

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Monday, December 4, 2000**

9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Discussion and Possible Action – Skagit County Capital Facilities Plan and Revenue Document 2001-2006 and the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Capital Facilities Element (Chapter 11).
10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Presentation of Skagit Watershed Council Calendar.
10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	CONSENT AGENDA & MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.
*T 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Public Hearing – To Consider Testimony regarding the adoption of the 2001 Skagit County Budget.
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Public Hearing – To Consider Testimony regarding the Re-Adoption of certain provisions of Interim Ordinance No. 17568 regarding the Bayview Ridge Urban Growth Area.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, December 4, 2000, with Commissioners Harvey Wolden, Ted W. Anderson and Robert Hart present.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION – SKAGIT COUNTY CAPITAL FACILITIES PLAN AND REVENUE DOCUMENT 2001 – 2006 AND THE SKAGIT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CAPITAL FACILITIES ELEMENT (CHAPTER 11).

Gary Christensen, Assistant Director, summarized the recommendation from the Planning Commission regarding the Recorded Motion regarding the Skagit County Capital Facilities Plan 2001 - 2006.

After a brief discussion, Commissioner Anderson moved to approve an ordinance adopting the Skagit County Capital Facilities Plan and Revenue Document 2001 - 2006 and the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan Capital Facilities Element (Chapter 11). Commissioner Hart seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. 18085)**

PRESENTATION OF SKAGIT WATERSHED COUNCIL CALENDAR.

Shirley Solomon, Skagit Watershed Council, presented the Board with the 2001 Skagit Watershed Council Calendar. She thanked the Board for the support Skagit County has given to the Council, which included a \$30,000 grant. She reported that the Council is now 4 years old, starting in February of 1997. She reviewed the various good works of the Council, and the associated pictures contained in the calendar.

CONSENT AGENDA.

Commissioner Hart moved to approve the Consent Agenda for Monday, December 4, 2000, removing items 2 and 3 as Staff had not yet completed those two items. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE:

1. Record of the Proceedings for Wednesday, November 22, 2000.
2. Record of the Proceedings for Monday, November 27, 2000. **(REMOVED)**

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3. Record of the Proceedings for Tuesday, November 28, 2000. **(REMOVED)**
4. Personal Services Agreement with Likkel & Associates to provide transcript service at public hearings as needed for a not-to-exceed amount of \$5,000. The contract begins November 8, 2000 and will continue until terminated. **(Contract No. 05129)**
5. Community Development Block Grant Contract (CDBG) #F-96-64196-028 for Disaster Recovery funds to reimburse Skagit County to cover local match funds used for disasters #1079 and #1100 and to pay for the local costs of flood hazard mitigation projects. The contract amount is \$248,531.98, and the contract term is October 13, 1995 through April 30, 2001. **(Contract No. 05130)**

BUDGET/FINANCE:

6. Interagency Agreement for Fiscal Services with the Skagit Community Network wherein the Skagit County Auditor will provide auditing services and the Skagit County Treasurer will direct and monitor Skagit Community Network investment funds and disbursement of monies. In consideration of these activities, the Skagit Community Network will pay the County \$2,700 each year for calendar years 2000 and 2001. The agreement is effective January 1, 2000 through December 31, 2001. **(Contract No. 05131)**

FACILITIES:

7. Amendment "C" to Agreement with Kennedy/Jenks Consultants for additional work on the new Road Oil Tank Project. The scope of the design increased significantly requiring additional drawings, and the location of the tanks was changed from the previously planned location, which required another soil survey. Consequently, the contract is increased by an additional \$20,000 in fees. **(Contract No. 03842)**

PLANNING & PERMIT CENTER:

8. Resolution Directing the Planning & Permit Center to Process Certain Comprehensive Plan Amendments as Year 2000 Amendments while Denying Without Prejudice Other Outstanding Amendments. **(Resolution No. 18090)**
9. Amendment No. 8 to Contract with Buck & Gordon increasing the maximum compensation for calendar year 2000 from \$370,000 to \$400,000. **(Contract No. 02851)**

HORTICULTURAL PEST CONTROL:

10. Vendor Services Agreement with Eager Beaver Tree Service & Stump Grinding for tree and brush removal and stump grinding for a not-to-exceed amount of \$5,000. The contract term is August 17, 2000 through December 31, 2000. **(Contract No. 05132)**

PARKS & RECREATION:

11. 2000-2001 Winter Recreation Program Agreement with the State of Washington for snow grooming and snow plowing for the maximum project cost amount of \$32,175. **(Contract No. 05133)**

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PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:

12. Resolution Regarding Denial of the Request for Vacation of a portion of County right-of-way known as Rockport Park Road, No. 97530. **(Resolution No. 18091)**
13. Resolution Authorizing the County Engineer to Prepare Condemnation Documents for the West Bow Hill Improvement Project, No. 21180-1, for Official Action by the Board of Skagit County Commissioners. **(Resolution No. 18092)**

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, December 4, 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 84254 through 84623 from Clearing Fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$867,855.95 (Transmittal No. C-80-00).

2. Stephanie Wood, Personnel Director, reviewed changes to the Personnel Policy Manual as directed by the Board following last week's agenda item in this regard. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Hart moved to approve the amendments to the Personnel Policy Manual as explained by Ms. Wood. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson, and passed with a unanimous vote. **(Resolution No. 18086)**
3. Commissioner Hart further moved to approve a Resolution allowing employees of Superior Court to donate sick leave to Kelli Luvera. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. 18087)**
4. Ms. Wood reviewed a proposed Resolution having to do with the Best PLACE Program, noting that employees were hired with effective starting dates of September 1, but a few of the sites could not be opened, yet such employees were ready and willing to begin their employment. Such employees have been working, although not full time, and the Program feels obligated to provide them with health benefits beginning September 1, and to make some different interpretations of policies for holidays for those employees. She indicated that she had prepared the subject Resolution to reflect those intentions and to make exceptions to the Personnel Policy. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Hart moved to approve the Resolution as presented by Ms. Wood, and Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. **(Resolution No. 18088)**
5. Staff presented an Interlocal Agreement for the Provision of Grant Matching Funds with the Skagit Conservation District for the period April 13, 1998 through June 30, 2001, with maximum compensation under the terms of the Agreement set at \$90,000. Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the Interlocal Agreement as presented. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(Contract No. 05128)**
6. On behalf of the Public Works Department, Staff presented a Resolution allowing placement of a Community Identification Sign on Skagit County Right of Way along Bayhill Drive, #30060. This Resolution follows a public hearing held regarding this matter on October 31, 2000. Commissioner Hart moved to approve the Resolution as presented, and Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. **(Resolution No. 18089)**

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PUBLIC HEARING – TO CONSIDER TESTIMONY REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF THE 2001 SKAGIT COUNTY BUDGET.

Alicia Huschka, Budget & Finance Director, reviewed the substance of the 2001 Skagit County Budget, reporting that the document is a conservative, innovative and business-smart document. She reported that Departmental budgets are basically a carbon copy of the 2000 Budget. She indicated that the budget process began on July 11 with the budget call. Further, 47 work sessions were held to discuss in detail each department's requests. Following this scrutiny, the Board and budget team looked at the requests overall and balanced the budget. Ms. Huschka advised that the Budget Department would like the Board to adopt the 2001 Budget as presented. She stated that, based on input received from citizens, two documents would be prepared – one in the preliminary format presented today, and one in final form following adoption.

Ms. Huschka reported that the total budget for 2001 is \$105,358,882, 13% higher than the 2000 adopted budget. The Current Expense Fund budget, the County's largest operating fund, totals \$37,1875,562, representing a 7% increase over the 2000 adopted budget. She stated that two particular items make up the large increase, the first being the Distressed County Public Facilities Fund which shifts sales tax from the State to the County for capital funding projects. The other increase is the Best PLACE Program, which totals \$6,448,000 worth of grant funding in 2001

Ms. Huschka briefly reviewed the sources of revenue for the County and the potential effects of Initiative 722. She stated that property taxes generate 37% of the general fund revenue. She discussed the impacts of sales tax revenue and motor vehicle excise tax revenue, noting that in 2001 the State is giving the County \$880,000 in funds to alleviate the financial impacts relative to the passage of I-695.

Ms. Huschka advised that 17 new staff positions were requested, and that 7 new positions were added, with two positions being eliminated. Those added include 3 deputies funded partially by a COPYS Grant that will offset the \$268,000 cost in the first year by \$112,000. She added that no new road deputies had been added since 1995. The Public Defender's office was granted a position to address BECCA and truancy, and a Receptionist was added to the Clerk's Office specifically to address customer service needs. There was also a Staff Assistant added to the Prosecuting Attorney's office. Further, a new Public Lands Surveyor was budgeted for.

She reviewed the budgeted costs for a Case Management System database for the Prosecuting Attorney's office, which is estimated at \$160,000. Another \$100,000 is budgeted for 20 mobile data computers to be installed to the existing fleet of Sheriff's vehicles, and is derived from a designated revenue source from the Department of Justice. Ms. Huschka briefly discussed the Geodetic Framework System which has a cost estimate of \$1.5 million over a 3-4 year span, and requires the hiring of a Public Lands Surveyor.

Ms. Huschka next discussed the County's Capital Facilities Plan, detailing some of the projects to be accomplished in the future. She reviewed the impacts of the Best Place Program and the receipt of the nearly \$6.5 million federal grant, noting that there is no County money that offsets any portion of this Program. She also spoke briefly to the Salmon Recovery Budget.

Mr. Huschka reported that in the 2001 Budget there are 641 full-time equivalent employees, for a net increase over 2000 of 5 employees.

After a brief discussion about the County's fund balances, Chairman Wolden opened the public hearing.

Edwin Walker, 17816 McLean Road, Mount Vernon, spoke to the increases in property taxes on his specific property and asked the Board to keep taxes down as best as the Board could.

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Carol Ehlers, West Fidalgo Island, 3998 Windcrest, complained that the preliminary budget document did not contain enough information, asking for increased personnel benefit information and salaries. She made several comments on specific areas of the preliminary budget that needed clarification. She stated that if you want to the public to be coherent, you have to give them something coherent. She stated that she was not questioning prudence or integrity, but was questioning the presentation to the public.

Chris Kane, 34096 Northshore Drive, Mount Vernon, stated that he is the President of Citizens to Save Pilchuk Creek with over 200 members. He indicated that he opposes the development of the Frailey Mountain Gun Range in Southeast Skagit County, and, in particular, the \$25,000 budgeted for continuing site development on page 163 of the preliminary budget under the Parks Acquisition Fund. He asked that the Board eliminate this line item. In the alternative, he asked that it be re-allocated to a cost study and feasibility study or needs study as mandated by the Comprehensive Plan of Skagit County and by the Capital Facilities Plan of Skagit County. He noted that he had submitted written testimony in this regard.

Randy Good, 25512 Minkler Road, Sedro Woolley, stated that the preliminary budget has no information on how or where the money will be spent. He spoke to specific increases. He commented that it is not credible that the Equipment Rental Fund has a \$7,000,000 slush fund. He spoke briefly about the funding for the trail east of Sedro Woolley and that disciplinary action should be taken against those making such requests in the budget.

Gilbert Walden, 2500 Butler Creek Road, Sedro Woolley, stated that he does not need any more taxes, and spoke specifically to his property and the doubling of taxes in 1997.

Commissioner Anderson suggested that Mr. Walden should appeal to the Board of Equalization, or make arrangements to have his property put into Timber Open Space.

Tom Solberg, 19019 Minnie Road, Alger, discussed the Best Place Program, stating that government has no business being in business when such activities could be handled through the private sector. He asked who would be picking up the tab once the grant ends, and questioned the eventual need for County funds to be expended in this regard. He suggested that the first order of the new commissioners should be to audit the County books, as he suspected money is being shuffled and hid.

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

A discussion ensued on the readability of the preliminary budget document and the information contained therein.

Commissioner Hart moved to approve the Resolution adopting the 2001 Skagit County Budget. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson and passed with a unanimous vote. **(Resolution No. 18093)**

PUBLIC HEARING – TO CONSIDER TESTIMONY REGARDING THE RE-ADOPTION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF INTERIM ORDINANCE NO. 17568 REGARDING THE BAYVIEW RIDGE URBAN GROWTH AREA.

Gary Christensen, Assistant Director, advised that there is an interim ordinance in place, which provided some interim development regulations, some of which were made permanent in July. There is a need, however, to continue in effect as an interim ordinance those regulations that have not been given permanent status.

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

Staff advised that the Board would make a decision on this matter on Tuesday, December 5, at 11:30 a.m.

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**

Harvey Wolden, Chairman

Robert Hart, Commissioner

Ted W. Anderson, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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