

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Tuesday, June 16, 1998**

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| 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.     | Commissioners' Staff Meeting.  |
| 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.     | Work Session – Operations Division Manager/Road Supervisors.   |
| *T 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. | <p><u>Public Works Department – Chal Martin, Director</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Public Hearing: Consideration of Amending Resolution No. 14437 to Include a Reduced Fare for Disabled Passengers of the Guemes Ferry.</li> <li>2) Signature: Department of Ecology Community Litter Clean-up Program Application.</li> <li>3) Signature: Resolution Establishing C.R.P. #ES21180-1, West Bow Hill Road.</li> <li>4) Miscellaneous.</li> </ol>  |
| 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.   | <p><u>Planning and Permit Center – Tom Karsh, Director</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Deliberation and Possible Action on the Interim Ordinance for Personal Wireless Service Facilities.</li> <li>2) Call for Public Hearing: Adoption of the 1997 Uniform Building, Fire, Plumbing, Mechanical, Energy and Ventilation and Indoor Air Quality Codes together with Washington State Amendments and Amending Title 15, Chapter 04 of the Skagit County Code.</li> <li>3) City of Mount Vernon, Christian School 2 Annexation.</li> <li>4) GMA, Comprehensive Planning and Development Regulation Work Program Discussion.</li> <li>5) Miscellaneous.</li> </ol> |
| 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.   | <u>Parks Projects Update – Jon Aarstad, Director</u>   |
| 1:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.     | <p>Bid Opening.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Four New Latest Model 10 to 12 Cubic Yard Dump Truck Boxes.</li> <li>2) One New Latest Model 4-Wheel Drive Utility Tractor with Bucket Loader.</li> </ol>  |
| 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.     | Work Session – 1999 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program.   |
| *T 3:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.  | Presentation – Farmland Preservation Efforts of American Farmland Trust.   |

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, June 16, 1998, with Commissioners Harvey Wolden and Ted W. Anderson present. Chairman Robert Hart's absence was excused.

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT – Chal Martin, Director.**

1. Public Hearing – Consideration of Amending Resolution No. 14437 to Include a Reduced Fare for Disabled Passengers of the Guemes Ferry.

Commissioner Wolden opened the Public Hearing.

Chal Martin, Director, gave a brief overview of the request from a local citizen for a reduced fare for disabled passengers of the Guemes Ferry.

Max Benjamin, Guemes Island, speaking for the Ferry Committee, stated that he had accumulated information from the Puget Sound Transportation Group. He indicated that there are concerns for the resolution as drafted. He said he wants the word "reduced" eliminated throughout the Resolution as the language of the deficit reimbursement says that the previously scheduled fares cannot be reduced. Attachment C presented with the Resolution came from the information that Mr. Benjamin provided to the Public Works Department. He commented on the length of time this has taken to get to public hearing. He further commented on the need to narrow the scope of the definition of a disabled individual to "any individual who has medically determinable physical or medical incapacity that will act continuously for the lifetime of the individual.

Mr. Benjamin advised that this definition has been provided to the Public Works Department. He stated that there will be a limited need for this program. If this is defined cleanly on a long-term basis, he advised that it would not have any significant impact on the ferry structure to the island. The Washington State Ferries give this discount to an individual. This proposal that the Ferry Committee made would only be for the individual.

Mr. Benjamin further detailed application and issuance procedures included in the Resolution and indicated that they need to be defined precisely. He concluded by saying that the Ferry Committee would like to have this matter concluded expeditiously and sees no reason for further delay.

The Board was advised by Staff that the passenger area of the Ferry is not in compliance with ADA.

Mr. Benjamin advised that this request comes as a result of one Downs Syndrome child. He further advised that Whatcom County does not have such a discount rate for disabled individuals.

Commissioner Wolden confirmed that SKAT provides services for disabled individuals.

Mr. Martin expressed his appreciation to the Ferry Committee for their assistance.

Charlie Tewalt, Guemes Ferry Manager for Skagit County, stated that he was contacted by a citizen to look into the disability fare structure. He detailed the sequence of events leading to this public hearing. He commented on the work done by the Ferry Committee. There are concerns from the crew regarding written procedures, the application process, types of tickets to be issued, etc. He stated that these details can be worked out. Mr. Tewalt advised that, in most cases, everyone on the crew is going to know who these individuals are as they will be residents of the Island. He noted that everyone he has talked to feels that this rate structure is justified.

Commissioner Wolden questioned the vehicle identification of a disabled person. It was discussed that the person would be granted the lower fare, not a particular vehicle.

Allen Bush, Guemes Island, commented that the application would be a directive of its own, expressly detailing the qualifications for receiving the lower fare.

Glen Field, Guemes Island, stated that there is not one person on Guemes Island who has a handicapped sticker on their vehicle, nor is the handicapped parking place used at the Ferry. The intent is to keep it simple.

Commissioner Wolden moved to close the public hearing. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The public hearing was closed.

Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the disabled resolution, incorporating items 1 through 4 as proposed by the Guemes Island Ferry Committee in their letter dated June 15, 1998. Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion.

Mr. Martin recommended a legal review of the document before the Resolution is finalized.

Commissioner Wolden stated that the motion would merely give direction to Staff to prepare a Resolution with the appropriate review by legal counsel.

The motion carried unanimously. **(Resolution to be provided by Staff at a Later Date)**

2. Signature – Department of Ecology Community Litter Clean-Up Program Application.

Robin LaRue, Solid Waste Division Manager, commented on the success of the compost bin sale last weekend.

Mr. LaRue discussed an Application for Community Litter Cleanup program Funds of \$30,000. He detailed who can apply, that there is no monetary match, but requires community labor and resources, as well as donated equipment and supplies. Costs covered include a crew supervisor for an inmate crew, administrative costs up to \$3,000, plus supplies and safety equipment. He detailed the groups that are interested in participating and the program components.

Mr. LaRue reviewed the timing of the project, including submission of the application by June 30, 1998.

Commissioner Wolden asked about the disposal costs and the emphasis on illegal dumpsites and boat launches and other public areas. Commissioner Wolden questioned the duplication of effort in the supervision of inmates. He expressed concern that conversations with the Department of Ecology had indicated that the main focus of this program is roadside clean-up. Mr. LaRue reviewed his efforts with the Department of Ecology. Mr. Martin noted that in preparation for the 1999 budget, they have penciled in additional monies for roadside clean-up. He stated that it is likely that we can fund this program in the long-term, but where we need the money is for the areas where road funds are not able to assist in this regard, such as illegal dumpsites and public areas.

Commissioner Anderson moved for approval for the application for Department of Ecology Community Litter Clean-Up Program.

Commissioner Wolden expressed his concern for duplication of administrative fees and community service time for inmates, and the need to develop mechanisms to cut down costs. He cautioned the need to keep administrative costs to a minimum.

Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The Board signed the Application as presented by Mr. LaRue.

3. Signature – Resolution Establishing C.R.P. #ES21180-1, West Bow Hill Road.

Steve Flude, County Engineer, presented a Resolution for the West Bow Hill Road Project, as part of the 1998 road program for improving the existing substandard road, drainage, environmental mitigation, right-of-way acquisition and an all weather roadway improvement. Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the Resolution as presented by Mr. Flude. Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. 17019)**

4. Miscellaneous.

There were no miscellaneous items for discussion.

**PLANNING AND PERMIT CENTER – Tom Karsh, Director.**

1. Deliberation and Possible Action on the Interim Ordinance for Personal Wireless Service Facilities.

Commissioner Wolden confirmed with Tom Karsh, Director, that the changes requested by the Board at the last session had been made.

Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the Interim Ordinance for Personal Wireless Services Facilities. Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion, and it passed with a unanimous vote.

Later in the session, Staff pointed out that the document had not been reviewed by legal counsel. Consequently, Commissioner Wolden rescinded his second of the motion, and Commissioner Anderson withdrew his motion for approval. The approval of the interim ordinance was withdrawn.

2. Call for Public Hearing – Adoption of the 1997 Uniform Building, Fire, Plumbing, Mechanical, Energy and Ventilation and Indoor Air Quality Codes Together with Washington State Amendments and Amending Title 15, Chapter 4 of the Skagit County Code.

Corey Schmidt, Assistant Building Official, advised that the entire document with delineated changes will be presented to the Board later in the week. The public hearing is scheduled for June 30, 1998, at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Anderson moved to adopt a Resolution calling for Public Hearing to consider the adoption of the 1997 Uniform Building, Fire, Plumbing, Mechanical, Energy and Ventilation and Indoor Air Quality Codes together with Washington State Amendments and Amending Title 15, Chapter 4, of the Skagit County Code. Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. 17020)**

3. City of Mount Vernon, Christian School 2 Annexation.

Gary Christensen, Senior Planner, indicated that the Department has reviewed the petition for annexation and has no objection to the proposal. He stated that the County has adopted the development codes of Mount Vernon within the urban growth area. The issue before us is that since this petition was submitted and since the City has taken action to initiate the annexation for this particular property, the school has acquired some additional property. He spoke to the necessity to Invoke the jurisdiction of Boundary Review Board to include the addition of 12 acres up to Britt Slough, thereby allowing all of the Mount Vernon Christian School within the City. The exact area of the property was reviewed. Mr. Christensen pointed out that this would create a logical boundary and would be consistent with long range plans and urban growth area guidelines.

Commissioner Wolden asked if the County would be creating an island of City property. A discussion ensued

Carole Korelin, Boundary Review Board, stated she is not absolutely sure what would be included. She concurred that the issue of creating an island of land would cause a problem for the BRB. The slough is a natural boundary line. If what the City would propose would create an island, the BRB would have the authority to create a different boundary. The Board would amend the request if they felt it necessary.

Commissioner Anderson commented that to exclude one property and include another would not be appropriate.

A discussion ensued., and the Board indicated that it would be better to resolve the issue now prior to invoking BRB jurisdiction

Mr. Christensen stated that invoking the BRB would put all of the property under one jurisdiction and allow the City to annex this property.

Dick Reitsma, Mount Vernon Christian School, reviewed the history of the purchase of the property and the proposed annexation of the property.

The Board indicated that there is no need to invoke the jurisdiction of the BRB if the initial proposal is what is to be considered by the City for annexation.

4. Growth Management Act, Comprehensive Planning and Development Regulation Work Program Discussion.

Mr. Christensen discussed activities and action items on the Work Program.

He advised that the Planning Commission has completed the review of the study areas, and what is left is their review of individual properties. That review is scheduled to begin again on June 23, with the possible overflow to June 25. The intention to have that work completed by the end of the month. He noted that there will be two public hearings on Monday for the Short CaRD Ordinance and the Mineral Resource Overlay. Mr. Christensen stated that this evening the Planning commission will receive testimony on the County's Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan. That recommendation will be transferred to the Board next week for the Board's consideration.

The other item is a Planning Commission referral on the WWGMHB Case No. 97-2-0060C on short-term stipulated issues. Mr. Christensen advised that the Planning Commission voted unanimously on all of their recommendations in this regarding. This item is scheduled for action before the Board next Thursday.

5. Miscellaneous.

Mr. Karsh advised that the Department has advertised for an Associate Planner to work with the Community Planning Division and is in the process of interviewing.

**PARKS PROJECTS UPDATE.**

Recreation Division:

Dennis Lind, Recreation Division, reviewed the Hershey Track Meet, Girls State Fastpitch Qualifier, Spring Leagues, Upcoming Programs and Events including Clear Lake Swim Beach, and the Teen Center Program.

He discussed the Clear Lake Triathlon, Summer Camps, Dance Camps, Pitchers and Catchers Camps. Lifetime Sports Camp, Computer Camp, and an Outdoor Camp possibly at Howard Miller Steelhead Park. Kayak and Karate Camps will also be offered.

Fair Division:

Tony Rees and Lori Anderson, Fair Managers, reviewed the advance ticket sales for the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band performance, Carnival and Fair Season Passes. Ms. Anderson advised that there are sign sponsors for the Fair, including Valley Bark & Topsoil, Gordon Nissan, Barnett Implement and Insta Signs & Banners. Additional locations are being solicited.

Mr. Rees discussed the relocation of the Announcer's Stand, which has been reconstructed. He further discussed changes to the entrances at Virginia and Cleveland streets.

Parks Division:

Pete Mayer, Parks Division, reviewed new employee training and orientation for the Department. He advised that two formal days of training would be presented for the summer hires. This includes a defensive driving training and equipment rodeo, and First Aid/CPR training.

Mr. Mayer next discussed a WSU Engineering Study regarding a potential project for research opportunities regarding trestle inspections and techniques to determine structural integrity.

Mr. Mayer indicated that the Department is making efforts to better sign County Parks, including approach signage, standard policy and procedures signage.

Mr. Mayer gave project updates on the Howard Miller Shop Extension. Clear Lake Swim Beach improvements. He discussed the weed/spray program at the Northern State Recreation Area, indicating that a meeting will be held with the Facilities Manager for the State at the campus, for a more effective weed control program.

Administration:

Jon Aarstad, Director, advised that the Parks Comprehensive Plan would be the subject of a Planning Commission public hearing. It is hoped that this will meet the timeframe of the IAC to assist with funding for Presentin Park.

Issues regarding the Frailey Mountain project survey were discussed. Mr. Aarstad advised that he had met with DNR and that they are still supporting the issue of reconveyance. He detailed the original outline of the property that was thought needed for the shooting range. The specific boundary lines were reviewed and the need to include straight lines rather than jagged lines for surveying purposes was discussed. In talking with a surveyor, he highly recommended the same thing. The Board indicated that they had no problem with this proposed format

for the reconveyance. Mr. Aarstad further explained that this would still retain the location of the firearms range and would straighten out the exterior boundaries to allow for a management plan with DNR, who is anticipated to manage the County's timber resources in the area.

Pressentin Park – Mr. Aarstad indicated that he had made a presentation to the IAC this past week and shared the schedule of activities taking place. He detailed the specifics of the submission to the IAC. He noted that the IAC will make recommendations in September, October will go to Governor, and in January 1999 to the Legislature with the Governor's recommendation. In June of 1999, the County will have to certify that we have the local match available. Commissioner Wolden asked where this item would go from the Governor's Office so that appropriate contacts can be made.

Dream Field Update – Mr. Aarstad displayed the exact location of the Dream Field. He noted that he is dealing with a contractor to determine the placement of the backstop. He displayed pictures of the proposed backstop, dugouts and bleachers..

Mr. Aarstad advised that the Parks & Recreation Foundation initiation committee had been informed.

Skagit River Railroad – Mr. Aarstad advised that a dispute with neighbors at the location of the Skagit River Railroad and the need to work out the details of a resolution to their concerns.

**BID OPENINGS:**

1. Four New Latest Model 10 to 12 Cubic Yard Dump Truck Boxes.

Charlie Sisson, Public Works Department Staff, opened the following bids:

Idaho Truck Specialists, LLC  
Meridian, Idaho  
Cashier's Check Enclosed for Bid Bond  
Bid Amount: \$52,580.52

Edka Manufacturing  
Garfield, Washington  
Cashier's Check Enclosed for Bid Bond  
Bid Amount: \$40,639.30

Bell Trailer of Washington, Inc.  
Kent, Washington  
No bid bond enclosed.  
Bid Amount: \$60,824.00

Sturdy Weld Equipment & Design Co., Inc.  
Lynnwood, Washington  
Cashier's Check enclosed for Bid Bond  
Bid Amount: \$49,599.79

Valley Freightliner, Inc.  
Pacific, Washington  
Bid Bond Enclosed  
Bid Amount: \$67,580.90

North End Truck Equipment, Inc.  
Marysville, Washington  
Bid Bond Enclosed  
Bid Amount: \$53,667.20

Upon query from Commissioner Wolden, Mr. Sisson advised that the specifications indicated the design of the box being bid. Mr. Sisson advised that the bids will be reviewed and a bid award recommendation made in the near future.

2. One New Latest Model 4-Wheel Drive Utility Tractor with Bucket Loader.

Mr. Sisson opened the following bids:

Barnett Implement Company, Inc.  
Mount Vernon, WA  
Cashiers Check for Bid Bond Enclosed  
Bid Amount: \$30,065.72  
Alternate Proposal: No bid.

Barnett Turf & Tractor  
Snohomish, Washington  
Bid Bond Enclosed.  
Bid Amount: \$34,085.53  
Alternate Proposal: No bid.

Burlington Ford New Holland  
Burlington, Washington  
Cashier's Check for Bid Bond Enclosed  
Bid Amount: \$31,252.59  
Alternate Proposal: No bid.

Mr. Sisson advised that the specifications would be reviewed including the warranties and a bid award recommendation would be made shortly.

**MISCELLANEOUS.**

Staff presented Amendment No. 1 to Loan Agreement No. L9700054 between the State of Washington Department of Ecology and Skagit County concerning the Edison Clean Water Sub-Area Wastewater Treatment Facilities Project. It was explained that this amendment would allow eligible costs to be reimbursed to the County. Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the Amendment No. 1 as presented by Staff. Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(Contract No. 03530)**

**PRESENTATION – FARMLAND PRESERVATION EFFORTS OF AMERICAN FARMLAND TRUST.**

Bob Rose, Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland, introduced Bob Wagner, American Farmlands Trust.

Mr. Wagner reviewed the history of the American Farmlands Trust, which was formed to advocate the preservation of farmlands, and to stop the loss of productive farmland. He stated that AFT is funded by private donations. He explained that some of the work done is research regarding the loss of farmland around the country, including an analysis of where agriculture is concentrated in the country and where it is being lost. He displayed a map of particular agricultural areas. He stated that agriculture is often viewed as in the heartland, but urban environment produces much of the fruit and vegetables in the nation. Skagit County is a critically important agricultural area for the nation.

Mr. Wagner explained that the protection of farmland needs to be combined with economic and support structure, so there is an agricultural industry not just agricultural land preserved.

He stated that farmland does not require the same services as urban developments and the community character of agriculture is very important from a tourism and economic standpoint. Skagit County is a terrific example of where loss of farmland would pose a significant decrease in wildlife habitat. He noted the need to improve markets and opportunities for agricultural products.

The importance of engaging the non-farm public was discussed. If citizens want agriculture in their community, they need to support farms by buying local products and respecting the right to farm.


He reviewed the other states in the country with Conservation Easement programs, and discussed some of the particulars of these programs.

The Board thanked Mr. Wagner for his informative presentation.

**ADJOURNMENT.**

Commissioner Anderson 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



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Ted W. Anderson, Commissioner



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Harvey Wolden, Commissioner



ATTEST:



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