

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Monday, November 29, 1999**

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	CONSENT AGENDA. MISCELLANEOUS.
*T 11:00 a.m. - Noon	Public Hearing – To Consider Testimony re: the authorization for Skagit County to increase property tax revenues in excess of increases in the value of state assessed property, new construction and improvements to property for the 2000 budget year.
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Emergency Management Council Meeting (Consolidated Communications Center, Dr. Ron Richeson EMS Training Room, 2911 E. College Way, Mount Vernon).
4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Public Transportation Area Board Meeting (Consolidated Communications Center, Dr. Ron Richeson EMS Training Room, 2911 E. College Way, Mount Vernon).

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, November 29, 1999, with Commissioners Ted W. Anderson, Harvey Wolden and Robert Hart present.

CONSENT AGENDA.

Commissioner Wolden moved to approve the Consent Agenda for Monday, November 29, 1999, items 1-15. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion, which carried with a unanimous vote.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE:

1. Record of the Proceedings for Monday, November 22, 1999.
2. Record of the Proceedings for Tuesday, November 23, 1999.

SENIOR SERVICES:

3. Vendor Services Agreement with Cintas Corporation for textile rental service at various Senior Centers at prices ranging from \$9 to \$17.50. **(Contract No. 04665)**
4. Vendor Services Agreement with Acoustic Specialties to install 561 square feet of suspended acoustical ceiling tiles for a not-to-exceed amount of \$1,029.05. **(Contract no. 04666)**

PERSONNEL:

5. Addendum No. 1 to Personal Services Agreement with Bostec, Inc., extending the contract for an additional two years, September 1, 1999 to August 31, 2001, for drug and alcohol testing specimen collection. All other terms of the contract remain the same. **(Contract No. 03653)**

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YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES:

6. Personal Services Agreement with Rosemary MacGregor, RN, for individual therapy, family therapy, group therapy, case consultation, education classes and travel. Compensation rates range from \$50 to \$110 for an initial assessment. The contract begins August 1, 1999 and will continue until terminated. **(Contract No. 04667)**
7. Personal Services Agreement with Lynn Swiatkowski, MSW, to provide individual therapy, family therapy, group therapy, case consultation, education classes and travel. Compensation ranges from \$20 to \$60 for individual therapy with written report. The contract begins November 1, 1999 and will continue until terminated. **(Contract No. 04668)**

PARKS & RECREATION:

8. Agreement with the State Department of Corrections to provide inmate crews to do general labor including brush clearing, trail making, litter clean-up, mowing, weeding, sweeping, etc. The contract runs from July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2001. Compensation to the State will be at a rate of \$1.10 per hour per inmate with vehicle operating costs reimbursed at the prevailing state rate, currently \$.310 per mile. **(Contract No. 04669)**
9. Cooperation/Collection Agreement with the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission for the Northwest Snowmobile Trail Grooming Program and snow removal activities. The total compensation for all projects is \$1,600. **(Contract No. 04670)**

HUMAN SERVICES:

10. Interlocal Agreement with the Conway School District to allow parenting programs to be held utilizing School District facilities. The program is funded by DSHS – Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse with Federal funds for Substance Abuse Prevention projects. The Agreement begins July 1, 1999 and ends June 10, 2001 and is in the maximum amount of \$3,500. **(Contract No. 04671)**

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:

11. Resolution Establishing County Road Project No. 97000-3, Baker Lake Road. **(Resolution No. 17662)**
12. Resolution Establishing County Road Project No. 96800-2, Dalles Road. **(Resolution No. 17663)**
13. Resolution Establishing County Road Project No. 08000-5, Concrete Sauk Valley Road at Aldon Creek (Mile Post 8.7). **(Resolution No. 17664)**
14. Resolution Establishing County Road Project No. 08000-4, Concrete Sauk Valley Road (Mile Post 12.2). **(Resolution No. 17665)**
15. Resolution Calling for Public Hearing to Consider Formation of Skagit County Lake Management District No. 2 for Lake McMurray. The public hearing will be held on December 20, 1999, at 11:00 a.m. **(Resolution No. 17666)**

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.

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As of this date, November 22, 1999, 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 57723 through 58043 from Clearing Fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$910,597.14 (Transmittal No. C-86-99);

Warrants numbered 58044 through 58574 from Clearing Fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$843,513.71 (Transmittal No. C-87-99);

Payroll warrants numbered 952243 through 952331 in the total dollar amount of \$80,254.63 (Transmittal No. P-43-99); and

Payroll warrants numbered 43681 through 44437 in the total dollar amount of \$754,714.99 (Transmittal No. P-44-99).

2. Staff presented an Agreement with the State Department of Information Services regarding the provision of Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) equipment and software at no cost to the County. Commissioner Wolden moved to approve the Agreement as presented by Staff and Commissioner Hart seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. **(Contract No. 04672)**
3. Staff presented a call for public hearing regarding the application of the Skagit County Community Action Agency for Community Development Block Grant funding. The public hearing will be held on December 13, 1999, at 11:30 a.m. Commissioner Wolden moved to approve the Resolution as presented by Staff, and Commissioner Hart seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. **(Resolution No. 17667)**
4. Staff presented a Resolution Declaring County Property Surplus, such property being real property located at 1202 South Second Street, Mount Vernon, Lots-1-4, Block 2, Southern Addition to Mount Vernon, and commonly known as the Search and Rescue Building. Commissioner Wolden motioned to approve the Resolution as presented by Staff. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous vote. **(Resolution No. 17668)**

PUBLIC HEARING – TO CONSIDER TESTIMONY RE: THE AUTHORIZATION FOR SKAGIT COUNTY TO INCREASE PROPERTY TAX REVENUES IN EXCESS OF INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF STATE ASSESSED PROPERTY, NEW CONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENTS TO PROPERTY FOR THE 2000 BUDGET YEAR.

Alicia Huschka, Budget Director, spoke regarding the need to authorize three levies for the 2000 Budget Year, consisting of the General Levy, Road Levy, and the Emergency Medical Services Levy. She explained that the proposal before the Board today contained a 0% increase over the 1999 allowable tax levy for the general levy, and would include new construction and any increase in the value of state assessed property. For the Road Levy, it was also suggested that the Board approve a 0% increase over the 1999 allowable tax levy, and would not include new construction or any increase in the state assessed value. Ms. Huschka stated that the Emergency Services Levy should also be at a 0% increase over the 1999 allowable tax levy with no provision for new construction or increase in state assessed value.

She reviewed a chart showing the levies of the General Skagit County levy since 1992.

Ms. Huschka stated that the total 2000 general property tax levy, including new construction, is estimated to be approximately \$12,350,000. She explained that 98% of this amount goes to the County's general fund, with the balance going to the Veterans' Relief Fund and the Mental Health Fund.

She briefly reviewed the Road levy, noting that the total 2000 county road property tax levy would be approximately \$7,350,000. In this regard she reviewed a chart showing the history of the road fund levy since 1992.

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Ms. Huschka reviewed the proposed Emergency Medical Services Levy, stating that the total 2000 Emergency Medical Services property tax levy is set for approximately \$1,708,246, and does not include new construction or increase in the value of state-assessed property.

Ms. Huschka reviewed the comparable levies being proposed by the County's cities, which included Anacortes not taking an increase, Mount Vernon and Sedro Woolley taking a 3% increase over 1999, and Burlington still working on their figures.

Commissioner Wolden asked about small taxing districts and what their increases would be. He reiterated that such districts are required by law to hold public hearings and obtain input from the citizens in their districts. He clarified that the Board of County Commissioners does not set the levy rates for the small taxing districts. Ms. Huschka confirmed that the County does request this information from the small taxing districts.

Upon a question from the audience, Commissioner Hart explained how the levy rate is set and that new construction would be taxed at the rate set by the Board.

Chairman Anderson opened the public hearing for testimony.

Gilbert Walden, 2500 Butler Creek Road, stated that he does not need any more taxes raised, noting the difficulties of paying additional taxes when on a fixed income. He commented on the need to charge those riding SKAT buses rather than taxing those people who never ride the buses.

Ralph Clemons, PO Box 202, Lyman, stated that he was pleased that the County proposal is to only take 100%, however, he recently had a property re-valuation that increased the valuation of his land by \$77,000. He stated that the 100% levy rate does not offer any protection to the individual for increased valuation, and that the typical landowner is at the mercy of the Assessor. He commented that the property tax levy system is as complicated as the Internal Revenue Code, and is not understood by anyone. He again stated that he was pleased the Board pulled the levy rate back to 100%, but that testimony would show that new construction value has more than doubled over last year.

Randy Good, 25512 Minkler Road, Sedro Woolley, commented on the misuse of public road funds for the purpose of improving the Cascade Trail

Joe Morgan, 10756 District Line Road, Burlington, asked when did Republications change to a policy of tax and spend? He gave an example of trying to evict tenants and having to pay the Sheriff's Office \$50 to process a court order.

Tom Solberg, 19019 Minnie Road, Burlington, stated that he wanted "no new taxes," whether it is for clean water or anything else. He stated that he believed the County has enough revenue and just needs to spend it more wisely. He stated that if the property taxes could be increased and directed to bring in money managers and efficiency experts, he would be all for it. He reiterated that there is plenty of money in surplus. He commented on the "bloated" recreational program, and the need to perform essential things first.

John Sandel, 8357 Ershig Road, Bow, commented that the school districts receive about 67% of the revenue from property taxes, while the County receives about 17%. He further commented that when the assessment goes up, the valuation goes up, and individuals pay more taxes. He stated that he does not like to pay fees in the Permit Center. He spoke regarding conflicts of interest with people working for the Burlington School District while their relatives are on the School Board.

Willard A. Wallace, Sedro Woolley, spoke regarding the difficulties of someone on a fixed income paying increased property taxes.

Ken Slater, 1740 Milltown Road, stated that he is against any tax increase of any kind. He spoke regarding the effects of I-695 in that taxes cannot be raised without a vote of the people. He indicated that there has been a 60%

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raise in taxes since 1992. He commented that government wastes tax money every single day. Mr. Slater discussed that under the Growth Management Act the County has given away the best property around the cities to the cities, so that the cities will reap the sales tax benefits on such property.

Betty Jo Smith, 30175 Walberg Road, stated that she is against any new taxes. She spoke to the importance of family and the need for stay-at-home mothers.

Esther Finzel, Sedro Woolley, indicated that she voted for I-695 as a tax revolt. She discussed the particulars of the increases to her property. She stated that no one understands the assessment rate, but that they do understand when the money comes out of their pockets. She stated that she is against real estate taxes, and that a change needs to come or people will be taxed out of their homes.

Mr. Solberg commented on the need to include the cities in the agriculture buffer program, clean water program and salmon recovery programs.

Tony Splane, Sapp Road, Sedro Woolley, indicated that he is definitely against any property tax increases. He commented that increased property taxes are especially difficult for senior citizens.

There being no further public testimony forthcoming, Commissioner Wolden moved to close the public hearing. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous vote. The public hearing was closed.

Chairman Anderson spoke regarding the difficulty of fixed income individuals in paying property taxes. He commented that the State needs to get out of the property tax business. He further noted the need for citizens to pay special attention to their special taxing districts and to participate in the public hearing process at that level.

Commissioner Hart advised those in attendance that the public hearing on Skagit County's 2000 Budget is scheduled for next Monday, December 6, at 9:30 a.m.

A discussion ensued on some of the specifics of the 2000 Budget.

Commissioner Hart moved to authorize no increase in the regular property tax levy, other than any amount resulting from the addition of new construction and improvements to property and any increase in the value of state-assessed property, for a total 2000 general property tax levy of approximately \$12,350,000. Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion, which carried with a unanimous vote. **(Resolution No. 17669)**

Commissioner Hart moved to authorize the property tax limit factor for the regular levy for calendar year 2000 at 106% of the highest amount of regular property taxes that could have been lawfully levied in this taxing district in any year since 1985. Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. 17670)**

Commissioner Hart moved to authorize the limit factor for the county road levy for the calendar year 2000 at 106% of the highest amount of regular property taxes that could have been lawfully levied in this taxing district in any year since 1985. Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion, and it passed with a unanimous vote. **(Resolution No. 17671)**

Commissioner Hart moved to authorize no increase in the County Road property tax levy, including no amount resulting from the addition of new construction and improvements to property and any increase in the value of state-assessed property for a total county road property tax levy of approximately \$7,350,000. Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous vote. **(Resolution No. 17672)**

Commissioner Hart moved to authorize no increase in the Emergency Medical Services property tax levy, including no amount resulting from the addition of new construction and improvements to property and any increase in the value of state-assessed property for a total 2000 Emergency medical Services property tax levy of approximately \$1,708,246. Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. 17673)**

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Commissioner Hart moved to authorize the limit factor for the Emergency Medical Service levy for calendar year 2000 at 106% of the highest amount of regular property taxes that could have lawfully levied in this taxing district in any year since 1985. **(Resolution No. 17674)**

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, Chairman

Harvey Wolden, Commissioner

Robert Hart, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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