

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Monday, August 14, 2000**

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Public Comment Period.
10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	<b>CONSENT AGENDA. MISCELLANEOUS.</b>
10:30 a.m. – Noon	Discussion – Emergency Medical Services Levy.
1:30 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).

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, August 14, 2000, with Commissioners Harvey Wolden and Robert Hart present. Commissioner Ted W. Anderson's absence was excused for the first few agenda items.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.**

Howard Gulley, 15815 Yokeko Drive, Anacortes, reviewed that he had commented in the past about the Permit Center and regulations for building codes, and that he is still finding amazing things. He, however, offered positive comments on the responsiveness of the water department in a recent problem at his home.

**CONSENT AGENDA.**

Commissioner Hart moved to approve the Consent Agenda for Monday, August 14, 2000, items 1-4 and 6-17. Item 5 was pulled until progress with the Swinomish Boat Launch Project was investigated and verified. Chairman Wolden seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE:**

1. Record of the Proceedings for Tuesday, August 1, 2000
2. Record of the Proceedings for Thursday, August 3, 2000.
3. Record of the Proceedings for Monday, August 7, 2000.
4. Record of the Proceedings for Tuesday, August 8, 2000.
5. Letter of Intent, Statutory Warranty Deed, Closing Agreement and Seller's Affidavit to effectuate the transfer of property in Fidalgo Bay to the Department of Natural Resources. **(REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA)**
6. Community Development Block Grant Contract for Regional Microenterprise Development for a total contract amount of \$150,000. The contract begins March 16, 2000 and will continue through December 31, 2002. **(Contract No. 05009)**

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### HEALTH DEPARTMENT

7. Site Hazard Assessment Grant Agreement with the Department of Ecology wherein \$90,000 in grant funds will be provided to the Skagit County Health Department to conduct size hazard assessments and drug lab clean-up activities. The contract term is July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2002. **(Contract No. 05010)**

### HUMAN SERVICES

8. Personal Services Agreement with Rehabco Skagit, Inc. to provide Community Development Disabilities services funded by DSHS – Division of Developmental Disabilities with State funds to the maximum amount of \$160,000, and provides for continuation of Community Access services. The contract runs from July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001. **(Contract No. 05011)**
9. Personal Services Agreement with SPARC to provide Community Development Disabilities services funded by DSHS – Division of Developmental Disabilities with State funds to the maximum amount of \$80,000, and provides for continuation of services to developmentally disabled children birth to 3. The contract runs from July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001. **(Contract No. 05012)**

### FACILITIES MANAGEMENT:

10. Lease Agreement with the Skagit County Historical Society for the lease of all of the buildings located at 1136 Second Street, Bayview, commonly known as the Skagit county Public Works Department Bayview Shop. The lease will run for five years beginning of the date of the execution of the lease at a rental rate of \$1 per year. **(Contract No. 05013)**

### BEST PLACE:

11. Amendment No. 1 to a Personal Services Agreement with Susan Montgomery increasing the scope of work in organizing fall testing for Best Place, and increasing the maximum compensation amount from \$5,000 to \$10,000. The term of the contract is also extended until November, 2000. **(Contract No. 04944)**

### YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES:

12. Personal Services Agreement with Kerry Bartlett, Ph.D., to provide specialized child, adolescent, adult and family assessment, evaluation and treatment for the term January 1, 2000 through December 31, 2002. Compensation rates range from \$20 per hour for travel to \$95 per hour for psychological evaluation. **(Contract No. 05014)**
13. Resolution Approving an Interlocal Agreement between Skagit County and Concrete School District Community Education Program to provide after school community/youth activities. **(Resolution No. 17961)**

### PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:

14. Out-of-State Travel Request for Don McKeehen to attend the 11th International Conference on Bicycling and Walking in Philadelphia, PA, from September 5th through 8th. The Washington Traffic Safety Commission will pay all expenses so there will be no direct cost to Skagit County. **(Approved)**

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15. Out-of-State Travel Request for Vicki Griffiths to attend the 2000 Northwest Pavement Management Association Conference to be held in Portland, Oregon, from October 9th through 12th. The cost to Skagit County will be \$546. **(Approved)**
16. Resolution Regarding Denial of the Request for Vacation of a Portion of County Right-of-Way known as Collins Road, #63310. **(Resolution No. 17962)**
17. Resolution Regarding the Sale of Excess Property to the City of Sedro Woolley consisting of one 1989 Kawasaki Motorcycle for the price of \$1. The City of Sedro Woolley has been using this motorcycle on a loan basis for the past two years. The City of Sedro Woolley has also been maintaining the motorcycle using their own funds and has spent approximately \$2,000 on overhaul costs. Deducting the City's cost from the Kelley Blue Book market value shows their repair costs are approximately fair market trade in value. **(Resolution No. 17963)**

### 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, August 14, 2000, the Board, by a majority vote, did approve for payment those vouchers included in the above-mentioned list and further described as follows:

Payroll warrants numbered 953579 through 953643 in the total dollar amount of \$71,464.22 (Transmittal No. P-30-00); and

Payroll warrants numbered 57339 through 58450 in the total dollar amount of \$986,431.37 (Transmittal No. P-31-00); and

Warrants numbered 76221 through 76469 from Clearing Fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$1,085,533.85 (Transmittal No. C-52-00); and

Warrants numbered 76470 through 76778 from Clearing Fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$1,802,705.87 (Transmittal No. C-53-00).

2. Staff presented a Resolution providing a defense to Pamela M. Green and Mary Richards in a lawsuit brought by Michael Major and Mark R. Major, Cause Number 00-2-00930-8. Commissioner Hart moved to approve the Resolution as presented, and Chairman Wolden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. 17964)**
3. Staff presented a Request for Draw for \$60,000 on the Bank of America Line of Credit Revenue Bond dated December 22, 1999 on behalf of the Housing Authority of Skagit County. John Smith, Executive Director of the Housing Authority, explained the reasons for the draw on the line of credit. Commissioner Hart moved to approve the Request for Draw as explained by Mr. Smith, and Chairman Wolden seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. **(APPROVED)**

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### DISCUSSION – EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES LEVY.

Commissioner Anderson was present for this agenda item.

John Berg, President of the Emergency Medical Services Council, reported that the EMS Council has been for a dozen or so years very committed to providing a good emergency medical services system at a very low cost to the County taxpayers. He stated that the EMS Council is committed to continue that high level of service. He advised, however, that circumstances are changing and the system has increasing demands. The EMS Council is committed to provide the best possible service at the lowest possible cost.

Lee Kue, Executive Director of the EMS Council, introduced the various Council members and others present. He began by reviewing the EMS leadership role in the community. He commented on the consumer-oriented mission of EMS. He reviewed a flowchart of the sequence of events when an individual calls Skagit 9-1-1. He reviewed a list of what the County-wide EMS Levy (Skagit County Medic I) pays for. Lee Kue reported that the State requires a certain amount of continuing education by paramedics and emergency medical technicians and doctors in this regard.

Lee Kue reviewed a flyer for dissemination to the public covering the services available to the citizens of Skagit County through 9-1-1. The EMS Council provides planning, training, administration and coordination in the development and operation of a county-wide comprehensive on-scene EMS System.

He reviewed an Executive Summary, which detailed the need to continue development of 14 EMS components. These are: Integration of Health Services, EMS Research, Legislation and Regulation, System Finance, Human Resources, Medical Direction, Education Systems, Public Education, Prevention, Public Access, Communication Systems, Clinical Care, Information Systems, and Evaluation.

He next reviewed the Activities Summary for On Scene Emergency Medical Services 1996-98. He reviewed Essential EMS System Components identified by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration compared to the Skagit EMS System.

Lee Kue reviewed a map and listing of the Multi-Casualty Incident Service Areas throughout the County. The primary locations are Anacortes, McLean Road, Mount Vernon, Burlington and Concrete. The secondary locations are at Summit Park, Sedro Woolley, Conway, Alger and Clear Lake.

Lee Kue next reviewed topic highlights for the EMS Levy Presentation. He advised that the State has appointed Ron Richeson to oversee the entire medical care and curriculum for the EMT and emergency responders.

The Board commented on the need for regular maintenance of the ambulance vehicles. A discussion ensued on the age of the vehicles and the rotation of new vehicles into the fleet.

Commissioner Anderson spoke to his concerns for the large geographic area of the third district and the limited resources available should there be a major accident. Lee Kue responded that there is a full-time paramedic unit available upriver since January 1 of 1999.

Lee Kue reported that years ago fire service did not receive sufficient support from EMS. On average, the fire departments respond in four or five minutes before EMS arrives. He stated that on-going efforts have focused on the need to work cooperatively with the fire service and law enforcement. In this regard, Commissioner Anderson commented that state mandated training is difficult for small fire districts, and is made available by EMS conducting and presenting training for such fire service districts in Skagit County.

Lee Kue next discussed the future needs as determined by the EMS Council. These included hiring an outside consultant familiar with health care and EMS to conduct a top-to-bottom assessment. This would

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also include planning for future EMS system needs to meet future growth and subsequent demands. He stated that EMS cannot be compared to other departments because with EMS peoples' lives are at stake.

He next reviewed the proposed six-year budget for EMS. He stated that the EMS Council is recommending an estimated levy at \$.30 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Alicia Huschka, County Budget Director, stated that this additional 5 cents would raise about \$380,000.

Commissioner Hart commented that the levy has all along been a \$.25 levy, with EMS taking 23 cents. He indicated that he believed there was a reserve balance. Lee Kue responded that reserves are currently at \$1,300,000, and have been set aside in case the levy might fail.

Commissioner Hart stated that the best way to get the EMS levy passed is to not raise taxes. If the levy fails, there would certainly be on-going obligations and no one wants to see that. He commented on the impacts of 106 and Referendum 47.

A discussion ensued on the particulars of the figures and levy rates.

Mr. Kue stated that the EMS council budgets at the absolute minimum they think they can get by with.

Commissioner Hart queried Mr. Kue on the Program Improvement line item as well as the Consolidated Dispatch line item.

Lee Kue responded with a discussion about the need for "criteria-associated" dispatch to address the problems of personnel shortages. He further discussed the Program Improvement line item, explaining that funding is the minimum for situating a 12-hour paramedic team in the Burlington area.

A lengthy discussion ensued about the increased costs of both of these line items.

Ms. Huschka explained that Referendum 47 said that before you could take 106% increase, now you can take the rate of inflation, which was 1.42%. If you want to take higher than that, you must have public hearing and demonstrate financial need. She explained the process for each of these different levies and the availability to collect the funds to certain levels.

Those assembled discussed the procedures and options for changing from a 30-cent per \$1,000 levy amount from a 25-cent per \$1,000 levy amount. It was discussed that this item must go to a ballot measure no matter what level of funding is decided upon.

Commissioner Anderson suggested putting the 30-cent levy on the ballot to see how the public wants to vote on it. He stressed that this would be the will of the voting public, not the EMS Council or the Commissioners.

Ms. Huschka suggested that the Board review the materials presented by Lee Kue, and meet again on this matter within 10 days to two weeks.

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**ADJOURNMENT.**

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

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

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Harvey Wolden, Chairman

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Robert Hart, Commissioner

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Ted W. Anderson, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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