

**SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 1999**

	7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting.
	8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Work Session – Operations Division/Road Supervisors.
<b>T</b>	9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Public Works Department – Chal Martin, Director 1) Submittal: 1998 Bridge Report. 2) Miscellaneous.
	10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Planning and Permit Center – Tom Karsh, Director. 1) Discussion and Possible Adoption of Resolution Suspending Review of 1998 Comprehensive Plan Amendment Requests as Described in Resolution No. 17395 and 1997 Comprehensive Plan Amendment Requests Remanded Through Ordinance No. 17294. 2) Miscellaneous.
<b>T</b>	11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Presentation – Best Self and National Association of Counties 1999 Multi-Cultural Diversity Award.
	1:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	Presentation by Puget Sound Energy re. Year 2000 Compliance.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, August 10, 1999 with Chairman Ted Anderson and Commissioners Robert Hart and Harvey Wolden present.

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

Chal Martin, Director, and Steve Flude, Assistant Director, County Engineer, Public Works Department, presented the 1998 Bridge Report. Barbara Hathaway, Bridge Inspector, Public Works Department, was also present.

Mr. Flude reported that the County can be proud that staff does an excellent job.

There are 101 bridges of various types in the County, including two timber bridges and a boat dock. In 1998, maintenance on County bridges totaled a little over \$170,000. In 1999, a little over \$121,000 was spent on bridges. It is an extensive program. One of the greatest highlights of 1998 is the fact that a bridge was added to the County's inventory.

Mr. Flude highlighted future plans relative to County bridges and stated that one of the goals is to update the load rating in year 2000 to determine which bridges need work.

Commissioner Wolden said that the report was very good. Ms. Hathaway has done an in-depth inspection of the bridges in the County.

Mr. Martin also pointed out that Ms. Hathaway has an extensive database that is all-inclusive relative to the bridges.

Chairman Anderson talked about the replacement of timbers on one of the bridges. He stated that he was very impressed with the way the County crew dealt with the replacement of timbers.

Ms. Hathaway advised that the State crew trained the County crew on replacement of timbers. There are five or six more timbers that need to be replaced. It will be a maintenance problem for years to come. She added that she and

Andy Shaw looked for all available opportunities to get County crews trained and up to speed on all the bridge maintenance procedures.

The Commissioners expressed their approval of the Bridge Report, stating that it was very well done.

Chairman Anderson commented that the Henry Thompson Bridge in Concrete has received a million and a half-dollar grant and is going to be repaired and put back into top condition. Commissioner Wolden added that it is one of the longer arched bridges in the State.

Commissioner Hart asked about the emergency repairs made on the boat dock at Sinclair Island.

Ms. Hathaway explained that there are several components to the facility at Sinclair Island. About ten years ago, the timber truss walkway from the dock was replaced and is in good shape. The float was purchased through State Surplus about fifteen years ago, when some State Surplus docks were purchased from the State parks system. They are concrete, foam filled docks. The State is not using this type of dock any more as they get water logged, etc. The docks have been patched and patched over the years. What is needed is a new system, like the one State Parks is now using. The pilings on the west and south wall need to be replaced. Several options have been discussed and the most appropriate option is expensive. It would be better to do long term planning as it would probably be more cost effective to find a permanent fix.

Mr. Martin explained further that the dock is unprotected on the southwest part of the island where the prevailing winds usually hit. It is clear that something has to be done, but it has not yet been analyzed to determine what that should be.

The Commissioners questioned Mr. Martin and Ms. Hathaway about what the potential repair costs would be.

Ms. Hathaway suggested that it would probably cost around a quarter of a million dollars.

Commissioner Hart felt that it was a lot of money for a low traffic area.

Ms. Hathaway said they might need some direction to determine whether this needs to be a public facility any longer. Three carriers bring people to the island, although there is no public property for tourists to use.

#### 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, April 5, 1999, the Board, by a majority vote, did approve for payment those vouchers included in the above mentioned list and further described as follows: Skagit County Transmittal Junior District Payroll from Payroll Suspense Fund 699 to the Payroll Warrant Clearing Fund 695, payroll warrants numbered 951742 through 951798 in the total of \$61,497.51 and Skagit County Payroll Transmittal from Payroll Suspense Fund 699 to the Payroll Warrant Clearing Fund 695 in the total of \$888,221.31. (P-29-99) (P-30-99). Also, Warrants 50405 through 50579 in the amount of \$602,519.00 and Warrants 50580 through 50580 in the amount of \$24,180.00. (C-58-99 and C-59-99)

PLANNING AND PERMIT CENTER – Tom Karsh, Director

- 1) Discussion and Possible Adoption of Resolution Suspending Review of 1998 Comprehensive Plan Amendment Requests as Described in Resolution No. 17395 and 1997 Comprehensive Plan Amendment Requests Remanded Through Ordinance No. 17294.

Tom Karsh, Director, Planning and Permit Center, explained to the Board that requests from private property owners for changes in the Comprehensive Plan would be put on hold to give Planning time to complete a number of tasks. Some of those tasks would include some of the changes that resulted from the input of the GMA auditors and the Citizen Advisory Committee. This resolution would suspend the Planning Commission from reviewing any changes to the Comp Plan specifically requested by private property owners.

Chairman Anderson asked if those applications would be processed once the Development Code is finalized, or would the property owners have to go through the application process again?

Mr. Karsh advised that they would be going back before the Growth Hearings Board for many of those requests that were considered to be part of the 1997 Comp Plan amendments. Those requests, as well a new group of requests that came in this year as part of the 1998 applications, are being held and would be put on hold.

John Moffat said it would be his understanding that these applications would go forward after the amendments to the Comp Plan are completed.

Mr. Karsh added, they would probably need to notify all the applicants and ask them if they wish to go forward under the new criteria

Commissioner Wolden stated, either way, the County is not going to be charging again. *These applications are just on hold.*

Commissioner Hart agreed that they are on hold, but if they wish to withdraw because of a generic change in the Comp Plan, *that would be their decision.*

Mr. Karsh advised the Commissioners that they would receive packets on this the next day. They hope to complete the amendments by *late winter or early spring of next year.*

Commissioner Wolden expressed a great deal of concern about the completion of the Development Code. Many people need the Code so they can move forward. The Development Code needs to be completed and put into place.

Mr. Karsh advised that *this matter will be on the Commissioners' agenda next Tuesday.*

Commissioner Anderson said this would not be such a bad thing in terms of the agreement not to process the applications until the Development Code is complete. He did express concern about the potential appeals by Friends of Skagit County afterwards.

John Moffat noted that the Board acted on the 1997 Comp Plan amendments. Thirty-one of those were appealed at the Hearings Board by the Friends of Skagit County. Twelve of those will go forward at a hearing the day after tomorrow. He pointed out the immense amount of staff time that goes into the appeals.

Mr. Karsh explained that it is the individual property requests that are being postponed, and not requests that come to the Board directly relating to GMA complaints. They need to go forward with convening the Citizen Advisory Committee.

After further discussion, the Commissioners emphasized the importance of getting the Development Code done and the Comp Plan amendments in place.

Mr. Karsh stated that next week the Commissioners will put into place a number of interim regulations that would allow some development before completion of the final regulations.

Commissioner Hart motioned to approve adoption of a Resolution Suspending Review of 1998 Comprehensive Plan Amendment Requests as Described in Resolution No. 17395 and 1997 Comprehensive Plan Amendment Requests Remanded Through Ordinance No. 17294. Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **Resolution No. 17528.**

#### **Miscellaneous**

- 1) Mr. Karsh reported that on August 2 the Board passed Resolution No. 17523, which was a resolution that removed the UGA designation for Big Lake from UGA to a Rural Village. Because that action was an interim ordinance, a public hearing is required within 60 days. A Public Hearing will be held on September 13 at 5:00 p.m.
- 2) Mr. Karsh reported that under the current regulations, to place a hospital somewhere in the County would require a Special Use Permit to a Public Use. It would have to go through the public process.
- 3) Corey Schmidt, Assistant Director, Planning and Permit Center, provided an update to the Board on the Swinomish plan review and inspection process for building permits. Per a legal opinion from John Moffat's office, and as of March 19, the County has backed out of the Shelter Bay community, recognizing the tribe's authority. Building permits are still being issued on fee simple land within the Shelter Bay community, which consists of about 44 lots. The tribe is exercising stop work notices on fee simple land. It has been suggested that permit fees should be refunded for the past twenty years in Shelter Bay.

Discussion followed, with Chairman Anderson expressing concern about the water service being provided.

Mr. Karsh stated that they would not receive their building permits without demonstrating that they have water. Mr. Schmidt added, they always have to show they have septic and water.

Commissioner Hart mentioned that he had received several telephone calls about this and wondered if there had been a response to them.

Mr. Schmidt said he would be calling the Swinomish Tribal Office. In addition, he felt that the Shelter Bay community should receive a clarifying memo from the Skagit County Planning and Permit Center stating that their decision was the result of a legal opinion.

- 4) Mr. Schmidt advised that the Disaster Recovery Grant Program is not complete. Monies are still being received and spent. There was some discussion about the grant program and the options relative to the property.

#### **PRESENTATION – BEST SELF AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES 1999 MULTI-CULTURAL DIVERSITY AWARD.**

Chairman Ted Anderson reported that County Administrator, Mike Woodmansee, submitted an application for the Multi-cultural Diversity Award with the National Association of Counties. Out of the entire United States, Skagit County received that award, which Chairman Anderson received on behalf of the County at the national meeting. Dr. William Parent came from the Innovations of American Government Program at Harvard and presented the award.

Commissioner Anderson presented the award to Tawni Helms, Program Coordinator, and Mike Woodmansee, congratulating them and stating that he would like all of Skagit County to be aware of Ms. Helms' and Mr. Woodmansee's work with Best Self.

Mr. Woodmansee thanked the Commissioners for their support of the Best Self Program, stating that the Commissioners have enabled Best Self to be as effective as any county in the State when it comes to collaborating on behalf of kids. He added that he feels there is no other instance in his life when he has been able to be more effective than Best Self. The Commissioners have empowered them to do their best.

There are 1,700 children, from Marblemount to Anacortes, enrolled in Best Self. They are involved in numerous activities throughout the County. The Mount Vernon site alone uses SKAT for more than 100 trips through the summer.

Mr. Woodmansee introduced one of the site coordinators from Mount Vernon to the Board. He emphasized that Best Self is not only enriching and fun for many kids, it is the greatest experience of their lives. That can't be underestimated. He read a letter from a parent congratulating everyone who makes the program work.

Mr. Woodmansee added that the award is the result of the migrant program that began last summer with about 300 migrant kids. Conway has found the program so successful that they wrote a grant to extend the program until school begins. The model for the program will be an extension of Best Self.

Academic achievements are a target of Best Self, and a study is being done where the academic results of Best Self will be measured. Also, the 1996 video about the program is being updated. When the video is ready, perhaps it can be televised so the community can be informed about the program.

Commissioner Wolden added that he is very excited about the program and has been from the beginning. The children are recipients of good things.

Mr. Woodmansee talked about the new Best Self program in Yakima, which has been modeled after the Skagit County program. They think it is the best thing that ever happened in Yakima County.

Ms. Helms thanked the Commissioners for their support of the Best Self Program, stating that she "has the best job in the County and is lucky to work with such wonderful people". She also thanked the community for their generosity, not just monetarily, but in other ways too.

Commissioner Hart offered his congratulations and commented on the staff dedication. "The main thing is the difference that is being made in our children."

Mr. Woodmansee reported that he and Ms. Helms accepted the Golden Tennis Shoe Award three weeks ago on behalf of the County and the Commissioners. The Golden Tennis Shoe Award was established by Senator Patty Murray to call attention to outstanding programs in the state. This, combined with the NACO award, shows that the program is on the right track and far from complete.

#### **PRESENTATION BY PUGET SOUND ENERGY RE. YEAR 2000 COMPLIANCE**

The Board met with representatives of Puget Sound Energy about Year 2000 compliance. There was an informal discussion with the Commissioners regarding Y2K issues.

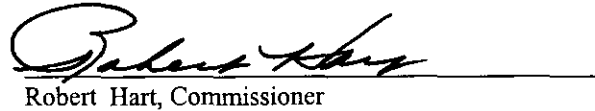
ADJOURNMENT

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

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON

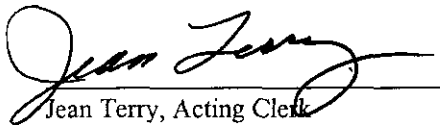
  
Ted W. Anderson, Chairman

  
Harvey Wolden, Commissioner

  
Robert Hart, Commissioner



ATTEST:

  
Jean Terry, Acting Clerk