

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Monday, April 16, 2001**

	9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Work Session – County Administrator.
	9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Work Session – Commissioners' Staff Meeting.
	10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Discussion and Possible Action regarding Economic Development Public Facility Committee Recommendations.
*T	10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Presentation – Skagit County Historical Society Board of Directors.
	11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Consent Agenda and Miscellaneous Items.
*T	11:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Presentation of Special Commitment Award to Dennis Lind, Skagit County Parks & Recreation Department.
	1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Executive Session – Personnel, Litigation and Land Acquisition.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, April 16, 2001, with Commissioners Ted W. Anderson, Don Munks, and Kenneth A. Dahlstedt present.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PUBLIC FACILITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

Chairman Anderson opened this agenda item by explaining that each recommendation from the Economic Development Public Facility Committee would be considered and voted on separately.

Roy Atwood, County Administrator, presented the Board with two resolutions for their consideration and possible action regarding the Committee's recommendations. In this regard, he reviewed the Summary of Economic Development Public Facilities Meeting, which was held on April 4, 2001. He reported that all of the Committee members were present and included:

Commissioner Ted W. Anderson
Roy Atwood, County Administrator
Don Wick, EDASC Executive Director
Jerry Heller, Port of Skagit Executive Director
Eron Berg, Mayor of LaConner
Sharon Dillon, Mayor of Sedro Woolley
Bob Taylor, Business Representative
Alicia Huschka, County Finance Director (non-voting member).

Mr. Atwood reviewed that Ms. Huschka had summarized for the Committee the 20 projects to date that had been awarded for a total amount of \$8,563,650. All 20 projects have gone through the established process set forth by the Board by resolution. Nineteen of the 20 projects have been accepted per committee recommendations. One project, the WSU research station, was awarded by the Board after the Committee had reviewed and rejected the project for funding. The motion made by the Board of Commissioners on July 24, 2000 stated that the Board would support funding of the project should the project secure additional funding, which they did, consisting of \$500,000 from HUD.

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In the summary, Ms. Huschka reviewed with the Committee the financial summary of the .08% sales tax fund. She indicated that \$1,170,000 would likely be available for projects in 2002 and beyond. In addition, approximately \$700,000 of the .08% sales tax would be made available each year for projects. The Committee had discussed the need to reduce the amount of dollars awarded to projects to ensure funding availability for future and perhaps urgent economic development projects.

Committee members indicated that in some instances the criteria for scoring project should be fine-tuned. Some of the areas discussed included:

- Having the agency indicate on the application the amount of local agency funds to be put towards the project and how the committee should weigh that information;
- Allowing the applicants to attend the Committee meetings to answer questions should the Committee have questions;
- Setting some project timeline criteria in which funds should be spent or at least requiring periodic updates to the County if projects are not moving forward; the intention here was to free up committed dollars if projects were no longer viable.

Mr. Atwood next reviewed the specifics of the first project for consideration – City of Mount Vernon Fiber Optic Infrastructure Project. He reviewed the series of motions that were made during the Committee's meeting regarding this project. A motion ultimately passed with 4 "yes" votes, and 3 "no" votes. Mr. Berg had conditioned his "yes" vote that the issue regarding redundancy should still be addressed

Commissioner Dahlstedt moved that the application received from the City of Mount Vernon and reviewed by the Advisory Committee on April 4, 2001 for the South Mount Vernon Fiber Optic Infrastructure Project under the Skagit County Economic Development Public Facilities program be funded from the Rural Distressed County sales tax as authorized by the State of Washington and Skagit County Ordinances and Resolutions in an amount not to exceed \$250,000. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Munks for discussion purposes.

Skye Richendrfer, Mayor of Mount Vernon, PO Box 809, Mount Vernon, offered to answer any questions that the Board might have about the proposed project.

Commissioner Munks stated that it was unclear to him exactly what was proposed for this project, and questioned if trunk lines were already installed by AT&T and Verizon would it be necessary for the City to buy such trunklines from these principals.

Mayor Richendrfer stated that the City intends to go through a Request for Proposals/Qualifications procedure and will enter into an agreement with a private party to manage the needed infrastructure. He stated that Verizon and AT&T would be candidates to fill this role through their broadband capabilities. Mayor Richendrfer stated that the City finds this appealing as it would introduce an element of competition beyond Verizon and AT&T.

Commissioner Munks commented on a recent regional meeting of the Washington State Association of Counties in Oak Harbor, and a report from Lewis or Cowlitz County on its success stories regarding the installation of fiber optics throughout their county. Commissioner Munks indicated that the subject county was able to work out a deal for \$2,000 with a private carrier, with the carrier being very cooperative. He asked Mayor Richendrfer if this project is just for the City of Mount Vernon.

Mayor Richendrfer responded that the total cost of the fiber optic installation is \$2.8 million with additional costs for hardware and software. He said that it is important to distinguish that there are two applications. One is for private/public partnership access to be provided at no cost for internal access. He stated that Skagit County currently utilizes the City's infrastructure through our public safety bond issue to connect to the 911 Center. Other partners include the Mount Vernon School District and Affiliated Health Services. That is not the justification for the economic development grant, however. The second piece is to provide

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businesses access to high-speed telecommunications to allow them to locate in South Mount Vernon. He reviewed that a CERB grant had been received for providing such infrastructure. Mayor Richendrfer reported that specific buildings and offices are currently being refurbished to allow them to utilize the infrastructure being constructed. Consequently, the nexus of requirements for jobs is real and is part of this phasing in of what the City is doing. The monies requested would allow the City to phase this infrastructure into south Mount Vernon.

Commissioner Dahlstedt asked if the County is currently utilizing this fiber optic network at no cost.

Mayor Richendrfer responded "yes." He stated that there is currently not a model for a private component, and that many businesses have expressed a desire for high speed access into south Mount Vernon. The end result would be applicable for any business and allow them to send data with a tremendous cost savings. He listed examples currently being utilized by the County relative to the 911 Center, State Patrol and others. He commented on the cost effectiveness of such partnerships. He stated that as a result of providing this low-cost access, there would be some financial contribution back to the City of Mount Vernon that has not yet been determined.

Commissioner Munks expressed his concern regarding private access to such infrastructure.

In response, Mayor Richendrfer stated that AT&T Broadband had sent a letter in support of this application. He reiterated that no one can tell with certainty what the future will hold, and that competition with this system does not restrict it, but enhances it. There is a lot of potential for things not yet envisioned. He indicated that it would be necessary have a dialogue and discussion to work through things that come up so as to be beneficial to the community as a whole.

Commissioner Munks stated that in coming from the private sector, he must look to setting a precedence for all cities with consideration toward the future, and the possibility that all cities might eventually end up with their own fiber optic district set up. He indicated that it is excellent to have a public section serviceable to all public entities, but that he had a major concern with the private part of the proposal. He said that he foresees every city coming forward with a facility to sell.

Mayor Richendrfer indicated that the vision is to provide such opportunities for high speed access to every household and business. He stressed that there is a need to offer such services and not be in competition with existing providers. He stated that there are a number of successful models (i.e., the City of Tacoma), that are having tremendous business recruitment successes. He stated that he cannot tell exactly what the impact would be to Verizon, but there would be a partnership opportunity for them that has not existed previously. Mayor Richendrfer stated that this enhances competition and provides more flexibility.

Commissioner Munks expressed the need to know whether Mount Vernon's project would be in direct competition or undercut private industries. He stated that he would not be in favor of a situation where the district established affected the economic viability of other businesses.

Mayor Richendrfer responded that the resultant reduction of costs to Affiliated Health Services and the Mount Vernon School District saves taxpayers thousands of dollars annually. He compared providing this service to balancing the purchase of office supplies from local businesses rather than national businesses.

Commissioner Dahlstedt also expressed his concern regarding the balance between private and public entities, noting that the government is always accused of being inefficient.

Chairman Anderson clarified that he is not picking on Mount Vernon, but simply thinks that a county-wide plan that utilizes existing lines makes more sense. He indicated that he had reviewed overlays of the existing lines on both sides of I-5, and that they run through south Mount Vernon. He expressed concern

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over the limited amount of money available, and not wanting to install lines where lines already exist and can be utilized.

Commissioner Munks asked if the City of Mount Vernon is the first one to do this type of project, would other cities such as Burlington, Sedro Woolley and Anacortes have access. Mayor Richendrfer responded that the City has had conversations with both Anacortes and Burlington in this regard.

Commissioner Munks asked if it might be better to do this type of project then on a county-wide basis.

Mayor Richendrfer indicated that the City has been working on this project for over 5 years, and the plan has moved off the table with the first installation that has done to the 911 Center. Subsequently, PUD is a more likely player and will determine what the remainder of the community wants to do in this regard. He stated that the City is in favor of a collaborative effort with mutual benefits for all municipalities that want to work with the City. He stated that he was not aware of the level of planning at other jurisdictions regarding the provision of fiber optics.

Commissioner Dahlstedt expressed the need for the private sector to be forthcoming early on in these types of projects.

Chairman Anderson called for the question. Commissioner Dahlstedt voted in favor of the motion, and Commissioners Munks and Anderson voted against the motion. The motion failed by a 2-1 vote, and the City of Mount Vernon's award of funding was not approved.

Mr. Atwood next presented the City of Anacortes-Anacortes Waterline Bypass/Twin Bridge Development Project. Mr. Atwood indicated that after discussion of the parameters of the project, the Committee unanimously approved the award of \$300,000 for this project.

Commissioner Munks moved to approve the recommendation for the Anacortes Waterline Bypass/Twin Bridge Development Project under the Skagit County Economic Development Public Facilities program from the Rural Distressed County sales tax as authorized by the State of Washington and Skagit County Ordinances and Resolutions in an amount not to exceed \$300,000. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous vote. **(Resolution No. 18225)**

PRESENTATION – SKAGIT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Duane Stowe, Historical Society Board Member, introduced his fellow board members and the Museum's Director, Karen Marshall. Mr. Stowe explained that the main goal of the Historical Society is to preserve history for future generations. He reviewed the Museum's facilities and the debt that is owed on the Research Library that was purchased and renovated in 1995. He stated that paying of this debt has taken money away from programs. Mr. Stowe also reported that in 2000 the County leased the building in Bay View to the Museum for collection storage. He stressed the need for more room for the retention of such artifacts. He spoke to the support of citizens in providing volunteer labor among other contributions.

Mr. Stowe asked for the return of \$15,400 in funding previously provided by the County and lost to the Museum in 2000. The program budget is making up this deficit and, consequently, offered programs have had to be reduced. He commented on the many fundraisers held, trying to relieve the debt on the purchase of the Research Library. He stressed that the \$15,400 the County provided made quite a difference in the programs offered. Mr. Stowe stated that the Museum could not exist if not for continued County funding, and expressed his appreciation to the Board for their consideration in this regard.

Mr. Stowe reviewed the proposed programs for the future.

Mr. Stowe complimented Ms. Marshall on her good work on the various programs of the Museum.

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Chairman Anderson indicated that the Board would look at the reserves for this year and see if there might be a way to find some money to assist the Museum. He commented on the need to obtain backfill monies for the losses incurred due to I-695. He spoke to the huge deficit at the State level, and the Board's efforts to obtain funding for other items.

Ms. Marshall then showed a 30-second video regarding the Museum.

CONSENT AGENDA.

Commissioner Dahlstedt moved to approve the Consent Agenda, items 1 through 12, for Monday, April 16, 2001. Commissioner Munks seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE:

1. Record of the Proceedings for Monday, April 9, 2001.
2. Record of the Proceedings for Tuesday, April 10, 2001.
3. Proclamation – Law Day in Skagit County, May 1, 2001. **(Approved)**

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE:

4. Partial Satisfaction and Release of Judgment in the Halverson, et al. v. Skagit County case as it relates to Michael and Penny Schons. The Schons will pay Skagit County \$880.26 for said Release. This second release is necessary to release the Skagit County case. **(Approved)**

INFORMATION SERVICES:

5. State of Washington Interlocal Cooperative Agreement ICA-2001-267 between The Office of the Administrator for the Courts and Skagit County, which allows the County to receive reimbursement for the local purchase of personal computers for Skagit County Superior and District Courts. The maximum reimbursement to be extended to Skagit County is \$38,700. **(Contract No. 05258)**

PARKS & RECREATION:

6. Out-of-State Travel Request for Ray Koenig to attend the Tri-State Groomer Workshop in Stanley, Idaho, March 10-13, 2001 for a total cost of \$625. **(Approved)**
7. Out-of-State Travel Request for Gary Ramsey to attend the Tri-State Groomer Workshop in Stanley, Idaho, March 10-13, 2001, for a total cost of \$92.20. **(Approved)**

PUBLIC WORKS:

8. Resolution Establishing County Road Project (CRP) 97010-1 for Burpee Hill Road at Grandy Creek. **(Resolution No. 18226)**
9. Resolution Establishing County Road Project (CRP) 95510-3 for Helmick Road at Red Creek Milepost 1.153. **(Resolution No. 18227)**
10. Resolution Establishing County Road Project (CRP) 08400-1 for East Sauk Prairie Road at Prairie Creek Milepost 0.652. **(Resolution No. 18228)**

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11. Resolution Establishing County Road Project (CRP) 08350-1 for Sauk Prairie Road at Gravel Creek Milepost 0.086. **(Resolution No. 18229)**
12. Resolution Establishing the 2001 Solid Waste Advisory Committee Membership. **(Resolution No. 18230)**

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 2001, 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 73162 through 73162 in the total dollar amount of \$5,845.48 (Transmittal No. P-15-01); and,

Warrants numbered 94135 through 94604 from Clearing fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$1,213,382.28 (Transmittal No. C-24-01).

2. Dave Brookings, Public Works Administrator, presented Miscellaneous items for the approval of the Commissioners.
 - A) Commissioner Dahlstedt motioned to approve a Resolution supporting the Skagit Watershed Council in its salmon recovery efforts, with an appropriation of \$30,000. Commissioner Munks seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. 18231)**
 - B) Commissioner Dahlstedt motioned to approve a Resolution to support the Skagit Fish Enhancement Group in their salmon recovery efforts, with an appropriation of \$30,000. Commissioner Munks seconded, which was passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. 18232)**
 - C) Commissioner Munks motioned to approve a Right-of-Entry/Construction Agreement with the Sedro Woolley School District for access to their property to perform brush cutting and spraying at Brickyard Creek as part of their Hydraulic Project. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(Contract No. 05259)**
 - D) Commissioner Munks motioned to approve a Right-of-Entry/Construction Agreement with James and Doris Elder for access to their property to perform brush cutting and spraying at Brickyard Creek as part of their Hydraulic Project. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(Contract No. 05260)**
 - E) Commissioner Munks motioned to approve a Vendor Services Agreement with Industrial Mowing and Spraying for the Cook Road Improvement Project. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(Contract No. 05261)**

PRESENTATION OF SPECIAL COMMITMENT AWARD TO DENNIS LIND, SKAGIT COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT.

Chairman Anderson talked about the hard work of Dennis Lind of the Skagit County Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Lind has shown a deep interest and commitment to youth in the County, frequently working without compensation. The Board of County Commissioners recognized the professional

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commitment of Dennis Lind in his work in the community through the Skagit County Parks and Recreation Department.

Mr. Lind acknowledged Bob Vaux, the new Skagit County Parks and Recreation Director, and thanked Tony Tewalt and Lauren Woodmansee, Recreation Coordinators, for their support and commitment,

Mr. Vaux expressed his appreciation to the Commissioners for Mr. Lind's commitment, and told them what an inspiration Mr. Lind has been to him.

Sheriff Ed Goodman said he thought it was important for the public to know about Mr. Lind's efforts for the community. He stated that Mr. Lind had been totally dedicated in his work, putting in long and, oftentimes, uncompensated, hours to work with the youth of Skagit County.

Tony Tewalt, Recreation Coordinator, added that Mr. Lind is one of those rare individuals who makes it pleasant to come to work in the morning.

Lauren Woodmansee, Recreation Coordinator, congratulated Mr. Lind and talked about how she looks forward to continuing to work with him.

Chairman Anderson announced that Bob Vaux has been appointed the new Director of the Parks, Recreation & Fair Department for Skagit County.

Commissioner Dahlstedt also congratulated Mr. Lind, thanking and saluting him for his work.

Commissioner Munks agreed, stating that Mr. Lind has a huge concern about what happens with our youth today and he is so pleased to see how the Parks and Recreation Department has had an impact in that area.

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