

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Monday, December 30, 1997**

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| 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. |
| *T 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. | <u>Public Works Department – David Brookings, Administrator.</u> 1) Update – Highway 20 Corridor Safety Program. 2) Miscellaneous. |
| *T 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. | <u>Planning & Permit Center – Roxanne Michael & Tom Karsh, Co-Directors.</u> 1) Discussion and Possible Action - Proposed 1998 Fee Schedule for Planning & Permit Center. 2) Planning Commissioner's Recommendation for the Pulley Rezone, #PL97-0376, Located at the Intersection of the South East Corner of the Bow Hill Road and Interstate 5. 3) Miscellaneous. |
| *T 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. | Presentation from Skagit Housing Solutions. |
| 11:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. | Consideration of Hearing Examiner's Recommendation for Approval of a Timber Open Space Application of Chester Larson, for Property located approximately 1,000 feet west of the intersection of the Concrete-Sauk Valley Road and Skagit Ridge Road (OT-97-0364.REC). |
| 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Work Session – Engineering Annual Construction Program for 1998. |

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, December 30, 1997, with Commissioners Harvey Wolden, Robert Hart and Ted W. Anderson present.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT – DAVE BROOKINGS, ADMINISTRATOR.

1. Update – Highway 20 Corridor Safety Program.

Don McKeehen, Traffic Safety Programs Coordinator, reviewed recently received Washington State Department of Transportation statistical information regarding the reduction and severity of automobile crashes during the first six months of the recently completed Highway 20 Corridor Safety Project.

Mr. McKeehen advised that another Coordinator Safety Program is scheduled to begin on another section of Highway 20 in 1998.

2. Miscellaneous.

- A. Dave Brookings, Administrator, gave the Board a brief update on the Burrows Bay project.
- B. Mr. Brookings briefly discussed the Edison Slough project and a recent public meeting held in the area.
- C. Mr. Brookings introduced Steve Flude, new County Engineer.

PLANNING & PERMIT CENTER – ROXANNE MICHAEL & TOM KARSH, CO-DIRECTORS.

1. Discussion and Possible Action – Proposed 1998 Fee Schedule for Planning & Permit Center.

Tom Karsh, Planning Co-Director, advised that there have been numerous changes made to the proposed fee schedule as a result of the public comment received at the public hearing and the written comment following.

Mr. Karsh advised that Wayne Crider, Executive Officer of Skagit Island Counties Building Association, had provided a comparison of current fees vs. the fee increases being proposed. This comparison was briefly reviewed and discussed.

Roxanne Michael, Planning Co-Director, stated that percentage increases are not the most accurate way of analyzing the fee changes, as the County has not increased fees in some time and it is now time to more accurately reflect the actual costs incurred.

A discussion ensued on the changes made to the fee schedule, and to specific amounts for specific tasks.

A brief discussion ensued on staff time associated with a SEPA review and the use of consultants.

Ms. Michael noted that as the Department receives better designed projects, the Department has gained efficiencies.

A discussion ensued on the need for restructuring in short range planning to get such applications processed faster. Commissioner Wolden indicated that the hourly rate fees allow for better tracking of costs from the date of the application until completed.

Chairman Wolden commented that these fee increases are not going to take care of all of the financial problems of the Department. He stated that efficiencies gained will be a benefit to the public as there will be more accountability.

Commissioner Hart stated that efficiency will increase in long range planning once the County gets through the appeals process and can continue to work on the actual Comprehensive Plan with the Planning Commission. He indicated the need to develop stability in order to get increased efficiency.

Commissioner Anderson discussed the budget process and the decision to generate funds by raising fees. He stated that the day the Board agreed to do this was the sorriest day of his life. He stated that he never envisioned raising fees 221% and up. He stated that he will take responsibility for agreeing to fee increases during the budget process, but that it does not make sense to compound that mistake by raising fees as high as are proposed. He noted that a business would not be able to increase prices by these large amounts.

Commissioner Hart stated that He cited the need for the Sierra System to track costs on each permit and for each division, and that such tracking is critical for management analysis in trying to control costs.

Commissioner Anderson stated that fees were raised in 1995, so they have been increased on a regular basis.

Ms. Michael reiterated that changes in the past have not been realistic and therefore some of the increases appear huge.

Commissioner Hart indicated that the proposal for fee increases is much better than what was presented at the public hearing.

A discussed ensued on the pros and cons of flat fees and hourly rates.

Commissioner Hart moved to adopt the Planning & Permit Fee Schedule, which was presented at today's meeting and which is dated 2/30/97, contingent upon a review in six months to assess the accuracy of the rates being adopted today. Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion. It was clarified and agreed that the effective

date of these fee increases will be January 1, 1998. The question was called for. Commissioners Hart and Wolden voted for the motion; Commissioner Anderson voted nay. The motion passed. **(Resolution No.16819)**

2. **Planning Commission's Recommendation for the Pulley Rezone, #PL97-0376, Located at the Intersection of the South East Corner of the Bow Hill Road and Interstate 5.**

Daniel Downs, Planning Department Staff, reviewed the recorded motion from the Planning Commission regarding the Pulley Rezone and the Board's options. The Board will consider this rezone next Monday, January 5, 1998, at 11:30 a.m.

3. **Miscellaneous.**

Corey Schmidt, Assistant Building Official, updated the Board regarding the Hazardous Mitigation Grant.

PRESENTATION FROM SKAGIT HOUSING SOLUTIONS.

Linda Pettit, President of the Board Of Directors of Skagit Housing Solutions, explained the history of how the organization came to be incorporated and their initial project. The lack of affordable housing in the Town of LaConner was outlined by Ms. Pettit.

Steve Story, Architect, reviewed the design of the Southfield Project, and the exact location of the 3.2 acre site.

Peter Stroosma, Treasurer of Skagit Housing Solutions, reviewed the financial situation and budget of the project. He advised that in 1998 they will need an additional \$8,400 to help pay for property taxes. He asked the Board to consider contributing this amount.

Carrie Youngquist, AmeriCorps Volunteer, discussed the need for affordable housing in Skagit County.

Kathy Wyman, Vice President of the Board of Skagit Housing Solutions, discussed the frustrations of the homeless and the attendant loss of community. She stressed the need for creative affordable housing.

Judy Montoya, member of the Skagit Housing Solutions Board, discussed a partnership with the County for developing affordable housing within Skagit County. She expressed the need for creative ways to deal with obtaining necessary funds.

Cheryl VanderMay, Baker Heights Area, summarized the presentation and discussed future funding models for other projects. She stated that collaborative partnerships are the answer to handling housing problems in this County. She further indicated that County government is an essential element in this collaborative effort.

The Board clarified the amount of taxes that are currently due on the Southfield Project, and stated that they would respond to the request for funds after further investigation.

CONSIDERATION OF HEARING EXAMINER'S RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF A TIMBER OPEN SPACE APPLICATION OF CHESTER LARSON, FOR PROPERTY LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 1,000 FEET WEST OF THE INTERSECTION OF THE CONCRETE-SAUK VALLEY ROAD AND SKAGIT RIDGE ROAD (OT-97-0364.REC).

Grace Roeder, Planning Staff, reviewed the exact location of the subject property.

Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the Timber Open Space Application of Chester Larson for property located approximately 1,000 feet west of the intersection of the Concrete-Sauk Valley Road and Skagit Ridge Road (OT-97-0364). Commissioner Hart seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. 16820)**

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, December 30, 1997

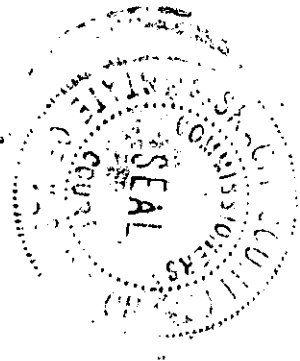
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MISCELLANEOUS.

1. Staff presented a Resolution authorizing a call for public hearing regarding supplemental budget. It was explained that this hearing is necessary to supplement the County Road Fund, #117, for \$1,100,000. Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the Resolution as presented by Staff. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. 16821)**

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

Harvey Wolden, Chairman

Robert Hart

Robert Hart, Commissioner

Ted W. Anderson

Ted W. Anderson, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Patti J. Chambers

Patti J. Chambers, Clerk of the Board
Skagit County Board of Commissioners