

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Tuesday, July 7, 1998**

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Commissioners' Staff Meeting.
8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Executive Session – Personnel, Litigation & Land Acquisition.
*T 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	<u>Board of Health – Peter Browning, Director.</u> 1) Public Hearing – Proposed Change to Skagit County Code regarding Vehicles Used for Illegal Dumping. 2) Tuberculosis Outreach Project in Skagit County to the People from the Old Soviet Union. 3) Discussion – Hepatitis "A" Vaccine and Food Service. 4) Presentation – Parenting. 5) Department Response to Illegal Drug Labs. 6) Dental Van Update – Preparing for Its Arrival. 7) Miscellaneous.
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Parks Projects Update.
10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Facilities Projects Update.
11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Public Hearing – Supplemental Budget.
1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Bid Opening – Catered Meals for Senior Citizens.
2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Bid Opening – Reservation Road, No. 40210, Improvement Project –Phase II, Project No. ES40210-1.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, July 7, 1998, with Commissioners Robert Hart and Harvey Wolden present. Commissioner Ted W. Anderson's absence was excused.

**BOARD OF HEALTH – Peter Browning, Director.**

Peter Browning, Director, Skagit County Health Department was present. He introduced Health Department staff who presented the following agenda items.

- 1) **Public Hearing - Proposed Change to Skagit County Code regarding Vehicles Used for Illegal Dumping.**

The Public Hearing was called to order by Chairman Hart.

Vin Sherman, Environmental Health Specialist, discussed a proposed change to the Skagit County Code regarding Vehicles Used for Illegal Dumping. He explained the purpose of the change to the Board.

Since there was no public comment, Commissioner Wolden motioned to close the public hearing. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion, which was carried.

Commissioner Wolden motioned to approve the proposed change to the Skagit County Code. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion, which was carried. **Resolution to be provided staff at a later date.**

2) Tuberculosis Outreach Project in Skagit County to the People from the Old Soviet Union.

Debby Kelly, Skagit County Public Health Nurse, talked about the Tuberculosis Outreach Project in the Skagit County Russian community. She explained that new immigrants that are infected with tuberculosis have a higher risk of becoming infectious. Immigrants from the Old Soviet Union have a significant rate of infection, therefore, it is very important that people are tested and treated when indicated to prevent disease.

There is an increasing population of immigrants from the Old Soviet Union in Skagit County; however, there is a lack of information published in the Russian language. The primary purpose of the outreach project is to make this information available to them.

Ms. Kelly introduced Dr. Nataliya Micholson, explaining that Dr. Micholson is a pediatrician from Russia who will work with the County on this project. Ms. Kelly cited Dr. Micholson's extensive medical background and indicated that she is very excited to be working with her. Dr. Micholson has worked with the project before the contract has been signed and her work has been very helpful.

Commissioner Wolden asked Ms. Kelly what size the Russian population is in Skagit County?

Ms. Kelly said she did not have that information yet, although there are two Russian communities in Mount Vernon, with one by the college and one close to the hospital.

Commissioner Wolden stated that it is a good idea to intervene as soon as possible because of the high percentage of t.b. coming into the County.

Commissioner Hart added that prevention and early treatment are really important and much less expensive than treating later. It is important for all of the citizens of Skagit County to have an opportunity for prevention and treatment. Hopefully, the County is doing the same thing with other groups of immigrants to make sure they have help and are diagnosed early.

Commissioner Wolden asked Dr. Micholson about her contacts with the Russian population.

Dr. Micholson responded, talking about contributing factors, one of which is the stress of coming to live in another country. She stressed that the Russian population does want to be healthy.

Ms. Kelly told the Board that she has been making home visits and meeting many wonderful people as well as learning a lot about the Russian culture and people. It has been a wonderful experience and it is great working with Dr. Micholson. Although the grant ends in December, she is hopeful that they can continue working together.

3) Discussion – Hepatitis “A” Vaccine and Food Service.

Corrine Story, Environmental Health Specialist, told the Board that the Hepatitis “A” vaccine is relatively new, and is available for preventing the disease. It is not to be confused with the immunoglobulin that is given after exposure, which is a temporary immunity to get over an exposure to the disease. The new vaccine is pretty exciting because with two shots administered, people can have immunity for ten to fifteen years.

Spokane County has had a large number of hepatitis A infections and, health departments, knowing that the disease can explode, are using as many resources as possible to stem outbreaks.

In terms of the cost effectiveness of administering vaccine to food workers, the vaccine is one solution, but not the entire solution. People still need to observe hand washing and clean habits, as there is no substitute for those practices. The new vaccine is a good tool for prevention.

A new policy for use of the vaccine is being developed, and the department has elected to make the vaccine available to food service establishments on a voluntary basis. At the present time the cost is \$26.00 per dose. Two doses are needed for a ten to fifteen year immunity.

For those who receive the vaccine, their food service card will be stamped and dated. When doing inspections, the Environmental Health Specialist can look at the food worker's card and make sure they are current. If an establishment has all of their workers vaccinated, they will receive a certificate from the Health Department. The Skagit County Health Department is the first to take this step in the state of WA and there are some restaurants that are already taking advantage of it.

Commissioner Wolden said that it is very positive to head off a hepatitis outbreak before it happens so that what happened in Spokane will not happen here.

Commissioner Hart said that a lot of people think these problems have been solved, but that is not the case. The way people think about this is very important, with such things as being concerned about hand washing and cleanliness.

Commissioner Wolden agreed that it is always a concern. This is a mobile society with people coming into the county from all over. It is something that needs to be watched.

Ms. Story emphasized, it is especially important that it be watched with this disease. It can be up to six weeks before someone knows they are infected and, meantime, they can be spreading the virus.

Mr. Browning stated that part of what makes this work is the relationship Ms. Story has developed with the restaurant community. Restaurants know and trust her and will work with her in this program.

4) **Presentation – Parenting.**

Linda Albert, Public Health Nurse, talked about the Parenting Program. In defining "parenting", she emphasized that it is her belief that most parents have the desire to meet the needs of their children, but not all parents have the ability and skills to do so.

The parenting program helps families through education and support to meet the needs of their children. The program is prevention based and covers all families with children of all age levels. The program can start as early as pregnancy. The key is early education before destructive patterns are established.

In general, a Public Health Nurse visits families in homes and provides videotapes, discussion and role models. Along with educational topics, the Public Health Nurse links resources in the community *presenting support to families*. Professional assessments are made to find out what the real needs are, with a teaching plan specific to a family. The assessment looks at parent-child interactions and helps pinpoint potential problems and strengths. A teaching plan is then made specific to that family. A nurse works with the families and makes assessments of progress as they go along.

Ms. Albert talked about how the Parenting Program was set up and the training for the program. Eventually the training program will move on to professionals, including childcare providers.

Commissioner Wolden asked Ms. Albert about how she could be contacted.

Ms. Albert advised that she or the Nursing Supervisor could be contacted through the Skagit County Health Department.

Commissioner Wolden stressed the importance of getting the information out about who the contact person is.

Mr. Browning added that he took some of classes from Ms. Albert and can see that it is something that could be offered to any new parent. It was really helpful.

5) **Department Response to Illegal Drug Labs.**

Britt Pfaff, Environmental Health Specialist, reported.

There are not a lot of drug labs appearing in Skagit County at the present time, although there have been a number of drug labs in the past, and probably more will appear in the future.

The kind of methodology that is being used to produce methamphetamines makes it fairly easy to make. The drug can be made in a day and is quite profitable to make. The people who produce the drug don't realize all the health implications, either to the people they sell to, or to themselves or their neighbors. The process involves using a lot of different types of chemicals. When police officers come in and make a raid and find evidence of an active drug lab, they call in the State Patrol and the Department Ecology. They remove the gross contamination and the chemicals, etc.

Due to the processing there tends to be a lot of vapor that goes into the structure of the home. They also tend to dump drugs out the back door, in the septic tank, sewer, old wells, etc. getting rid of evidence. *Even though the chemicals are removed, anyone coming into that house at a later time can be exposed through sheet rock, carpeting, or anything porous in the house.*

The role of the Health Department is to go out and post the site indicating there may have been contamination of the site. An assessment of the site is done to see if it warrants being classified unfit for use. After the assessment it may be posted as unfit for use and then the Health Department works with the property owner who is responsible for the cleanup, to try to detoxify the site. It is very hard to clean up these sites once they are contaminated. What you usually find with people on these sites is that they have respiratory problems and their whole nervous system is effected.

It is extremely important, if you are a neighbor or nearby property owner, that you telephone the authorities if you suspect this kind of activity. Skagit County is a prime county for methamphetamine labs, as people generally like to find a rural area where they can get away from neighbors.

Commissioner Wolden asked what signs people should be aware of and who should be contacted about it.

Ms. Pfaff said that methamphetamines make people extremely paranoid, with a tendency toward violence. They may not be selling the drug out of the house, but they may be someone who is reclusive. There could be ephedrine cases in the garbage and they may be operating in the house at odd hours. Also, they may be using propane canisters and have several of various sizes. A lot of the signs are to do with the activity of the person, who tends to be very anti-social, not wanting neighbors around. If such an activity is suspected, law enforcement should be called. Or, if someone has concerns about the house they are in they can call the Health Department.

6) **Dental Van Update – Preparing for Its Arrival.**

Kim VanEpps reported that the dental van would be delivered soon. It is a large Winnebago, about 37' long. It is fully equipped with state of the art equipment and will hold one dentist, two assistants and a van driver. The driver is a physician and speaks fluent Spanish.

Ms. VanEpps reviewed the mission of the project, which is to improve the dental health status of the underserved, uninsured, unemployed, Medicaid eligible and working poor populations in Skagit County. To meet this goal, support systems will be developed and providers of high quality dental care will assist.

Emergency dental care will be provided, and care to patients with acute dental problems or chronic conditions requiring limited interventions will also be provided. Both adults and children are eligible, provided they meet the criteria.

Medical coupons or a sliding fee will be accepted. If a person doesn't have medical coupons and is determined eligible, they will pay one flat fee at the time of service. Treatment could be free, based on the income category of the patient.

The van will be at four sites: Mount Vernon, Concrete, Sedro Woolley and Anacortes, with hours from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Volunteer dentists will be at each site. Also, there are volunteer dental assistants from the Cascade Job Corps Center as well as a community volunteer at each site to process patients and help with paperwork. They are still looking for more volunteers.

Northwest medical teams came up with capital funds to purchase the van, but the County needs to come up with the daily operational costs. A number of local organizations are supporting the van for a day, a week or a month. They are: Mount Vernon Rotary, Kiwanis, Soroptomists of Burlington and Anacortes, United Way of Skagit County, Affiliated Health Services, Concrete Norwest, McDonalds of Mount Vernon, Shell Oil and the Eagles Club.

To make an appointment people should call the Skagit County Community Action Agency at 336-6627. They will screen clients, determine eligibility, and schedule appointments. They will also call and remind people of appointments.

If anyone wants to know more about the program they can call Kim VanEpps at the Health Department.

### **PARKS PROJECTS UPDATE.**

Jon Aarstad, Director, Skagit County Parks, Recreation and Fair, introduced two new employees to the Board.

Pauli Mickelson has taken over the receptionist position for the Parks and Recreation Department. Ms. Mickelson told the Board that she has worked for commercial banks, a law office and, most recently, for Conway Feed as an accounting assistant. Ms. Mickelson has two daughters and told the Board that she is very excited to come to work for Skagit County.

Tony Tewalt is the new Recreation Coordinator for the Skagit County Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Tewalt told the Board a little about his educational and work history, advising that he graduated from Washington State University and has worked in a number of positions outside of the area before coming back to Skagit County.

Mr. Aarstad reported that there are a number of major events occurring this month.

- The triathlon will be held this weekend at Clear Lake, with a number of people coming from British Columbia, Seattle and other areas outside the County. Mr. Tewalt advised that a lot of the afternoon was spent yesterday going to neighbors and handing out flyers to let people know about the event.
- Softball All-Star Night is coming this Thursday.
- The 16 and under Girls' State Softball Tournament is being held on July 17, 18 and 19. There are up to 36 teams now, with only one or two teams from the area participating. It will bring in a lot of people.
- There are numerous camps taking place and staff is running to try and keep up with them.
- The next major project is the Fair. This year the Fair is going to be another continuing success. Working with the city on this has been very positive and a number of small problems from earlier fairs are being corrected.

There has been a loss of revenue because of baseball games going on in the baseball field and the ability of people using the field to walk on into the fairgrounds. A fence has been put across that area, with a vehicle gate, which will eliminate the loss of revenue

Another issue of concern is the tents. Tent setup is critical, and staff oftentimes must get involved, at a cost of from \$250 to \$300 to put the tent up, and close to that to take it down. A process is being developed whereby individuals will be aware there is a fee.

After some discussion about this matter, Mr. Aarstad said he would keep the Commissioners apprised of this.

- A letter has been received from the IAC indicating that the Comp Plan has been approved until June 25, 2004, and the Skagit County Parks, Recreation and Fair Department is in compliance. If there is any change in the Comp Plan, the IAC must be notified.
- Regarding Frailey Mountain, the matter is still with DNR. A survey will begin once that process is complete. Skagit Surveyors will be doing the survey.
- Mr. Aarstad advised that he attended the Blanchard Mountain meeting with DNR representatives and Commissioner Belcher.

Commissioner Hart noted that most of those lands are Skagit County trust lands and it is the intention of the County to continue to see them managed as they have been.

Mr. Aarstad said that the meeting was well handled by Commissioner Belcher. It really demonstrated how cooperative efforts can work well. Most everyone left the meeting with a pretty good understanding that everyone needs to work together.

After further discussion with the Commissioners, Mr. Aarstad concluded his presentation.

#### **FACILITIES PROJECTS UPDATE**

Roger Howard, Director, Skagit County Facility Management, provided an update on Facilities projects:

- The Family Resource Center was successful and completed under budget. John Cheney is working on a floor plan of the building adjacent to the Family Resource Center, where Community Action is moving.
- The Brakefield Building will be ready for the Planning and Permit Center to move into in August. After that move, the Assessor and Treasurer will be moving into the Planning and Permit Center's present location in the Administration Building. There will be very little need for remodeling or changes in the area they will be moving into. There will be no costly structural changes made to the building.

Both the Treasurer and the Assessor are very positive about the move and anxious to move into the new space.

Commissioner Hart suggested that there be a drop box established where people can drop absentee ballots, tax payments, etc. It would save a lot of parking spaces.

- The Chinook job is done, although Mr. Howard advised that he and Paul Schissler need to finish processing the grant money for that project and for the Community Action project.
- The Brakefield building will be completed slightly ahead of schedule. It will be done toward the end of this month. The painting will be done this week.
- Relative to the Enhanced 911 facility, the interior is substantially complete. Exteriously, there is lots of work to be done and the general contractor will take care of the work that was originally to be done by a sub-contractor.
- SKAT's contribution to signalization at Old 99 and Burlington Boulevard is the turn light.

- The amendment to the Burns Security contract will be on the agenda next week. The amendment simply extends the contract.

Commissioner Hart asked about closure on the Courthouse foundation project. Mr. Howard indicated that it is still pending.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Commissioner Hart motion to approve a Resolution Designating an Applicant's Agent for the State of Washington Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion, which was carried. (**Resolution #17049**)

**PUBLIC HEARING – SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET.**

The Public Hearing relative to a Supplemental Budget was called to order by Chairman Hart.

Alicia Huschka, Budget Manager, reviewed proposed resolutions for the consideration of the Commissioners regarding funds for the Big Lake Management District #141 and Edison Clean Water District Subarea, #150.

She explained that the Lake Management District No. 1 for Big Lake was established last December. The district is now ready to spend some of the approved funding. Assessments will be collected over about a five-year period, but in the meantime, there needs to be an Interfund Loan, which will be repaid in future years.

The Edison Clean Water District Subarea for a water treatment and collection system was approved for Edison. Assessments totaling around \$24,000 a year will be collected from landowners there. Meanwhile, the district needs a budget to pay for operations.

There being no public comment forthcoming, Commissioner Wolden motioned to close the public hearing. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion, which was carried. The public hearing was closed.

Commissioner Wolden motioned to pass the supplemental budget resolution approving funds for the Big Lake Management District #141 in the amount of \$200,000 and for the Edison Clean Water District Subarea, #150, in the amount of \$24,000. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion, which was carried. (**Resolution #17050**)

Two more resolutions were presented by Ms. Huschka creating the funds for the above districts.

Commissioner Wolden motioned to pass a resolution Establishing the Lake Management District No. 1 Fund. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion, which was carried. (**Resolution #17051**)

Commissioner Wolden motioned to pass a resolution Establishing the Edison Clean Water District Subarea. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion, which was carried. (**Resolution #17052**)

**BID OPENING – CATERED MEALS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS.**

Wendy Weyer, Senior Services Staff, opened the following four bids in this regard:

First Choice Food Products  
Airway Heights Corrections Center  
PO Box 1959  
Airway Heights, WA 99001-1959

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Airline Catering Co., Inc.  
PO Box 117  
Spanaway, WA 982387

Island Hospital/Anacortes  
1211 24<sup>th</sup> Street  
Anacortes, WA 98221-2590

Sun Meadow/G.A. Food Service  
9900 Princeton Glendale Road, Sta. 105  
Cincinnati, OH 45246

Ms. Weyer advised the Board that she will review the bids in detail, including a blind taste test with other staff of the proposed meals, and will come back to the Board with a bid award recommendation with the next few weeks.

**BID OPENING – RESERVATION ROAD, NO. 40210, IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – PHASE II, ES40210-1.**

Luis Ponce and Jim Karcher, Public Works Department Engineering Staff, opened the following bids for the Reservation Road project:

SRV Construction  
PO Box 187  
Oak Harbor, WA 98277  
Bid bond attached  
\$480,176.60

Wilder Construction Co.  
3315 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Everett, Washington  
Bid bond attached  
\$473,870.75

G&G Excavation  
1329 Satterley Road  
Anacortes, Washington  
Bid bond attached  
\$416,076.54

Thomco Construction, Inc.  
18930 66<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE  
Arlington, Washington  
Bid bond attached  
\$449,878.88

Trico Contracting Inc.  
PO Box 409  
Burlington, Washington  
Bid bond attached  
\$447,940.50

Strider Construction Co.  
2430 E. Bakerview Road  
Bellingham, Washington  
Bid bond attached  
\$523,709.00



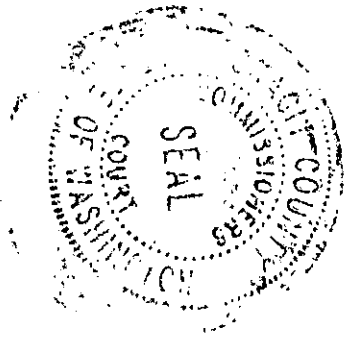
Staff advised that these bids would be reviewed in detail and a bid award recommendation would be forthcoming within the next two weeks.

Staff advised that the Engineer's Estimate for this project was \$431,086.50.

**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**



*Robert Hart*  
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Robert Hart, Chairman

*Ted W Anderson*  
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Ted W. Anderson, Commissioner

*Harvey Wolden*  
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Harvey Wolden, Commissioner

ATTEST:

*Jean Terry*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jean Terry for Patti J. Chambers, Clerk of the Board  
Skagit County Board of Commissioners