

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS**

**Tuesday, June 19, 2001**

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SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
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- \*T 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Public Hearing - Elections Boundary Adjustments
- 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Board of Health – Peter Browning, Director
- 1) Introduction of the new Environmental Health Supervisor and Public Health Nurses
  - 2) Communications and Marketing Project for State DOH and local Health Departments
  - 3) Food regulation changes and update
- \*T 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Parks, Recreation and Fair Update
- 1:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. Bid Opening – Concrete Sauk Valley Road at Aldon Creek Rd. No. 0800
- 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Work Session - Public Works Department – McElroy Slough Project

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session with Commissioner Dahlstedt and Commissioner Munks present. Commissioner Ted Anderson was excused.

**PUBLIC HEARING – ELECTIONS BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS**

Commissioner Dahlstedt opened the public hearing.

The hearing was held to discuss an Ordinance which would amend the boundary lines for various precincts in Skagit County.

As no public testimony was forthcoming, Commissioner Munks motioned to approve the Ordinance and Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioner Dahlstedt then moved to close the public hearing, and Commissioner Munks seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote, and the public hearing was closed. **(Resolution No. 18282)**

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

1. Roy Atwood, County Administrator, presented the Board with a Labor Agreement between Skagit County and the Skagit County Public Works Department Local 176, Council #2, AFSCME. The term of the Agreement shall be January 1, 2001 through January 1, 2003. Commissioner Dahlstedt moved to approve the Agreement as presented, and Commissioner Munks seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. **(Contract No. 05340)**
2. Staff presented a Grant Deed of Conservation Easement with Louis J. Auriemma, Jr., Trustee of the Louis Auriemma, Sr. Revocable Trust. The purpose of the Easement is to assure the Riparian Habitat Conservation Zone will be retained predominately in its natural condition. Commissioner Dahlstedt moved to approve the Agreement as presented, and Commissioner Munks seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(Contract No. 05341)**

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3. Staff presented a Grant Deed of Conservation Easement with Mary Good. The purpose of the Easement is to assure the Riparian Habitat Conservation Zone will be retained predominately in its natural condition. Commissioner Dahlstedt moved to approve the Agreement as presented, and Commissioner Munks seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous vote. **(Contract No. 05342)**

### **BOARD OF HEALTH – Peter Browning, Director**

#### **1) Introduction of New Environmental Health Supervisor and Public Health Nurses**

Mr. Browning then introduced Corrinne Story as the new Environmental Health Department Supervisor. She will be replacing Mr. Ken Willis, who is retiring at the end of the month.

He also introduced the Health Department's two new nurses. They are Heidi Mitchell-Sanchez and Donna Smith. He reports that their Department is now fully staffed.

#### **2) Communications and Marketing Project for State DOH and Local Health Departments**

Peter Browning, Director, stated that he has been working on the Public Health Improvement Plan. Five components of the plan were presented to the Board.

1. Establish standards as to what each local Health Department should do.
2. Establish a set of indicators to identify changes in Public Health across the state.
3. Technology is a very important piece of the puzzle due to the on-line pilot programs that will be in effect.
4. Work force development is also an issue as it is hard to find good employees due to the high turnover rate. It puts a tremendous strain on the Department.
5. Communications and marketing are a top priority.

Mr. Browning has received a lot of positive feedback about the recent videos being aired on television. They have really helped in getting the word out to the public about the role of the Health Department. The videos play a key role in education. He then went on to share some statistics compiled by The Gilmore Research Group regarding public opinion. The number one area of concern was immunizations, the second was environmental health, and the third was food safety. The research also showed that local health jurisdictions were the most important component of a good Public Health system. Currently, public assistance, education and criminal justice, are the Health Department's biggest competitors when it comes to money.

Mr. Browning then talked about the Lead Based Poisoning Act that has taken effect. The Housing Authority is now required to inspect all buildings that may have lead based paint. They will do lead abatement and lead identification. Lead has been identified as being an extremely dangerous exposure. A Resolution will soon be brought to the Board concerning this requirement.

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### **3) Food Regulation Changes and Update**

Corrine Story, the new Environmental Health Department Supervisor, updated the Board about the food code revision for food service establishments. The Skagit County Food Code was last revised in the early 1980's. A Food Advisory Committee, made up of eight representatives from several different food service establishments across Skagit County was established in the fall of 2000. A list of the proposed changes follows:

1. Definitions.
2. Suspension and/or revocation of permits.
3. Operation and Maintenance of on-site sewage disposal system serving a food service establishment.
4. Water system serving a food service establishment.

Many of the other changes take out reference to a drinking establishment and certificate of inspection. These were required under previous Liquor Control Board rules that are no longer applicable.

### **4) Similk Beach Update**

Ken Willis, Environmental Health Supervisor, advised that his Department is currently wrapping up the sanitary survey that involved eighty-three residents of Similk Beach. Wade Bessett, Environmental Health Specialist, has been performing dye tests as part of the sanitary system review. The work has now been completed. The results will be compiled and be available for review by August 1, 2001. Mr. Willis stated that there is an overall failure rate of between 55%-65% due to poor soils and small lot sizes. The report will provide excellent justification for obtaining money for the project.

Mr. Willis then spoke about the Committee that had been formed in regards to the sewage group. It's a sticky situation due to the Growth Management Act (GMA). The GMA does not deal well with situations involving small lots and aging sewage systems. GMA says when you bring in urban services, it can only be to solve an existing problem. Therefore, the restrictions still need to be dealt with. If sewer lines were to be extended to the Similk Beach area, they would only be able to service those people who have failing systems and not the people whose systems are working, nor the vacant lots that may fail in the future. Mr. Willis said the Committee thought of a way around the restriction.

The logical thing to do is build a community drain field. It would not be an urban service but a rural amenity, therefore there would be no restrictions. The next hurdle would be to address the lot sizes. If the development code were followed, there would be a process to form a limited area of more intense rural development. Similk Beach would then be recognized as an area of small lots. You could then dictate the average lot size by the lot sizes in the area. The Committee intends to make steady progress in the right direction.

Commissioner Munks inquired about the individual who was being uncooperative and didn't want his system tested. He wondered if that problem had been resolved.

Mr. Willis said they didn't want to force the issue with him, as it would make no difference in the results.

Commissioner Munks feels it is wise to deal with the sewage problem in that area before other areas are developed. There needs to be a community success story.

Mr. George Sidles, Department of Ecology, then presented Mr. Willis a plaque in recognition of his many years of superior service to the Skagit County Health Department.

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### **PARKS, RECREATION AND FAIR UPDATE**

John Semrau, Chairman of the Parks Advisory Board, was present along with the other members of the Board. He gave the Commissioners an update on what the Board is currently working on.

Mr. Semrau explained that it is an exciting time in the history of the Northern State Recreation Area (NSRA). Planning for the design charette this fall is well under way. There is a very committed group of community leaders and volunteers to help facilitate this event. He reported that the countywide NSRA survey has gone out and approximately 5000 responses have been returned. As soon as the results are compiled they will be presented to the Commissioners.

Mr. Semrau reported on the success of the open house, which was held last Saturday at the NSRA site. The project has required the near full-time dedication of two staff members to move forward. Continual commitment for staff time will be required to continue to maintain progress with this project.

The primary focus of this presentation is funding for current and future projects, recreation programming, and facilities. Since 1990, the Advisory Board has had to rely heavily on the Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) money for park development as well as improvement of existing facilities. They have requested in the past that the focus of County REET dollars be on County projects; that the Board of County Commissioners request to increase the excise tax by 0.25%; and that the Board consider dedicating a percentage of the current excise tax for County Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Semrau stated that for 2001 REET funding, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board prioritized \$917,000 worth of projects for parks and recreation. They requested funding for \$570,000 of these projects. These dollar amounts did not include the \$300,000 requested by the Task Force for NSRA. Zero dollars of the County Parks REET request was granted. All 2001 parks project REET funds were dedicated to NSRA as requested by the NSRA Task Force. He went on to explain that this is the first year that no money was awarded to them. The message being clearly communicated today is that zero dollars from the REET funds for Parks projects is not an acceptable amount.

Most of the REET requests this year were for completing existing projects. The ability to not fund them puts them off for another year. If the projects are not completed within a certain time frame, then part of the grant money used to start them will need to be paid back. The Committee is perplexed as to why the NSRA has received funds and they haven't, especially when it boils down to operations and maintenance.

Mr. Semrau said their highest priority is moving forward with an indoor recreation facility. The need is definitely there. One of the most time consuming tasks of the Recreation Department is scheduling with the facilities the County currently has.

Commissioner Munks commented on how he and Commissioner Dahlstedt are just getting involved in the process. When they are presented with any item, which involves money, the Board will identify what they would like to fund and how to do it. Everyone has special requests and the County is getting cut back more and more by the State.

Commissioner Dahlstedt noted that there seems to be a lot of inequities as to how the REET money has been spent. It should be allocated in a way for maximum utilization for the citizens of the County, not just one particular District. Each group feels their needs are the most important and the money is simply not there.

Mr. Semrau reiterated that the Committee didn't ask for any new projects this year, just money to finish existing projects.

Commissioner Dahlstedt asked if out the \$917,000 asked for, have the projects already been committed as far as money goes or are they all new. Patrik Dylan, Project Manager, Parks Department, replied that they were all unfunded needs at this point.

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Mr. Semrau remarked that the \$917,000 doesn't include plans to move ahead with the NSRA project. He said it was not clear how the \$300,000 a year that NSRA was awarded, was to be spent. He asked if the money is all REET money. He felt there were many issues to be discussed before any construction could be done at the site.

Commissioner Dahlstedt spoke about the need for positive communication. There is a need to coordinate efforts and to be unified as a community with long-range plans. The Board would like to facilitate cooperation and be careful not to work in an advisory role.

Mr. Lloyd Brown from District 3 expressed his concerns regarding these issues. He is not against building ball fields at the Northern State site because he is a member of the Sedro Woolley community. However, there is absolutely no money being spent in either District No. 1 or 2 for the next ten years because of what has been awarded to the NSRA project. Mr. Brown sees the need to finish the existing Parks projects before the current permits expire.

Bob Vaux, Parks Director, wanted to stress the fact that Fair issues are not being addressed today because of there being two separate Boards. The Fair Board will bring up their issues before the Commissioners at a later date.

Commissioner Dahlstedt says he is very aware that 60% of the funding has been promised to District No. 3 and feels there should be equality for each District. He feels that if you are going to convince the public to increase the Real Estate Excise Tax rate, it all needs to be evened out. Prioritization of the funding must be discussed. There should be no specific pet project, as the needs of the citizens of Skagit County must be met. Commissioner Dahlstedt suggested a work session be set up to bring the two sides together to find a solution.

Commissioner Munks agreed. He wants to make sure the funds spent go to projects that enhance the entire County. He appreciated the Advisory Board coming before them to express their concerns, as this is the first time he and Commissioner Dahlstedt have seen the overall picture.

Mr. Semrau then cited a few statistics compiled from the survey results that have been received thus far.

Mr. Vaux spoke to the Commissioners about the need to bring the various groups together at the community level instead of the in front of the Commissioners when addressing the specific planning process regarding Northern State. After discussions have taken place, options will be brought to the Board.

Commissioner Munks brought up the issue of the Indoor Recreation Facility. The Parks Department depends heavily on the area schools for recreation events. Another facility would take the pressure off of the schools. The proposal brought forth this spring by Mike Fohn, a member of the private sector, was very enticing. You need to take a look at the broader picture. Many questions must be resolved before an indoor facility can be built.

Commissioner Dahlstedt then asked if after watching this presentation, there were any Skagit County residents in support of the REET base, they would need to contact the Board of County Commissioners. He then thanked those who serve in these voluntary capacities. He assured everyone that the Board would do whatever they could to make sure there is money to meet all of these needs.

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**BID OPENING – CONCRETE SAUK VALLEY ROAD AT ALDON CREEK RD. NO. 0800**

John Abenroth, Engineering Technician for the Public Works Department, opened the following bids:

Harkness Contracting Inc.  
P. O. Box 223  
Acme, WA 98220  
Bid Bond Enclosed  
Base Bid: \$310,517.54

Henifin Construction  
3857 Hannigan Road  
Bellingham, WA 98226  
Bid Bond Enclosed  
Base Bid: \$368,044.00

Daycreek Contracting  
10632 Warfield Road  
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284  
Bid Bond Enclosed  
Base Bid: \$272,872.86

SRV Construction, Inc.  
P. O. Box 481  
Oak Harbor, WA 98277  
Bid Bond Enclosed  
Base Bid: \$388,023.24

Strider Construction Company, Inc.  
4721 Northwest Drive  
Bellingham, WA 98226  
Bid Bond Enclosed  
Base Bid: \$342,910.08

Knudson & Sons, Inc.  
13934 Bisquet Ridge Lane  
Bow, WA 98232  
Bid Bond Enclosed  
Base Bid: \$234,807.76

Taggart Construction  
20225 Broadway Avenue South  
Snohomish, WA 98290  
Bid Bond Enclosed  
Base Bid: \$490,340.51

Callen Construction Company, Inc.  
P. O. Box 498  
Custer, WA 98240  
Bid Bond Enclosed  
Base Bid: \$349,080.29

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Harkness Timber and Development  
2530 Applejack Lane  
Bellingham, WA 98226  
Bid Bond Enclosed  
Base Bid: \$272,974.06

Mr. Abenroth stated he would evaluate the bids and would be back to the Board with a recommendation within two weeks.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Dahlstedt motioned to adjourn the proceedings. Commissioner Munks seconded the motion, which was carried.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ted W. Anderson, Chairman

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Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

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Don Munks, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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JoAnne Giesbrecht, Clerk of the Board  
Skagit County Board of Commissioners0