

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Monday, August 3, 1998:**

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Public Comment Period.

**CONSENT AGENDA
MISCELLANEOUS**

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Discussion – Veterans Affairs Council Concerns.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, August 03, 1998, with Commissioners Robert Hart, Ted W. Anderson, and Harvey Wolden present.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Tom Solberg, 19019 Mini Road, Alger, was present to talk about a new sub-area plan proposal that he delivered to the Commissioners on the previous Friday. He indicated that he updated and added to it and believes it is now fairly complete.

Mr. Solberg reviewed the Comprehensive Plan application for change with the Board and talked about the questionnaire in particular. The County has never answered Question No. 11 about urban density, because they haven't done a land use study. He wondered how an average person can look at these and answer questions like this. He said he hopes the County will ease up on some of these criteria.

Jean Spaulding of the Skagit County Records Management Department asked the Board for clarification about who was in charge during the bomb scare on Friday.

Commissioner Hart explained that there is a policy that has been adopted that the Sheriff's Office proposed in which there are some flaws. The Sheriff's Office has been asked to review the policy and make corrections.

Jean talked about how everyone in her office heard about the bomb threat and the lack of direction after the threat. Some people left and some people did not. When the Sheriff's Office wanted to look through the building, they had no map of the building. She said she was very concerned about how this situation was handled.

Commissioner Wolden advised that the Sheriff's Office is in charge of something like this and assured Ms. Spaulding that if it occurs again, it will be handled very differently. The Commissioners are also engaged in working on this matter.

Howard Miller, former Skagit County Commissioner, dropped into the meeting to say "hello" to the Commissioners.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Wolden motioned to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE:

1. Agreement for On-Line Learning Services to enable 25 County employees to try out taking computer application tutorials at a designated web-based training site on the Internet for a three month period and a cost of \$700 maximum. **(Contract #4024)**
2. Resolution Authorizing Loan to Land Acquisition/Facilities Fund in the maximum amount of \$500,000. **(Resolution #17085)**

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES:

3. Contract Amendment - Public Works AFSCME Union. (**Contract #03737**)

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:

4. Resolution Calling for Public Hearing Regarding Sale of County Surplus Property (Public Hearing: August 24, 1998 at 2:00 p.m. (**Resolution #17086**))
5. Out-of-State Travel Request (Brian Stephan: Solid Waste Association of North America Training Course (Managing Transfer Station Design and Operation): August 25 and 26, 1998: Reno, Nevada) at an estimated cost of \$959.00.
6. Out-of-State Travel Request (Gary Sorensen: Solid Waste Association of North America Training Course (Landfill Gas System Operation and Maintenance): August 27 and 28, 1998: Reno, Nevada) at an estimated cost of \$720.00.
7. Final Order of Vacation Unopened Portion of County Right-of-Way Known as Fruitdale Road, No. 9111.

HUMAN SERVICES:

8. Personal Services Agreement Between Skagit County and Rehabco Skagit, Inc. and Services Alternatives for Washington providing for Community Developmentally Disabled services at a maximum amount of \$85,000.00 for Rehabco and \$100,000.00 for Service Alternatives for Washington. (**Contract #004025**) and (**Contract #004026**)
9. DSHS/DASA Substance Abuse Interagency Work Order Amendment #6419-2 (**Contract #003579**)
10. Personal Services Agreement Between Skagit County and Chinook Enterprises at a maximum amount of \$425,000 for the period July 1, 1998 through June 30, 1998. (**Contract #004027**)
11. Personal Services Agreements between Skagit County and Skagit Recovery Center. The maximum amount for Skagit Recovery Center is \$525,000 for the period July 1, 1998 through June 30, 1999. (**Contract #004028**)

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, August 3, 1998, the Board, by a majority vote, did approve for payment those vouchers included in the above-mentioned list and further described as follows:

- Payroll Suspense Fund 699 to Payroll Warrant Clearing Fund 695 under payroll warrants 19498 through 19574 in the total of \$85,161.80. Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. (**P-37-98**)
- Warrants 25348 through 25353, Clearing Fund 696, in the amount of \$307.31. Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. (**C-50-98**)
- Payroll Transmittal form 950187 through 950248 for \$69,860.88. Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. (**P-35-98**)
- Payroll Transmittal form 18523 through 19496 for \$775,869.84. Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. (**P34-98**)
- Payment Certification Form, warrants 24915 through 25347 for \$1,020,994.06. (**C-49-98**)

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DISCUSSION – VETERANS AFFAIRS COUNCIL CONCERNS

Thomas A. Shultz, Chairman of the Skagit Veterans Advisory Council, explained to the Board that it recently came to the Councils' attention that Ms. Penny Brown's supervisor has been exceeding her authority with regard to an applicant. Miss Brown's supervisor said she would write a voucher for \$100 to the applicant, and he had been turned down because he has abused the system for the last five years and committed fraud against it.

A letter was received from Bill Shuler, Director of the Community Action Agency, stating that Ms. Brown was their employee and not the Veterans' Affairs Councils' employee. Since office space and wages are paid for out of the Soldiers and Sailors Relief Fund, and the Council are the people authorized to disperse those funds, it is the belief of the Council that Ms. Brown is the employee of the Council and not an employee of Community Action.

Mr. Shultz added that they are very concerned also because Ms. Brown is sitting in an open bay where she can't do individual counseling with people who have drug, alcohol and/or spousal abuse problems, because of privacy considerations. There is also very limited handicapped office space and parking is a long way off.

Mr. Shultz said that they have contacted the VFW who has advised that they would be very happy to temporarily house Ms. Brown in their building. She would be set up in an office with a door that closes and in a larger space than she is housed in right now. There is also handicapped access and lots of handicapped parking.

Commissioner Anderson asked Mr. Shultz who supervises Ms. Brown's supervisor? Mr. Shultz advised that Bill Shuler supervises Ms. Brown's supervisor.

Alicia Huschka, Budget Manager for Skagit County, explained that the County has a contract with Community Action for 1998 to house the Soldiers and Sailors Relief Fund office and, therefore, they would not be able to move during that time period.

The question of who supervises Miss Brown has gone back a few years. The ordinance creating the Council indicates that it is an advisory council that provides recommendations and advises the County Commissioners. It appears that Ms. Brown is an employee and is supervised by Community Action.

Commissioner Hart added that the monies for this service come out of the General Fund. In his six years as a County Commissioner, this issue has come up pretty much every year. In the last two years, not only in Skagit County, but within the state, ways have been looked at to curtail the fraud that exists in that program. There were people going from one county to the next, basically, working the system.

Stan Petrowsky, Vice Chair of the Veterans' Council referred to Ordinance No. 16594, which states in Section 3 under Duties of the Council, that the Council "reviews and adjudicates". Were this done the situation today would not exist. The Council is running the program as efficiently as possible and when people who are not familiar with the rules and regulations interfere, it is very detrimental to the expenditure of funds and word gets out to the veterans who will come in with claims they shouldn't be making. Penny Brown runs the program very well and she is aware of who is abusing the system.

Commissioner Wolden said that it is his opinion that the system is workable, but with one little glitch, which needs to be straightened out.

Mr. Petrowsky said that this is true, in essence, but the Council feels it is symptomatic, especially since the ordinance spells out how it should be done.

Commissioner Hart said there is no doubt that privacy is a problem.

Ms. Brown said that an office has been earmarked for her at the new Community Action Building, probably the end of September.

Ms. Huschka offered to review the ordinance and what is to be done when something escalates.

Mr. Shultz said they would still like to keep the option open of moving Ms. Brown to the VFW Hall and talk about it further the first of the year.

Commissioner Hart said he is certainly willing to entertain that.

Commissioner Wolden said he would like to see the Board of Commissioners have a lot more oversight themselves.

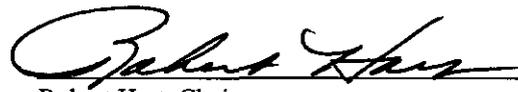
Ms. Huschka emphasized that if the Council is planning on making a proposal, they need to submit it during budget time so the Commissioners can discuss it. This is the time to do that, if that is what is intended.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Wolden motioned to adjourn the proceedings. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**





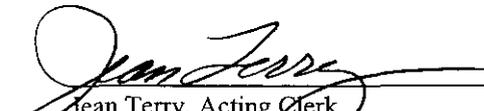
Robert Hart, Chairman

Ted W. Anderson, Commissioner



Harvey Wolden, Commissioner

ATTEST:



Jean Terry, Acting Clerk
Board of County Commissioners