

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Tuesday, February 2, 1999**

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Commissioners' Staff Meeting.
8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Work Session – Planning & Permit Center Work Program.
*T 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	<u>Board of Health – Peter Browning, Director.</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Introduction of New Employee – Environmental Health Specialist I.2) Public Hearing – Consideration of Revisions to Skagit County Code Section 12.05 regarding Program for Monitoring and Maintenance of On-Site Sewage Systems.3) Public Hearing – Consideration of Changes in the Health Department Fee Schedule.4) Miscellaneous.
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Parks Projects Update.
10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Facilities Projects Update.
*T 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Human Services Department Quarterly Report.
1:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Presentation of Certificate of Commendation to Steve Blair for 21 Years of Service to the Skagit County Public Works Department.
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Work Session – Surface Water Management Division Salmon Recovery Efforts.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, February 2, 1999, with Commissioners Ted W. Anderson, Harvey Wolden and Robert Hart present.

BOARD OF HEALTH – Peter Browning, Director.

1. Introduction of new Employee – Environmental health Specialist 1.

Ken Willis, introduced Andy Ross, new Environmental Health Specialist.

2. Public Hearing – Consideration of Revisions to Skagit County Code Section 12.05 regarding Program for Monitoring and Maintenance of On-Site Sewage Systems.

Ken Willis, Environmental Health Supervisor, reviewed the overall program for monitoring and maintenance of on-site sewage systems. He indicated that most of the concerns received via written correspondence have been in regards to the funding mechanism for this program. He discussed the various aspects of the plan and the need for data collection and enforcement. Mr. Willis explained that the cost of the program is offset by the reduction in tipping fees recently adopted by the Board regarding the solid waste facility. He commented briefly on the need to meet the needs of the public and also comply with State law. Mr. Willis noted the intent to form an Advisory Committee to work out an acceptable program and funding mechanism.

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Mr. Willis spoke briefly regarding the proposed funding that would come from a per gallon charge from septage. He stated that there are other funding possibilities which can be reviewed by the Advisory Committee and ultimately the Board. He stated that a mandatory program would require everyone to pay so that everyone is treated equally.

Howard Leibrand, County Health Officer, spoke to the importance of separation of water and sewage from a Public Health standpoint. He stated that septic systems are not designed to do this without the involvement of their owners. He commented that the current system for monitoring is solely complaint driven and is not a fair system. He noted the need to develop a fair funding mechanism.

Ken Kinkaid 13616 Trumpeter Lane, Mount Vernon, objected to the funding of the program, stating that the fee is not equitable to property owners. He read a prepared statement into the record. He stated that he does not want to be separated out to provide septic system welfare. He suggested adding a fee similar to the drainage utility to property tax statements.

Pat Carpenter, Clear Lake, objected to the proposed fee if she would have to pay for other people's responsibilities. She stated that it sounds like a welfare system. She suggested teaching hygiene classes in school so that children can in turn teach their parents.

Jones Atterberry, 19856 Lei Garden Road, Burlington, on behalf of area realtors, spoke to the addition of taxes and the burden on homeowners. He stated that he is interested in looking at other ways to make this system work. He stressed the need to have responsible citizens, to make sure this system is fair and equitable. He made suggestions for the composition of the Advisory Committee.

Robby Robertson, 19664 East Conway Hill Lane, stated that he is a septic tank user, suggested that the septic pumpers would have to charge additional funds to collect the proposed fees, thereby passing that cost also to the property owner. He stated that he would be happy to be on the Advisory Committee to assist in coming up with a fair and equitable way to handle this program.

Joan Drinkwood, Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team, offered support for the program and encouraged the Board to move forward and lay the groundwork for sound public education, notification, and professional certification. She stated that private sector and homeowner responsibility enhances the proposal. She stated that this is an important water quality issue and her staff is eager to assist and help pursue alternate funding sources.

Ken Slater, 1740 Milltown Road, stated that he is "against whatever you are trying to do." He stated that legal penalties and fines are appropriate, not a fee for pumping. He stated that there is no reason to assess a tax on those who maintain their septic systems properly to pay the costs of those who do not. He stated that pumping a septic system every two years is not the answer.

Jamie Lanning, 13084 Highway 9, Clear Lake, asked questions about the proposed.

Jeff Ziegler, 19723 Montpelier Place, commented that the more is charged for pumping, the less likely people will comply. He stated that an alternate funding mechanism would be preferable. He indicated his reluctance to give money to fund something where there would be no results.

Reed Tacey, Oak Harbor, a licensed septic installer in Skagit County, stated that there has been technology developed to test these systems, and that routine maintenance is vital to the proper operation of such systems. He stated that the 4-1/2 cents on every gallon will come back to the property owner in the long run. Mr. Tacey indicated that if a proper maintenance plan is followed, it will be not be necessary to pump the septic tank as often. He spoke to the need to pay for the education of everyone, as the neighbor's failing septic system could impact drinking water of the neighborhood.

Les Eldridge, owns Evergreen Sanitation Corporation, stated that to make a small group of people in Skagit County the tax collectors for this project is a misalignment. He suggested that there are other ways to collect the fees rather than through the pumping of septic tanks. He stated that education is the key and that he does not want to see the pumping industry be the "bad guy." He expressed the need to form a committee and figure out how to do this economically or effectively without putting the burden on one segment of the population.

Ed Stanton, Big Lake, an operation and maintenance certified technician for aerobic systems, expressed his concern about the design and installer certification. He stated that he is certified by the manufacturer not the County. He spoke to the unfunded mandates passed to the County by the State.

Colonel Betz, attorney in Mount Vernon since 1973, stated that he agreed with many of the things previously said, and added that clean water benefits all citizens. He indicated that singling out one group of law-abiding citizens is creating a level of government that is not needed. He stated that there are methods to address non-compliance. He implored the Board not to add another layer of government and taxes. He stated that everyone should pay or the County should stop allowing septic tanks.

Bill Joy, 40181 Snowbird Lane, Birdsvew, agreed with Colonel Betz's comments. He stated that the assumption is that the septic users create this problem, but that sewer districts also cause problems. He stated that the County can do a better job of approving perks for septic tank installations on perks. He stated that he is strongly proposed to the fees as proposed.

There being no further public comment forthcoming, Commissioner Wolden moved to close the public hearing, leave written testimony upon until 4:30 p.m. Friday, February 5. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. The public hearing was closed.

The Board took no action at this time.

3. Public Hearing – Consideration of Changes in the Health Department Fee Schedule.

Due to time restraints, Peter Browning, Director, suggested that this public hearing be continued until the next meeting of the Board of Health.

Commissioner Hart moved to continue the public hearing on the consideration of changes in the Health Department fee schedule until March 3, 1999, at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion, and it passed with a unanimous vote.

4. Miscellaneous.

There were no miscellaneous items for discussion.

PARKS PROJECTS UPDATE.

Pete Meyer, Operations Manager, reviewed an analysis of the utilization of jail inmate labor and a five-year summary of jail inmate labor hours by work area. The Board indicated the need to contact District Court to obtain more inmates for these crews.

Jon Aarstad, Director, briefly discussed Ann Wolford Park, and the possible commitment from the Forest Service/River Network.

Mr. Aarstad next discussed the possibility of a Project Manager pursuant to a job description recently developed. Mr. Aarstad indicated that to accomplish this would be an additional cost of \$58,000 for salary and benefits. The Board indicated that they are supportive of this position depending on job the developed job description, which Mr. Aarstad indicated he would distribute to the Board shortly.

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Mr. Aarstad next discussed a proposed 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament to be held in the Blade Lot during the Tulip Festival. He stated that the proceed would go to a dedicated fund with the recommendation for expenditure for capital items. Mr. Aarstad presented a Resolution to the Board for their consideration in this regard. Commissioner Wolden moved to approve the resolution authorizing the County to Co-Sponsor a Tulip Festival Event and to establish a Dedicated Account for Funds. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous vote. **(Resolution No. 17303)**

Mr. Aarstad reviewed a status report regarding the proposed water system for the area near the Presentin Park. He also discussed a traffic and engineer study and design for an entry road. He informed the Board that it is hoped that permits will be issued shortly after March 1

Mr. Aarstad distributed to the Board a copy of a Parks and Recreation department Project Status Report as of February 2, 1999

A brief discussion ensued on the Northern State Recreation Area.

Mr. Aarstad advised that Board regarding the Frailey Mountain Firearms Range that a final determination of the surveying process with DNR has to be completed and that Skagit County will contract with Skagit Surveyors in this reard..

The proposed Fairgrounds Restrooms were discussed.

MISCELLANEOUS.

1. Commissioner Wolden spoke to the need to reconvene to reconsider action taken earlier by the Board regarding Planning Department items consisting of the definition of a legal lot of record and the adoption of Ordinance No. 17296 clarifying the definitions of "Agriculture Land" and "Ongoing Agriculture" in Chapter 14.06 Critical Areas Ordinance. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Hart moved to reconvene for a Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners on Wednesday, February 3, 1999, at 11:30 a.m. to consider the items as outlined by Commissioner Wolden. Commissioners Hart and Wolden voted for the motion, and Commissioner Anderson voted "nay." The motion passed.
2. Public Works Department Staff presented the Board with an Emergency Resolution regarding the installation of a rock deflector in the Skagit River at approximately Milepost 0.5 on the Cape Horn Road, to protect the road and private properties. Commissioner Wolden moved to approve the Emergency Resolution as presented. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. 17304)**

FACILITIES PROJECTS UPDATE.

Roger Howard, Facilities Director, reviewed the following facilities projects with the Board:

1. Mr. Howard indicated that he has met with Jim Lair of Skagit Transit regarding the final change order that will close out the SKAT project. He advised that there would be a net credit to the project. He detailed the specifics of these credits. He advised the Board that the Highway 99 improvement is primarily finished except for hydroseeding and striping.
2. He next discussed problems with the County's Underground Fuel Storage Tanks. He stated that one of the tanks 12,000-gallon fuel tanks floated to the surface, that that the responsibility for this situation has not yet been determined. The contractor has agreed to repair the floating tank, and resolve the blame issue later. Mr. Howard indicated that the Mount Vernon storage tank site

should be operational by Wednesday or Thursday of next week, while the concrete site should be completed by the end of next week.

3. Mr. Howard reviewed the recent move of the Assessor's Office to new quarters in the Administration Building.
4. Mr. Howard briefly commented on the progress being made at the former Community Action Agency facility, which will become the new quarters for the Juvenile Probation Department.
5. A brief discussion ensued regarding Law Library security.
6. Mr. Howard discussed with the Board concern about the Mental Health Facility and an air quality issue in the attic.
7. Mr. Howard presented to the Board a Quit Claim Deed from W. John Buchanan and Rosemarie Buchanan relative to an Easement to Old Highway 99 to allow for a turn lane. Mr. Howard stated that this allows Mr. Buchanan to have two driveways on to County Shop Lane, west of the gate. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Wolden moved to approve the aforementioned Quit Claim Deed/Easement as described by Mr. Howard. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion, and it passed with a unanimous vote. **(Deed No. 0456)**

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT QUARTERLY REPORT.

JoAnn Angevine, Director, reviewed the activities of the Human Services Department.

Ms. Angevine first discussed the area of Developmental Disabilities. She noted that it is anticipated that there will be a 16% increase in funding from the governor's budget. She stated that there is a continuing increase in children's caseloads. She discussed early childhood development education and the utilization of services from SPARC. She commented on the success of day training getting people out and about rather than isolated in residential settings.

She next discussed Substance Abuse, and the potential increase in the budget suggested by the Governor of 3-10%. Ms. Angevine commented on the need for additional funds to go to detoxification programs. Further, mentally ill chemically addicted individuals need specialized programs. She commended the Skagit Recovery Center for their cooperation and assistance. Ms. Angevine stated the East county is grossly underserved. She discussed various programs including High Intensity Drug Trafficking Program, Mount Vernon Policy Department, Mount Vernon High School, and others.

She briefly reviewed the extreme success of the Drug Court, and noted that almost \$400,000 has been received from the Federal government to support treatment and alleviate court costs.

Ms. Angevine discussed the status of mental health in the County, including not enough case management caused simply by too many cases. She stated that the governor's budget includes a reduction of 2% for mental health.

She discussed the recent opening of a two-bed children's crisis foster home in Skagit County, together with the possibility of developing a mental health program involving the Skagit County Jail. Ms. Angevine commented briefly on mental health hearings.

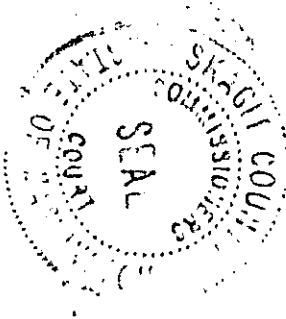
PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION TO STEVE BLAIR FOR 21 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE SKAGIT COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

The Board presented a Certificate of Commendation to Steve Blair for 21 years of service to the Skagit county Public Works Department, and thanked Mr. Blair for his service to the public.

ADJOURNMENT.

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

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



Ted W Anderson

Ted W. Anderson, Chairman

Harvey Wolden

Harvey Wolden, Commissioner

Robert Hart

Robert Hart, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Patti J. Chambers

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