

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Monday, November 16, 1998**

- *T 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Proclamations:
1) National Home Care Month, November 1998.
2) National Hospice Month, November 1998.
- *T 10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Presentation of 1999 Tulip Festival Poster.
- CONSENT AGENDA
MISCELLANEOUS**
- 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Work Session – Flood Awareness Week.
- 3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Presentation by State Treasurer's Office re: Local Option Capital Asset Lending Program.
- 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Meeting with the Fair Board, Skagit County Fairgrounds, 4H Building.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, November 16, 1998, with Commissioners Robert Hart, Ted W. Anderson, and Harvey Wolden present.

PROCLAMATIONS.

National Home Care Month, November 1998/ National Hospice Month, November 1998

Commissioner Anderson read the proclamation declaring November 1998 National Home Care Month in Skagit County. Commissioner Wolden then read the proclamation declaring November 1998 National Hospice Month.

Susan Denham, Case Manager from Affiliated Health Services, reported to the Board that some things that Congress has done have negatively affected Skagit Home Health. She reviewed some of the programs provided by Skagit Home Health, explaining that in the balanced budget that passed, Home Health was impacted in several different ways. The balanced budget act has decreased revenue by about 15%. It is being found that Hospice and Home Health programs are in some trouble because of this. Also, in the year 2000, another 15% will be cut. Because of the budget cuts, there have even been some layoffs. Across the country this year over 1000 Home Health agencies have closed.

Nancy Topham, Case Manager, Affiliated Health Services, reported on the Hospice Program. She explained that Hospice is supported by Affiliated Health Services. They still serve people with bath aids, wound care, cardiac care, etc., and there are nurse specialists now for cardiac care patients.

The program really helps people because there is a lot of burnout with families who take care of someone with a long-term health issue.

Commissioner Anderson advised that his family has benefited from these programs and he thinks highly of them.

Ms. Topham said, it is sometimes frustrating with business and humanitarian efforts working together. It is sad to have to discharge patients, especially those with no family. Recently, there has been some funding approved through private donations, to have a telephone nurse call and check in on patients. This may be enough to keep some of them out of the emergency room.

Chairman Hart said he feels this is a wonderful program, and being able to keep people in their homes is very cost effective. It allows people to maintain their dignity and independence.

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Commissioner Wolden said that in his work with the Northwest Regional Council, he has lobbied very hard for this. Rest homes are not cost effective, and a lot more services could be provided if people could be maintained in their homes.

Ms. Topham stated that Congress might reverse the blood draw issue, although it will take a year for that to happen.

Ms Denham said it is tragic to see Congress and others making decisions about medical issues. It would be nice to keep medical issues closer to the medical field.

Chairman Hart stated, it is important that these issues be addressed, and that the Commissioners do the best they can for the people in the community.

PRESENTATION OF 1999 TULIP FESTIVAL POSTER.

Audrey Smith, Executive Director, Skagit Valley Tulip Festival, presented the new 1999 Tulip Festival poster to the Board. She also introduced John K. George, the Tulip Festival Sponsor Coordinator.

Ms. Smith explained that the new poster was designed by Bellingham artist, Mary Gregg Byrne. The clothing and other items will go on sale this week. She also noted that the public does get to come in and vote for the top six posters. The festival is receiving many more poster entries than in the past.

Commissioner Anderson talked about how positive the Tulip Festival has been for the County.

Commissioner Wolden said he did not think that anyone has done an in-depth study of how the festival impacts Skagit County. He said he feels that the impact is monumental.

Ms. Smith advised that the new brochure, when it comes out, will be in booklet form. One of the things they are going to do is to try and monitor whether people are coming back to the festival. Those who do come back can come into the Tulip Festival office and pick up a complimentary souvenir.

Mr. George reported that there are just over 250 sponsors on board this year, with more sponsors being recruited. The festival is still short of the goal for sponsorship, but should have enough sponsors by the time the tulips bloom.

Ms. Smith thanked the Board and County Departments and, especially the Public Works Department, for their support of the Tulip Festival.

CONSENT AGENDA.

Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the Consent Agenda for Monday, November 16, 1998. Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous vote.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE:

1. Record of the Proceedings of Monday, November 9, 1998.
2. Record of the Proceedings of Tuesday, November 10, 1998.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE:

3. Agreement for Work Crew Services wherein the County will provide four inmates to SKAT five nights per week, with SKAT compensating the County the sum of \$20,000 for calendar year 1999. **(Contract No. 04126)**

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY:

4. Addendum No. 2 to Personal Services Agreement with Buck & Gordon allowing the maximum amount of

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\$4,200 to be charged per month in 1999, with a not-to-exceed amount set at \$50,000. All other terms and conditions of the Agreement remain in full force and effect. **(Contract No. 02851)**

HUMAN SERVICES:

5. Amendment No. 1 to a contract with the State Department of Social and Health Services changing the source of funds to HIDTA – Community Coalition Support, Grant Award #18PNWP511. **(Contract No. 03906)**

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, November 16, 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 32500 through 32617 from Clearing Fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$252,819.61 (Transmittal No. C-77-98); and

Warrants numbered 32618 through 32858 from Clearing Fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$772,288.17 (Transmittal No. C-78-98).

2. Commissioner Anderson motioned to approve for signature a letter and a resolution approving the re-appointment of Phil Jennings to the Skagit County Board of Equalization for a three year term beginning January 1, 1999 and ending on December 31, 2002. Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. 17207)**
3. Commissioner Anderson motioned to approve for signature a Grant Deed Conservation Easement by Susan J. and Vern V. Curtis and Richard A. and Karen E. Crossman, Grantors, in favor of Skagit County, Grantee, protecting 15.87 acres. Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(Contract No. 04127)**

PRESENTATION BY STATE TREASURER'S OFFICE RE: LOCAL OPTION CAPITAL ASSET LENDING PROGRAM.

Judy Menish, Skagit County Treasurer, introduced Allan Martin from the State Treasurer's Office to the Board. She explained that the State Legislature last year passed a bill that extends the financing program that has been in existence since 1989. The Legislature made the program an optional program for local governments and provides for tax exempt municipal borrowing.

Mr. Martin reported that they are able to bundle financing requests together as part of the state program. The current system has been in place ten years now and has wide market approval.

Commissioner Anderson said that the rates seem very attractive.

Commissioner Hart asked if this is only for equipment at this point. He also asked about the expense for borrowing.

Mr. Martin answered that on July 1, 2000, buildings can be rolled into the program. The expense is 1/8% and there is a float on the payment, which is not seen. The 30-day float actually goes toward the expenses too.

Ms. Menish asked if there is any need right now for an insurer?

Mr. Martin noted that Preston, Gates and Ellis are on contract. If bond insurance is necessary to hold up the state rating, the program will buy that.

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Ms. Menish advised that they will be meeting this evening with some of the small districts about this, and they hope there will be good attendance.

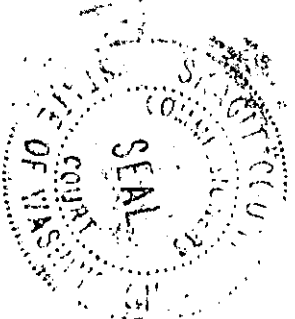
Commissioner Wolden congratulated Ms. Menish on the good job she has done informing the district. He added that since all the districts operate differently and have different circumstances, it is very helpful to have the information.

The Board thanked Ms. Menish and Mr. Martin for their report.

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

Robert Hart, Chairman

Ted W Anderson

Ted W. Anderson, Commissioner

Harvey Wolden

Harvey Wolden, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Jean Terry

Jean Terry, Acting Clerk of the Board
Skagit County Board of Commissioners