

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Tuesday, May 9, 2000**

	7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	Commissioners' Staff Meeting.
	8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Executive Session – Personnel, Litigation and Land Acquisition.
	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> 1) Introduction of New Staff. 2) Discussion - Accessing Health Coverage. 3) Progress Report on Program for Operation, Monitoring and Maintenance of On-Site Sewage Systems. 4) Dental Van Update. 5) Proposal for Clean-up of Selected Waste Accumulations. 6) Miscellaneous.
*T	10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Parks Projects Update.
	10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Facilities Projects Update.
	11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Presentation - Commendation to Sharon Bumgarner for 30 Years of Service in Skagit County's Emergency Management Department.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, May 9, 2000, with Commissioners Harvey Wolden, Robert Hart, and Ted W. Anderson present.

BOARD OF HEALTH – Peter Browning, Director.

1. Introduction of New Staff.

Peter Browning, Director, Skagit County Health Department, advised the board that since the retirement of one employee, the administrative area in the Health Department has been redesigned to provide better customer service. Three people have been hired in a part-time capacity to assist in staffing. He introduced Luanne Geerdes, Sandra Gerlitz and Dorothy Epps.

2. Discussion – Accessing Health Coverage.

Jennifer Sass, R.N., Public Health Nurse Supervisor, Skagit County Health Department, talked about accessing health care coverage in Skagit County. Living without health coverage is a risky proposition for most people. In spite of the strong economy, the number of families with health insurance has been declining. People are working but are not getting coverage. Also, welfare reform has resulted in many people dropping medical benefits.

Because of this, outreach is being done. Many children live in homes where the families work hard but are unable to get health care coverage or are unable to pay for it. It has been found that it is middle America being effected by this. The good news in the state of Washington is, pregnant women and children up to their 19th birthday who cannot afford health coverage, are usually eligible for coverage at little or no cost.

A Medical Outreach Project got started last fall. The function is to identify and assist people in this community who may be eligible for Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program and the Basic Health Plan. The most

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important message to get across at today's meeting is, if people have questions, they can call 336-3695. It is a message line because outreach workers work out of their homes.

Ms. Sass provided more in-depth information about Medicaid, which offers coverage for many Washington children and coverage for many pregnant women and low-income parents, based on income and resources. If they are not eligible for coverage through Medicaid, they could go into the Basic Health Plan at a modest cost for premium and co-pays.

Ms. Sass then talked about the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for children over the Medicaid income guidelines. CHIP is not an entitlement program and they are first screened for Medicaid eligibility. If children are eligible for CHIP the family pays \$10 per month per child, up to \$30 per month per family. She reviewed some of the other costs to subscribers, noting that the coverage is good for a low cost.

Relative to the Basic Health Plan, Ms. Sass emphasized that there is no current waiting list. The plan used to be open to everyone in the state but it is now only open to people with a certain level of income. If a family is eligible, the children are eligible for Medicaid. Costs to subscribers are dependent on income category, age, etc.

Ms. Sass introduced two outreach workers, Kathy Rosencrantz and Beverly Conn. She explained that the outreach workers are assigned geographically. She noted that they are in need of a bilingual outreach worker again.

Mr. Browning told the Board that Ms. Rosencrantz and Ms. Conn have done an excellent job in the outreach aspect of the program, manning booths and getting the word out, etc.

3. Progress Report on Program for Operation, Monitoring and Maintenance of On-Site Sewage Systems.

Steve Olsen, Environmental Health Specialist, introduced himself, advising that he is the most recent hire in the Health Division. He is developing the On-Site Sewage Systems Operations, Monitoring and Maintenance Program. The purpose is to provide citizens information and assistance and to help save money. He said they are looking at developing a new way of thinking for the future when they will be dealing more with treatment and recycling, and long-term solutions. There has been a lack of control in the past but in the future, there will be oversight of the systems and monitoring to prevent problems. He reviewed educational and informational resources available to citizens right now.

Mr. Olsen advised that there are videos available at the Health Department, local libraries and some video rental stores. He reviewed some of the titles available. There is also a slide show available called "How to Avoid Septic Nightmares". It is available to service groups, organizations, clubs and communities.

The news media outreach will involve cable television public service announcements, newspapers, etc. He showed a video to the Board that was first developed by Thurston County and is being adapted to Skagit County. This is scheduled to start in June of this year on the Discovery Channel, USA, TNT, CNN and ESP. He cited the sponsors of the ad. Because of these sponsors and AT & T's backing, Skagit County costs will be somewhere in the range of about \$3,000 for that year.

Clinics will begin in September to provide community access to the Health Department and to provide Health Department outreach to the community. A manual and maintenance guide will be given to homeowners. Presentations will be by Health Department staff, monitoring and maintenance personnel, and designers and installers, etc.

Commissioner Anderson asked Mr. Olsen if he would give a presentation at the Sedro Woolley Rotary Club. Mr. Olsen agreed that he would be happy to do this and noted that he can be reached at the Skagit County Health Department at 336-9380.

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Bill Dewey of Taylor United asked Mr. Olsen if the County plans to identify designated areas of special concern.

Mr. Olsen replied that the advisory committee met last week and a list of special areas of interest were provided to them and are under discussion, although the first goal is to provide information and education.

Mr. Dewey said he is excited to see the work Mr. Olsen is doing and agrees that the way to get it done is to get the information out there. He asked about the as-builts, wondering if a picture of an "as-built" could be posted permanently on, for example, the electric control box for pumps and/or alarms so the septic system can be found and inspected.

Commissioner Hart pointed out that another thing that goes along with this is the low interest loan program.

Mr. Dewey agreed, that is a real important component.

4. Dental Van Update.

Kim Van Epps, Health Educator and Program Coordinator, provided an update on the Dental Van. Mr. Browning advised the board that Ms. Van Epps has done an outstanding job organizing and working with the dentists involved on the van.

Ms. Van Epps said they are in the third year of the dental van. In the early stages, the intention was to do emergent, acute care. What was found was that people who were coming in with emergent care issues, had emergent care issues throughout their whole mouth. One visit would not get them out of pain. Therefore, people are being seen more than once and difficult cases may have to be referred on.

Ms. Van Epps described a situation with a woman they worked with whose life was transformed by the work that was done on her mouth.

She said the people they see are the working poor, underserved, unemployed and uninsured. Many people fall in that category. An average of 40 patients are seen per month, which is about 10 per day. Twelve are scheduled, but no shows are very minimal. The type of services provided include exams, x-rays, extractions and restorations. An oral surgeon is available once a month for difficult extractions. Root canals, crowns, and other more complex work are not done, although Ms. Van Epps said they are working with the Dental Connection helping with people who need partials and dentures.

Ms. Van Epps advised that the van is staffed with volunteers and thanked all the dentists in the community who volunteer their services. There is never a lack of patients, but it is sometimes hard to get a dentist for a day. The dentists have a positive experience working on the van and the patients appreciate so much the service they provide.

In terms of costs, there is a sliding fee involved, although it is minimal and no one is denied service. Because this is a community program, the fees are put back into the van. This makes up about 40% of the costs to keep the van going in the county. She thanked all the supporters, service organizations and small businesses who contribute to the van. She said they are always looking for funding to keep the van going. It costs about \$25,000 a year to operate the van. Many people are being served and relieved of pain. The number to call to schedule an appointment is 416-7585 at Community Action.

5. Proposal for Clean-up of Selected Waste Accumulations.

Andy Ross, Environmental Health Specialist, was present to propose a resolution for the signature of the board to authorize the Health Department to offer assistance in cleaning up garbage problems on private properties where there is a health issue. The costs would be covered from the tipping fees to address illegal dumping.

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The situations that would be served are where people have allowed solid waste or garbage to accumulate on their properties and, for whatever reason, they do not have the wherewithal to deal with the problem. Even after fines have been assigned to a property owner, there are many situations where the problem is not being addressed.

The authorization of the board will allow the Health Department to move forward to provide assistance and to work in coordination with the litter cleanup crew. An agreement will be reached with the property owner that future situations will be eliminated and they will comply with the County Code. The funding provided to the property owner to help them address the situation would be limited.

Commissioner Wolden motioned to approve a resolution Adopting a Policy for One-time Assistance for the Cleanup of Private Property Where Accumulated Solid Waste is Causing a Public Health Problem. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(Resolution #17864)**

Mr. Browning talked about the new public health video and how it is very outstanding.

6. Miscellaneous.

There were no miscellaneous items.

PARKS PROJECTS UPDATE.

David Fair, Director, Skagit County Parks, Recreation and Fair Department reported.

The house that was purchased this winter has been cleaned, repaired and is ready for use by the Fair grounds caretaker. The current trailer used by the caretaker will be vacated by June 15. Mr. Fair recommended working with a local auction house to sell the trailer to the highest bidder as is, where is. If the trailer is sold at the county's yearly auction, moving expenses will have to be paid as well as finding a storage place large enough to handle the trailer.

Mr. Fair also reported on some repairs being done at the fairgrounds, noting that they will be complete by fair time.

Regarding Northern State, Mr. Fair stated that the Northern State grazing contract has ended. Because of problems with leasing he recommended that the site be broken into five to seven sites for rent, ranging in size from 70 acres down to 15 acres. The minimum bid would be based on a figure of \$5 per acre, or \$350 for the seventy-acre site. This charge would be regardless of number of animals or the number of days they are on the land during the month. He said he would also recommend that the rental period be for three to five years to make it feasible for an individual to repair the fences. Language would also be inserted in the contract protecting the county's right to reduce or eliminate grazing space as the site is developed.

Mr. Fair provided some quick updates regarding Clear Lake and IAC grants that were submitted.

Pete Mayer, Operations Manager, reported on the Snowmobile Grooming Program, advising that two additional grants have been submitted. Next year there is a private groomer operator interested in grooming the Whatcom County area. There has been communication with him to determine what Skagit County will be covering and what he will be covering. If he is not successful in his grant application, a second application is in there to continue grooming activities as they have been. He added that they have engaged Whatcom County Parks in getting on board and being more active to get some additional funding. Overall, the numbers were excellent this year in terms of areas that were covered by Skagit County. Over 3,000 miles of trail were groomed.

There was some discussion about areas that may be designated where snowmobiles will be banned.

Mr. Mayer talked about the proposed Park Ranger position for Skagit County. He has worked with the Sheriff's Office to get this developed. A job description has been provided to the Commissioners. It is anticipated that

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within 90 days the Park Ranger will be up and running. The Park Manager at Howard Miller Park will have the same abilities.

Commissioner Anderson said he would like to see the ranger provide some oversight on the trail.

Mr. Mayer said they have a couple of other vacancies in the department they are working on with Ms. Wood. They will be posting a couple of positions by the end of this week.

FACILITIES PROJECTS UPDATE.

Roger Howard, Director, Facility Management, presented the following update on Facilities projects to the board:

- 1) Sharon Dubois of the Facility Management Department was present to advise the board of the Clerk's Office move this weekend. She emphasized that as of Monday, May 15, the Clerk's Office will be installed on the first floor of the courthouse.

Discussion ensued, with Commissioner Wolden emphasizing that this move needs to be completed so other moving plans can proceed. Commissioner Anderson added, it needs to happen right away.

Mr. Howard said, this move is on track, although there have been some additions to the project to make it more amenable. He provided a Change Order for the approval of the board.

Commissioner Anderson motioned to approve Change Order No. One in the amount of \$8,641.16 for carpeting additional areas, \$1,584.75 for a building permit and \$4,191.32 for vault shelving. The original contract sum was \$113,200.00. The new contract sum including this change order is \$127,617.23. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(Contract #04832)**

- 2) Regarding the Civil Division of the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Mr. Howard described the work to be done there and noted the two bids. When the bid is awarded, that work can begin immediately following the Clerk's move.
- 3) After the Civil Division of the Prosecutor's Office moves, The Treasurer's new office space on the second floor of the Administration Building will be remodeled and they will move by November 2000.
- 4) After the Treasurer moves, that office will be remodeled for the third Superior Courtroom on the First Floor of the Courthouse.
- 5) Regarding the road shop oil tanks, a meeting was held with Cliff Butler and the Road Supervisors at the Maintenance Facility in Burlington on April 19 to deal with a proposed schedule.
- 6) Relative to the new shop for Parks and Recreation, the site and building design work is in progress in meetings with Dave Fair, Pete Mayer and Mike Elde.
- 7) Mr. Howard then reported on the status of several other miscellaneous items.

MISCELLANEOUS

Payroll 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, May 9, 2000, the Board, by a majority vote, did approve for payment those vouchers included in the above-mentioned list and further described as follows: Warrant 953111 through 9537171 in the amount of

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\$\$65,638.88 and Warrant 52027 through 52800 in the amount of \$738,682.36 were approved for payment. **(P-17-00 and P-18-00)**

PRESENTATION – COMMENDATION TO SHARON BUMGARNER FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE IN SKAGIT COUNTY’S EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT.

Tom Sheahan, Director, Emergency Management, stated that everyone is present to show appreciation to Sharon Bumgarner for her years of service to Skagit County from May 15, 1970 to May 30, 2000. He introduced her father and mother, Tom and Bonnie Flagg and her sister, Julie Troha. He also introduced Jimmie Hocutt of the Emergency Management Division of the Washington State Military Department.

Mr. Hocutt told everyone that this is a real honor for him, especially having known Ms. Bumgarner so long. He presented her with a certificate on behalf of the Adjutant General and then thanked her for her work. He indicated that her work has been above reproach over the years with great attention given to detail.

Mr. Sheahan reviewed Sharon’s career with Skagit County and talked about the different places she was located and the people she worked with. Sharon has kept the office very well organized and has been outstandingly efficient in keeping the work on track. He added that her work ethic is impeccable, along with her care and concern for people.

The Commissioners then presented Sharon with a plaque honoring her for her 30 years of service with Skagit County.

Sharon thanked everyone for coming and talked about how great it has been working with everyone over the years.

ADJOURNMENT.

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

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Harvey Wolden, Chairman

Robert Hart, Commissioner

Ted W. Anderson, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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