

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Wednesday, January 17, 2001**

*T	9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	<u>Board of Health – Peter Browning, Director.</u> 1) Public Health Challenges and Opportunities for 2001. 2) Miscellaneous.
	10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Facilities Projects Update.
	1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Public Transportation Area Board Meeting (Port of Skagit County).
	2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Regional Transportation Area Board Meeting (Port of Skagit County).
	3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Skagit Council of Governments Meeting (Port of Skagit County).

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, January 17, 2001, with Commissioners Ted W. Anderson and Don Munks present. Commissioner Kenneth A. Dahlstedt's absence was excused.

BOARD OF HEALTH – Peter Browning, Director.

1. Public Health Challenges and Opportunities for 2001.

Peter Browning, Director, reviewed his four-year history with the Skagit County Health Department, noting that during that time there had been a significantly high level of supervisory turnover, which had been a challenge. He advised that each supervisor would talk about their areas of expertise and give an overview of the opportunities and challenges for 2001. He stressed that the role of public health should be prevention oriented. He reported on the outside activities held under the guidance of the Health Department, such as the very successful Teen Clinics. Mr. Browning stated that public health must be community oriented and driven by good data and good reason. He further commented on the positive work environment of this Department, and the clear sense of mission and meaning.

Mr. Browning next discussed several concerns of his Department for the New Year. He first reviewed the shift of more costs from the State Department of Health to the local level. He commented that oftentimes, as is evident in the Shellfish Program, the Department is negatively impacted when two-thirds of the budget is cut by the State, when the County was already going beyond the minimum required. He also expressed concern that some Health Departments around the State are pursuing concerns that "pay" such as required hearing tests. Mr. Browning stated that his Department has been diligent in pursuing those things that are the most relevant to Skagit County. He further expressed his concern in wanting to keep his good staff intact in the competitive environment of Public Health.

Mr. Browning reported on the numerous opportunities for the Department and the tremendous support from the community. He stated that many of the Department's supervisors have good connections with the community and redefine the role of public health over and over. The community then is aware of what the Department's goals are. He commented on the need to continue the collection and use of good data gathering. He reviewed the positive result of such data collection in the formation of the Dental Van Program, which is set up for longevity and funding from the community. He further commented on the Child Care Assessment program and its relationship to the Best PLACE Program, which is dependent on statistics and recommendations for continued grant opportunities.

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Chairman Anderson commented that the county-wide perspective has included much outreach into the community, and that he has received considerable positive feedback.

Alex Von Cube, Health Assessment Coordinator, stated that it is a pleasure to come to work in the Health Department with his extremely competent and harmonious colleagues under the direction of Mr. Browning. He spoke briefly about the political aspects of Health, relating some of his experience in other countries. He reported that health is also very political in the United States, from children to senior citizens, and that competition for funding is a major concern in this regard. He stated that through good data and good assessment, the Health Department tries to sort out what should be done locally about maintaining good public health. Increased population will mean increased migration to Skagit County, which in turn brings increased disease potential and increased diversity. He spoke about the primary focus of prevention needed to head off diseases before they take place. He reviewed a list of reports prepared by the Health Department which present good analysis and good numbers so that good policy can be developed. Mr. Von Cube discussed the utilization of recent Census data that will be available to the Health Department and other County departments.

Ken Willis, Environmental Health Supervisor, reviewed several issues in environmental health of concern to the Department in 2001. These included resolving the sewage problems at Similk Beach and the interaction with the community and property owners to find solutions. He stressed that solutions need to be based on good data. He reviewed the particulars of the progress being made. He reported that the people of Similk Beach have gotten together and have unanimously supported an Edison-type solution. He stated that the community talking amongst themselves and with the Department is the first stage of getting to such solution. Mr. Willis indicated that the Department would be coming back to the Board to discuss growth issues at Similk Beach outside of the Urban Growth Area, which may need to be classified as "growth-neutral."

Chairman Anderson stated that the Growth Management Act prohibits such development if the public health and safety is in jeopardy.

Mr. Willis next discussed the Department's Water Program, which is the most underfunded of the major programs. He commented on Staff Member Lorna Parent's work with the State to get the Washington Advisory Committee to get behind legislation to provide money to the water program. He reported that it is now in Governor Locke's budget. He explained how the money would filter to the County. He discussed the need for a current Joint Plan of Operation with the State in this regard, noting that Skagit County's plan is old (1987) and needs updating.

Mr. Willis reviewed the activities of monitoring and maintenance of on-site sewage systems, and the work associated with the Citizens Advisory Committee in this area. He reviewed a recent brochure distributed throughout the County, and the success of the Septics 101 classes, which have been well attended.

Mr. Willis reported on the constant frustrating challenge of illegal dumping monitoring, noting that such activity is catastrophic throughout Skagit County's back country. Consequently, the public is being shut out of much private property, which was utilized in the past for recreational activities. He reviewed the \$40,000 grant from the Department of Ecology, which the County has received for the purpose of cracking down on such illegal dumping by increasing public awareness.

Chairman Anderson suggested instituting a reward for information regarding illegal dumpers, to help stop the cycle.

Sandy Paciotti, Communicable Disease Supervisor, thanked her Staff, and advised the Board that the County is mandated by the State to investigate and report diseases as well as to educate the public and to assure that everyone is treated to prevent such outbreaks. She reported that 70% of the produce in the U.S. comes from other countries and that there is increased antibiotic resistance throughout the World. She reviewed that the main goals relative to communicable disease are to reduce incidence,

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increase disease and increase prevention. Immunizations are the major strategy. She reported that flu vaccine is available and should be utilized by as many individuals as possible. She also discussed the problem of decreased funding for public health in the arena of communicable disease. Another goal is prevention through education, even if it is just instructing individuals on proper handwashing techniques. She spoke to the need to accept personal responsibility and to work hand-in-hand with environmental health in the prevention of food-borne illnesses. She discussed the activities and success of the Teen Clinics, which are well utilized. Ms. Paciotti further reviewed the success of the Hepatitis "B" program and immunization program that began four or five years ago in this regard.

Jennifer Sass, Community Health Nursing, spoke regarding the common goal to have improved community health. She explained that her staff is out in the community focusing on child and family health. She stated that such staff consists of more than just nurses, and includes a nutritionist, WIC staff, and mental health professionals. The nurses focus not on the technical aspects of nursing, but more on the behavioral aspects. The goals are to have healthy pregnancies and have children grow up healthy. She talked about the need for education regarding good diet, regular activities, the prevention of injuries, immunizations, and forming health relationships. This involves working with families to identify needs and strengths and to help identify healthy lifestyles. Ms. Sass reported that research has borne out that public health nursing interventions help the community save money in the long run. Public Health Nurses can make a measurable difference if they have a consistent relationship with women during pregnancy and through the first two years of a child's life. There is less criminal activity and less use of the welfare system, among other advantages. She spoke to the challenges of staffing to meet the needs of Spanish-speaking families. Ms. Sass stated that the nurses have a good perspective on the community because they are in people's homes and work closely with associated agencies.

The Board thanked Mr. Browning and his Staff for their informative report.

2. Miscellaneous.

There were no Miscellaneous Health Department items for discussion.

FACILITIES PROJECTS UPDATE.

Roger Howard, Director, gave a brief review of the Facilities Management Department, together with his education and work history with the County since 1976. He also reviewed an organizational chart for Facility Management, including two divisions: Public Work (construction, alteration and improvements to County facilities) and Building Maintenance. He discussed the RCW's that are pertinent when the County wishes to do construction or alterations. He reported that \$31,000,000 worth of construction has been completed since he began work with the County. He noted that when he started with the County, there were 18 departments and now there are 34. Consequently, such departmental increase has driven much of the construction. He reviewed the tasks that are required with each project including the formulation of a project budget, hard and soft costs established, and monitoring of the project through its time of completion.

Mr. Howard reviewed a Project Summary of current projects, which included the following:

1. 2nd Floor Administration Building – Treasurer's Office and Other Small Alteration Projects – Mr. Howard advised that he is ready to call for bids for this project involving the relocation of the Treasurer's office. He reviewed some of the specifics of the structural changes to the space on the 2nd Floor of the Administration Building. The bid opening will be in February, with construction scheduled for March, with completion slated for the end of May.
2. 1st Floor Courthouse – Third Superior Courtroom – After the Treasurer moves to the Administration Building, construction will begin on remodeling for a new third Superior Courtroom. The call for bids is scheduled to be issued March 5, 2001, with project completion by the end of

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August. The work includes the removal of some walls, ceiling and lighting, plus new casework for a new ADA accessible judge's bench and jury box.

3. East County Community Resource Center at Concrete – Mr. Howard reported that an Architect had been selected and the necessary contract was being prepared. A property topography survey must be completed and submitted with the Environmental Assessment. SEPA will be submitted to the Town of Concrete and NEPA submitted to the County Planning Department. Information will be provided to the State Department of Fish & Wildlife pertaining to the stream that exists adjacent to the site in the Concrete Senior Center parking lot and the project's site surface water drainage impact on this stream.
4. Road Oil Tank System Upgrade – Mr. Howard stated that the tanks should arrive January 22, 2001 with the new tank installation completed by February 20, 2001. The demolition of the old tanks will be completed by March 12, 2001.
5. Upgrade HVAC System at Cleveland Building – The desire by Public Works to improve the heating, ventilating and air conditioning system at the Cleveland Building was reviewed. Mr. Howard stated that he would like to prepare this for bid in the Spring, following an earlier review by a mechanical contractor.

Commissioner Munks indicated that the Board is interested in consolidating departments and would want to be kept fully informed before monies are expended for improvements to off-campus buildings.

A discussion ensued about the building of a parking garage and office building in the old Blade lot and the divestiture of outside buildings.

6. Horseshoe Parking Lot – Upon query from Commissioner Munks, improvements to this parking lot were briefly discussed. Mr. Howard explained the difficulties of drainage and underground utility boxes that would need to be modified. He stated that there would need to be a considerable amount of engineering and design work done to make sure that the drainage situation is properly addressed.
7. Paint Buildings at Burlington Shop – Mr. Howard advised that this building needs to be painted, but that proper preparation of the shop's exterior needs to be considered in the bid documents.
8. Parks & Recreation Maintenance Shop – Bids are to be opened on January 30, 2001, with construction to be completed by August 31, 2001.
9. Jail Laundry Room/Kitchen Alterations – Mr. Howard stated that the design and bid documents are to be completed by mid-2001. He briefly discussed the increased capacity of the jail since it was built, with the original capacity of 73 beds. Today's capacity is 100 beds over that amount. Consequently, improved facilities for laundry and kitchen are needed.
10. Humane Society Property Sale – Mr. Howard reported that the Humane Society is reviewing their options regarding the proposal for the County to hold a public auction for the sale of the property they are leasing from the County. A decision is expected by February 2001.

Mr. Howard reviewed a comprehensive list of the various leases held by the County for properties in the downtown Mount Vernon area. He advised that the County currently rents about 14,000 square feet of property in downtown Mount Vernon.

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A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the need for easier management of departments and improved public access to the County Campus. The impacts of the proposed Multi-Modal Center and the loss of County parking spaces were discussed in this regard.

MISCELLANEOUS.

On behalf of the Public Works Department, Staff presented a Right-of-Way Settlement for the property owned by 4H Enterprises, LLC in the amount of \$45,000. Commissioner Munks moved to approve the right-of-way settlement as presented, and Chairman Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. **(Approved)**

ADJOURNMENT.

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

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Ted W. Anderson, Chairman

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

Don Munks, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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