into the record, recognizing FFA Week as February 15 - 22, 1997. FFA students representing several Skagit Valley school districts were in attendance to accept the Proclamation.

**DISCUSSION AND AUTHORIZATION OF PROPERTY ASSESSMENT ACTION PLAN.**

Mike Woodmansee, County Administrator, briefly discussed a prior request that was received from the Assessor's office for four new positions and stated that the request has now been changed to employing one appraiser for a two year time period. Mr. Woodmansee stated that there are serious compliance issues forthcoming in the Assessor's office in regard to timely functions that must take place, which an additional Appraiser could assist. Mr. Woodmansee presented a memo that was previously submitted to the Board indicating the need for an Appraiser for a two-year time period, and continued by explaining that funding for this position could be used from the contingency line item that was put in place earlier this year. Commissioner Hart stated that he did support the request of "one" Appraiser rather than the addition of several new employees. Mr. Woodmansee stated that this position could be set up to be evaluated at the end of two years in order to re-evaluate the necessity of the position at that time. Commissioner Anderson stated that he disagrees with the practice of creating new full-time positions and explained that inconsistency in this practice could cause problems. Commissioner Hart and Chairman Wolden stated that they agreed with Commissioner Anderson with the concept of keeping the number of employees down, however, due to the situation in the Assessors office at this time and the compliance issue at hand, they understood the necessity of this request. A discussion ensued in regard to possibly approving this position with certain stipulations in regard to the time period involved, and Commissioner Anderson indicated that he would agree with this additional position if the stipulation was stated. Commissioner Hart made a motion to approve the two-year position for an Appraiser in the Assessor's office. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**SETTING 1997 SKAGIT COUNTY PROPERTY TAX LEVIES RATES.**

Mike Woodmansee, County Administrator, stated the urgency is now here to set the 1997 levies, as the information necessary to complete this was recently received. Mr. Woodmansee reviewed the Current Expense, Veteran's Relief, and Mental Health funds and the General County Levy, the Emergency Medical Services Levy, and the Conservation Futures Levy. Mr. Woodmansee also discussed the Road Levy for Traffic Enforcement. Mr. Woodmansee recommended that the Board take the 106% this year. A discussion ensued in regard to the levies and calculations provided.

Commissioner Hart made a motion to approve the Certification of Property Tax Levies as outlined today. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Woodmansee stated he would provide the Resolution for the Board's signature later today. **(Resolution No. 16453).**

Mr. Woodmansee also presented a Resolution for the Diversion of Road Levy for Traffic Enforcement to authorize the utilization of County Road Fund monies for traffic enforcement in the unincorporated areas or the County. Commissioner Hart made a motion to approve the Resolution, as presented. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. 16454).**

**MISCELLANEOUS.**

1.  
An Out-Of-State Travel Request was presented to the Board for Roxanne Michael to attend the American Planning Association Conference in San Diego, California. The amount will be approximately \$885. Commissioner Hart made a motion to approve the Request. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. **(Approved).**

**ADJOURNMENT.**

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

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

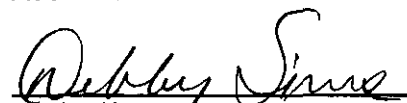


  
Harvey Wolden, Chairman

  
Robert Hart, Commissioner

  
Ted W. Anderson, Commissioner

**ATTEST.**

  
Debby Sims, Clerk  
Board of Commissioners