

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Monday, February 9, 1998**

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Discussion – Miscellaneous Financial Matters.
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Certification of Property Tax Levies for 1998.  CONSENT AGENDA. MISCELLANEOUS.
10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Public Comment Period.
11:00 a.m. – Noon	Executive Session – Personnel, Litigation and Land Acquisition.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, February 9, 1998, with Commissioners Robert Hart, Ted W. Anderson, and Harvey Wolden present.

**DISCUSSION – MISCELLANEOUS FINANCIAL MATTERS.**

Alicia Huschka, Budget Manager, gave a brief overview of the status of the budget and indicated she would be discussing financial strategies for 1998. She noted that there are particular departments that need attention as they have difficulties staying within their budgets. At a recent department head meeting, she urged department heads to send representatives for training on the SFG system. Ms. Huschka indicated that many departments have responded to this offer of training, and will be participating in training sessions beginning this week. This training will allow departments to have a better handle on their financial situations.

A discussion ensued on the lack of additional funding for departments who do not stay within their budget constraints. The severity of this problem and the overspending of budgets was briefly discussed, together with the possibility of laying off personnel or reducing operations of those departments who are unable to comply. Ms. Huschka stated that this has to be the year that we "tighten the belt" to stay within budget limits. Commissioner Wolden stated that we need to deal with those departments who consistently have issues that affect their budgets. Chairman Hart stated that we need to have a policy that says we cannot tolerate the overexpenditure of budgets, unless a budget amendment is approved by the Board.

Ms. Huschka stated that the biggest challenge for the Planning Department is the possibility of coming up short on revenues that are projected for 1998.

Mike Woodmansee, County Administrator, noted the need to scale back on discretionary line items in order to meet departmental budget expectations. Planning is the biggest cause for concern, due to the uncertainty of monies to be collected. However, he explained, the expenditure side of the equation needs to be scrutinized and controlled. Mr. Woodmansee advised that discussions are continuing with the Planning & Permit Center in this regard.

Commissioner Wolden noted the need to also look at the criminal justice side of the budget, and the continuing burden of unfunded mandates passed to the County from the State.

Commissioner Anderson indicated that the County has an overall budget crunch, and we need to have a year in which government does not continue to grow.

Ms. Huschka stated that we cannot afford to draw down on reserves in 1998, and that it is time to turn the tide. She noted the need to increase reserves by \$1,000,000 in 1998. The need to meet revenue estimates and hold the line on expenditures was discussed. Specific revenue items were briefly listed by Ms. Huschka. She noted two instances where budget amendments would be prepared to reduce departmental budgets in 1998; a situation that has never happened in the past.

The Board noted the need to utilize technology and training without an increase in government employees. The SFG and GIS systems should create real efficiencies in many departments.

Commissioner Anderson stated that many departments do not utilize the tools that are available, and they want to add personnel. He stated that some departments might be challenged, but that no one is overworked.

The reasons for reduction in reserves were briefly discussed.

**CERTIFICATION OF PROPERTY TAX LEVIES FOR 1998.**

Ms. Huschka presented a Resolution to the Board for the Certification of Property Tax Levies for 1998. She advised that in a resolution signed by the Board on December 1, 1997, the rate was established at 105.5%. Ms. Huschka detailed the specific dollar amounts for these levies as follows: Current Expense \$10,589,110, Veteran's Relief \$105,367, Mental Health, \$151,398, for a total General County Levy of \$10,845,875. The County Road Fund Levy is set at \$7,300,963. The Emergency Medical Services Levy is set at \$1,610,974, and the Conservation Futures Levy is set at \$406,780.

After a brief discussion on the specifics of the Resolution, Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the Resolution Certifying the Property Tax Levies for 1998 as detailed by Ms. Huschka in the Resolution presented. Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. 16868)**

Ms. Huschka explained a second Resolution detailing the Diversion of Road Levy for Traffic Enforcement. The specifics of the Resolution were briefly discussed.

Commissioner Anderson moved to approve a Resolution for Diversion of Road Levy for Traffic Enforcement for a total amount of \$493,810. Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. **(Resolution No. 16869)**

**CONSENT AGENDA.**

Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the Consent Agenda for Monday, February 9, 1998, with the removal of Item #7 pending further clarification as to the reasons for the additional expenditures. Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

• **COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE:**

1. Record of the Proceedings of Monday, February 2, 1998.
2. Record of the Proceedings of Tuesday, February 3, 1998.

• **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:**

3. Resolution Calling for Bids for Purchase of Diesel Fuel for the Guemes Ferry (Bid Opening: March 3, 1998 at 1:30 p.m.) **(Resolution No. 16870)**
4. Resolution Calling for Bids for Purchase of Motor Fuel (Bid Opening: March 3, 1998 at 1:30 p.m.) **(Resolution No. 16871)**
5. Resolution Calling for Public Hearing for Establishment of Chilberg Wye Road, No. 42300 (Public Hearing: March 10, 1998, at 9:00 a.m.) **(Resolution No. 16872)**
6. Professional Services Agreement with Skagit Surveyors & Engineers, L.L.C., to provide topographic survey for the Guemes Ferry Anacortes Parking Lot Project. Compensation is a lump sum upon completion not to exceed \$3,550. The term of the Agreement is February 2, 1998 through February 13, 1998. **(Contract No. 03832)**

7. Addendum #1 to Consultant Agreement with River Oaks Communications Corp. for right-of-way management plan development. The addendum increases the contract amount by \$15,000 for a total contract amount of \$45,000. **(Contract No. 03205) (NOT APPROVED PENDING FURTHER CLARIFICATION)**
- HEALTH DEPARTMENT:
8. Guest Speaker Contract with Jane Shelley to provide a presentation entitled "Personal Perspectives on HIV/AIDS" for a fee of \$25. **(Contract No. 03833)**
- PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT:
9. Personal Services Agreement with John L. Wilson to provide grantsmanship services to obtain funding for the development of the joint Presentin Park and Marblemount Community Water System. Compensation will be \$30 per hour, not to exceed \$1,000. **(Contract No. 03834)**
- HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT:
10. Personal Services Agreement with North Cascade Health Council to provide training for 10-20 Upper Skagit Tribe parents between February 25 – April 1, 1998, for an amount not to exceed \$2,400. **(Contract No. 03835)**
- PERSONNEL:
11. Endorsement No. 6 to Group Health Care Service Contract with Skagit County Medical, which includes the following changes:
  - A) There is no change in rates. Current premium rates have been extended for an additional 12 months.
  - B) There are changes to comply with new laws. Briefly, they are regarding foot care for diabetics, pre-existing conditions and waiting periods, psychiatric treatment.
  - C) Increases chiropractic benefits from \$50 co-pay to 80% of allowable charges, but requires that chiropractors join SCMB as preferred providers.
  - D) Adds childhood immunizations.
  - E) Adds 12-month health maintenance exams for adults (was added last year, but didn't get into the contract)**(Contract No. 02719)**

**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, February 9, 1998, the Board, by a majority vote, did approve for payment those vouchers included in the above-mentioned list and further described as follows:

Warrants numbered 13851 through 14359 from Clearing Fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$453,098.95 (Transmittal No. C-07-98);

Warrant number 14360 from Clearing Fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$524 (Transmittal No. C-08-98)

2. Chairman Hart approved the Plat of Bow Hill Lake as presented by Staff. **(APPROVED)**
3. Staff presented a Resolution postponing the bid opening for the remodel of the "Brakefield" Building for the Skagit County Planning and Permit Center. The additional time is required to obtain the results of the Hazardous Material Survey of the building and to allow potential bidders time to review this material and\_\_\_\_\_

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provide an appropriate bid. The new bid opening is scheduled for March 10, 1998 at 2:00 p.m. Commissioner Wolden moved to approve the Resolution as presented by Staff. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. 16873)**

- Staff presented a Resolution entitled Skagit County Board of Commissioners' Support of Resolution of the Legislative Steering Committee of the Washington State Association of Counties Concerning Funding of Criminal Justice, Transportation, and the State's General Fund Now Pending Before the Washington State Legislature. After a brief explanation of this document by Chairman Hart, Commissioner Wolden moved to approve the Resolution as presented by Staff. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. **(Resolution No. 16874)**

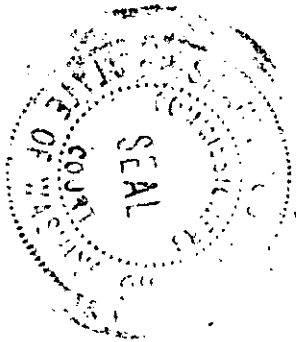
**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.**

There were no citizens present for the Public Comment Period.

**ADJOURNMENT.**

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

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



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Robert Hart, Chairman

Handwritten signature of Ted W. Anderson in cursive.

Ted W. Anderson, Commissioner

Handwritten signature of Harvey Wolden in cursive.

Harvey Wolden, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Handwritten signature of Patti J. Chambers in cursive.

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