

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Tuesday, January 18, 2000**

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. – 9:30 a.m.	Twenty-First Century Learning Grant Presentation (Hearing Room "C").
9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	CONSENT AGENDA. MISCELLANEOUS.
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Public Hearing – To Consider Testimony regarding 1999 Supplemental Budget (Debt Service Fund #201, \$35,000).
Noon – 1:00 p.m.	Brown Bag Luncheon – Fish Wheel Presentation (Sauk Conference Room, 1111 Cleveland, Mount Vernon).
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Open House – Mount Vernon Local Census Office (1735 Cedardale Road, E-100, Mount Vernon).

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 18, 2000, with Commissioners Robert Hart and Ted W. Anderson present. Chairman Harvey Wolden's absence was excused.

TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY LEARNING GRANT PRESENTATION.

The Board heard opening remarks regarding the County and School Districts receipt of a Twenty-first Century Learning Grant amounting to \$6,800,000.

CONSENT AGENDA.

Commissioner Hart moved to approve the Consent Agenda for Tuesday, January 18, 2000, items 1-16. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, but objected to language contained in the Resolution regarding the former Northern State Hospital property, item No. 3. He indicated that the vote that was taken on this matter was not reflected in the Resolution. He stated that the vote was simply to support the project, not that the project would be reviewed by the Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) Advisory Committee pursuant to Resolution No. 12556.

Commissioner Hart stated that the Resolution merely reflects the policy that all projects must go through Advisory Committee review. He explained that the committee is simply an Advisory Committee, and that the Board of Commissioners can decide which projects will go forward. The Advisory Committee forwards a recommendation and does not make the final decision.

Commissioner Anderson stated that the Board should support the project for \$300,000 for ten years as was unanimously voted, stating that there is no need to send this project back to the REET Committee.

Chairman Wolden expressed the need to adhere to the policies set forth in Resolution No. 12556, which subjects every project to review by the REET Committee. He spoke briefly on the need to allow for varying dollar amounts per year over the ten-year period, stating that grants received may greatly enhance the amount the County has committed to.

Commissioner Anderson indicated that he did not have a problem with the dollar amount varying every year.

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Chairman Wolden noted that after the REET Committee makes its recommendation, the Board of County Commissioners maintains oversight and final authority in the decision-making process.

Commissioner Anderson argued that there was a unanimous vote by the Board, and now the Resolution reflects that the Board is backing off, and is sending this through a committee. He urged the other two commissioners to go forward with the motion as stated in the December 7th meeting.

Commissioner Hart stated that when the real estate excise tax was imposed, the real estate and building industries were given the opportunity to participate in a review of the proposed projects. He stated that there is no question that the Board has committed to funding this project. He expressed the need to find additional funding through bonding or grants so that major infrastructure can be completed quickly. He reiterated that the program from the beginning was designed to allow the real estate and building industries to participate.

Skye Richendrfer, Mayor of Mount Vernon, upon query from Commissioner Anderson, indicated that the City of Mount Vernon does not have a REET Committee or follow the same procedures as the County. He commented that this sounds like a wonderful project, and that the County REET Committee has been put in place to advise the Board on decisions regarding the scarce resources that are available. He reviewed the members of the REET Committee, and the great traditions of projects that have been funded around the County in the past. He encouraged the Board to follow the appropriate review process as has always been done in the past regarding these types of projects.

Sharon Dillon, Mayor of Sedro Woolley, also indicated that the City of Sedro Woolley does not have a REET Committee to advise on real estate excise tax expenditures. She commented that the spirit of the motion was made with no strings attached, and she hoped that the Board would honor that motion and reword the Resolution.

Louie Requa, Northern State Recreation Task Force Chairman, commented that there was no intent to avoid the REET Committee, and that he would have made a presentation to such committee had he been instructed to do so. He stated that the Task Force was instructed to go through Skagit County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, and to the Board of Commissioners.

Chairman Wolden stated that other REET projects have always come forward to the Board in presentations, and that this project is no different from other projects and decisions that have been made. He noted that projects that the Board has submitted to the REET Committee have been reviewed and have never been turned down. He stated that the oversight was in Commissioner Hart not including the REET Committee's review in his original motion. Chairman Wolden indicated that this is a great project, and it is a shame to taint the issue of such a project by a technicality. He reiterated that the REET Committee has honored all of the Board's commitments in the past.

Commissioner Anderson asked what is going to change if the Resolution is changed to reflect the actual vote? He again stated that the Board voted 3-0 to approve the project, and if it goes before the REET Committee nothing will change. He said that this has developed into a test of wills, that he had instructed Staff on what the Resolution should say, that there has been lots of lobbying going on, and that the Mayor of Mount Vernon is welcome to his opinion. He reiterated that the vote was 3-0, and that the wording of the motion did not reflect a review by the REET Committee. He stated that all that is being debated is process. He noted that the Task Force is eager to move forward with grant applications.

Commissioner Hart again mentioned that the originating resolution established the process in this regard, and it was his intention to allow the building and real estate industries to review projects as promised, and to make advisory suggestions. He noted that the Board when making motions on other items does not quote every RCW, WAC or Skagit County Code Section when making motions. He stated that every project should be subject to the same review to be fair and equitable.

Commissioner Anderson reiterated that the motion should have included a statement making the project subject to review of the REET Committee.

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Mr. Requa noted that he had met with County Administrator Mike Woodmansee and County Budget Director Alicia Huschka, and they had indicated that if the Board voted to send this to the REET Committee, they would convene the REET Committee within 30 days. He asked that his promise be fulfilled, so that grant applications can be prepared as expediently as possible. Chairman Wolden indicated that he would make sure such a meeting was held as soon as possible.

Gloria Rivera, Planner for Sedro Woolley, spoke regarding possible problems in grant writing and selection, noting the need for a firm commitment from the County.

Chairman Wolden stated that there is no reluctance on the Board's part to move forward with this project in an expedient manner, convening the REET Committee as soon as possible.

Upon call for the question, Commissioners Hart and Wolden moved to approve the Consent Agenda for Tuesday, January 18, 2000. Commissioner Anderson voted to approve the Consent Agenda, except for Item No. 3. The Consent Agenda was approved, items 1-16.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE:

1. Record of the Proceedings for Monday, January 10, 2000.
2. Record of the Proceedings for Tuesday, January 11, 2000.
3. Resolution Authorizing Support for the Development of the Northern State Recreational Area. **(Resolution No. 17723)**

PERSONNEL:

4. Resolution Approving Sick Leave Transfer for Jim Jones. **(Resolution No. 17724)**

INFORMATION SERVICES:

5. Out-of-State Travel Request for David Anderson to attend a Windows DNA 2000 Conference in Denver, Colorado, February 26 through March 3, 2000, for a total cost of \$2,822. **(Approved)**

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:

6. Resolution Calling for Bids for One New Latest Model All-Wheel Motor Grader, with the bid opening scheduled for February 15, 2000, at 1:30 p.m. **(Resolution No. 17725)**
7. Supplement No. 2 to Local Agency Agreement for Cook Road Project, ES63000-6, which requests construction authorization in the amount of \$6,554,800 under the funding agreement with the Washington State Department of Transportation. **(Contract No. 03385)**
8. Supplement No. 2 to Local Agency Agreement for Cook Road Project, ES63000-7, which decreases the funding amount for preliminary engineering in the amount of \$30,000, increases funding authorization for right-of-way in the amount of \$35,000, and requests construction authorization in the amount of \$1,475,750 under the funding agreement with the Washington State Department of Transportation. **(Contract No. 04396)**
9. Signature – Letter to Treasurer Judy Menish regarding WSDOT Drainage Utility Fee Payment. **(Approved)**

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10. Professional Services Agreement with Fairbanks Scales, Inc. for the supply and installation of a 40-foot Weigh Scale at the Sauk Transfer Station. The agreement will run for a period of 40 calendar days from the issuance of the Notice to Proceed for the bid amount of \$30,728.39. **(Contract No. 04727)**
11. Resolution and Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Concrete wherein the County will perform a pavement rating and inventory study on the streets and roads of Concrete. The cost of the study to the Town of Concrete will be \$1 (one dollar). **(Resolution No. 17726, Contract No. 04728)**
12. Agreement Regarding Septic System Costs with James H. Mayo, Jr. and Dixie Jo Mayo for the installation of a new septic system to provide for continued use of the remaining property. The County's right-of-way acquisition will damage and eliminate the existing septic system. The cost of the replacement system is \$27,000. **(Contract No. 04729)**

SHERIFF'S OFFICE:

13. Vendor Services Agreement with Cass Construction to provide services consisting of cutting off approximately 14" of a desk at the booking area in the Skagit County Jail, for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$700. The contract commences January 17, 2000, and will continue until terminated. **(Contract No. 04730)**

PARKS & RECREATION:

14. Addendum No. 2 to Personal Services Agreement with Reid-Middleton, Inc. for the Swinomish Channel Boat Launch Renovation Project. The scope of work is increased to include an Exhibit Map to accompany a lease application for an Aquatic Lands Lease from DNR. Compensation will be increased by \$4,000. **(Contract no. 04352)**
15. Addendum No. 2 to Development Agreement with Pacific Recreation Group, Inc. for the Park North Cascade Recreational Vehicle Park. The Addendum simply extends the agreement through December 31, 2000. **(Contract No. 03520)**

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

16. Contract with the Washington State Military Department for the period January 1, 2000 through August 30, 2000, for a total contract amount of \$1,500. The State will provide funds to purchase signs to identify evacuation routes, directing the community to safe harbor. **(Contract No. 04731)**

Commissioner Wolden was absent from this point of the proceedings.

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, January 18, 2000, 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 61530 through 61958 from Clearing Fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$4,154,412.04 (Transmittal No. C-04-00).

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2. Staff presented a Resolution providing a defense to Edward M. Goodman, Dan Slattery, D. Wiesenburg, Dr. Leibrand, and B. Schrader in a lawsuit brought by Jeffrey Lee Pangburn. Commissioner Hart moved to approve the Resolution as presented, and Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. **(Resolution No. 17727)**

3. Staff presented an Amendment to a Community Development Block Grant benefiting the Skagit County Community Action Agency. The amendment would increase the total contract amount by \$122,135, for a total of \$366,405. Commissioner Hart moved to approve the Contract Amendment as presented. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(Contract No. 03790)**

PUBLIC HEARING – TO CONSIDER TESTIMONY REGARDING 1999 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET (DEBT SERVICE FUND #201, \$35,000).

Alicia Huschka, Budget Director, explained that the proposal before the Board today would be to consider increasing the debt service fund by \$35,000 for 1999, for repayments of bonds and loans, revolving loan funds for septic improvements, the family resource center, among other items. She discussed the specifics of the fund and the measures that would be taken in the future to avoid this year-end shortfall.

There being no public testimony forthcoming, Commissioner Anderson moved to close the public hearing. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The public hearing was closed.

Commissioner Anderson moved to approve a Resolution regarding 1999 Supplement Budget for the Debt Service Fund #201 in the amount of \$35,000. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. **(Resolution No. 17728)**

ADJOURNMENT.

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

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Harvey Wolden, Chairman

Robert Hart, Commissioner

Ted W. Anderson, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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