

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2002**

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	<u>Board of Health – Peter Browning, Director</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Public Hearing – To Consider Testimony Regarding the Adoption of Schedule of Charges Revisions Proposed by the Skagit County Health Department2. Miscellaneous
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Parks Projects Update
11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Bid Opening – Establishment of Maintenance Materials
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Work Session – Discussion of the Community Farm Project

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, March 12, 2002, with Commissioners Don Munks, Kenneth A. Dahlstedt and Ted W. Anderson present.

BOARD OF HEALTH – Peter Browning, Director.

1. Public Hearing – To Consider Testimony Regarding the Adoption of Schedule of Charges Revisions Proposed by the Skagit County Health Department.

Chairman Don Munks opened the public hearing.

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

Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the fee changes as outlined. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dahlstedt, and passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. R20020088)**

2. Miscellaneous.

A. Peter Browning, Director, discussed the lead article that appeared in the Seattle Times recently addressseing the Medicaid dilemma. He talked about the difficulty the pharmacies are having with trying to keep up with the funding cuts that have occurred. Mr. Browning met with Senator Haugen and area physicians to try and work towards a solution to the problem. Everyone agreed that the Medicare/Medicaid formula needs to berevised. Mr. Browning said the formula actually worked when it was instituted. The consensus was that there needs to be a nationwide revision before the physicians decide not to see these types of patients. The budget cuts will affect small counties far more than urban areas. Mr. Browning said a lot of the costs come from increase reporting and paperwork that needs to be done. Medicare and Medicaid say they say they pay 80% of the usual and customary charges but in all reality they only pay 50% of those charges.

B. Mr. Browning had a discussion with Representative Jeff Morris about the tobacco money that the state was awarded. He said the money was supposed to be used for low income and public health in general. It would have been a logical place to use the money. It seems the legislators are unaware that when they cut the Department of Social and Health Services budget, they are also cutting public health budgets.

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Commissioner Anderson remarked that the state should have learned a lesson with the lottery. If you put the money into the general fund, it gets used for other things. It makes sense that that is what they are trying to do with the tobacco settlement money.

C. Mr. Browning next discussed the \$20 million dollars that has been offered to begin work on bio-terrorism. He wants to make sure that when the money becomes available, it gets down to the local level as the Health Department will play a pivotal role right along side the police and fire departments in dealing with bio-terrorism.

Commissioner Anderson mentioned the need to revisit the evacuation plan for the County. It needs to be back on the front burner in case there is a potential disaster. He asked Mr. Browning to touch base with Tim Holloran, Director of Senior Services, to get a solid evacuation plan in place.

D. Mr. Browning announced that there will be a press conference on March 22 regarding the Behavioral Risk Factor Survey. Alex Von Cube will be meeting with the area hospital directors to discuss the survey results and will present them to the Board in the near future.

E. Mr. Browning said he is almost finished studying the proposed smoking areas around the county buildings. He suggested an enclosure, much like they have in place at area bus stops, be erected at the head of the horseshoe parking lot. He said the cost would be under \$4,000. He will get back with the Board about costs and any final recommendations.

PARKS PROJECTS UPDATE.

Bob Vaux, Director, gave a Park Project Priority presentation. He said it is the goal of the Parks and Recreation staff to illustrate their most critical project needs and to facilitate the communication between the Parks Advisory Board and the Commissioners. It is their hope to gain the support of the Commissioners so that they make take Priority No. 2, which is to finish/renovate current facilities request of \$230,000, forward to the REET Committee for their 2002 request.

Mr. Vaux outlined the projects that have come to fruition over the last twelve months. They are: 1) The Swinomish Channel Boat Launch; 2) The Northern State Charette Planning Process; 3) The Stan Poppe Field Renovation; 4) The Skagit Valley Dream Field Grandstands; 5) The Howard Miller Playground Installations; 6) The Howard Miller Water System Upgrade.

Mr. Vaux explained the three Parks Project Priority categories.

1. Priority No. 1 – Take Care of What You Have.

Daily maintenance of park facilities - Community needs and expectations have mandated facility and staff development over the last few years. While county dollars have been stretched to meet these challenges, maintenance and operation line items have decreased. By providing maintenance to the facilities as they are needed, in the long run dollars are saved by fixing problems when they are small.

2. Priority No. 2 – Finish/Renovate Current Facilities.

Skagit Valley Playfields Lighting – Repair and replace lighting electrical components including luminaries, assemblies, and fixture housings. It is a twenty year, long term maintenance project that is now overdue. The cost would be \$40,000 if done soon or \$150,000 if it is put off until later with the potential of substantial damage.

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Charlie Custer Field Renovation at Skagit Valley Playfields – Lighting and field surface renovations are a must. It is the last field at the tournament facility that is not lighted. Lighting extends the period of play and would provide up to \$5,000 in additional revenue per year. The cost of this project would be \$300,000, of which \$75,00 is being offered by the Skagit Softball Association as a match for the renovations.

Clear Lake Beach – Improve parking, install security lighting, provide food service structure, and the installation of a goose waste prevention system are being proposed. The facility is extremely popular and serves over 12,000 people a year. It is also the only guarded outdoor swimming facility in Skagit County. These renovations would create a larger revenue stream to offset fixed costs, reduce risk to public health, reduce vandalism, and provide summer jobs for area youth. The total cost would be \$110,000.

3. Priority Project No. 3 – Fund, Plan, Develop, Design and Construct New High Priority Facilities.

Develop and construct new facilities. These would include the Northern State Recreation Area, an indoor recreation center, the reconveyance of Frailey Mountain Gun Range, Presentin Park, Conway Park and Boat Launch, and Skagit Valley Dream Field lights, restroom and concession stand.

Mr. Vaux went on to explain that the Parks Department is serving a growing population. Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) funds have historically been the source of their capital program. The shrinking portion of their budget is allocated to maintenance and operation costs and without backfill funds, it reduces their potential for customer service.

Chairman Munks said the Board will take a look at Economic Development funds, REET money, and fee schedules. Skagit County is in a stage of recession but it is not their desire to close any Skagit County parks.

BID OPENING – ESTABLISHMENT OF MAINTENANCE MATERIALS.

Dub Queen, Public Works, opened the proposals for Maintenance Materials. See Attachment “A”.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Staff presented a Resolution for the Approval of Sick Leave Transfer for James Shuler, an employee of the Skagit County Sheriff's Office. It is expected that Mr. Shuler will be off work for a minimum of six weeks. Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the Resolution as outlined. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. R20020089)**

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ADJOURNMENT.

Commissioner Dahlstedt made a motion to adjourn the proceedings. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Don Munks, Chairman

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

Ted W. Anderson, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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