

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2003**

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Presentation – Boys and Girls Club

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Budget Work Session

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, November 18, 2003, with Commissioners Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Ted W. Anderson and Don Munks present.

PRESENTATION – BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB.

Mike Crawford led the discussion regarding the Boys and Girls Clubs of Skagit County. He introduced several audience members including the following:

- Kim Grahams, Operations Director, who stated that the kids of Skagit County needed a place to go after school. Therefore, 4 clubs were opened in approximately 18 months, which are located in Mount Vernon, Anacortes, Burlington and Sedro-Woolley. Each day over 400 area youth are served in the 4 different clubs and annual membership totals over 1,700. Teen programs that are provided after school and on Friday evenings total over 250 kids. Ms. Grahams feels the results mean higher self esteem, more success in school, and in general, happier and healthier children. Boys and Girls Clubs are building adults of the future and at the same time are providing them with a positive and safe place to go.
- Tim Bruce, La Conner Schools Superintendent, said Skagit County was the recipient of a 21st Century Learning Grant, which was meant to improve our community in the areas of early childhood, adult literacy, and programs for elementary and teen students. He said the grant was the largest ever awarded in the nation, however, those funds were never intended to sustain programs, but to act as seed money to help initiate these programs. The Boys and Girls Clubs are a place where kids can hang out and receive help with their homework. As older students mentor to younger students, it helps with necessary social skills. He asked the Board to strongly consider continued funding.
- Anacortes Mayor, Dean Maxwell, stated that this is a countywide program that everyone must work collectively on. He said Anacortes tried to start a teen center but it didn't seem to have the structure that met the needs of the teens. Along came the Boys and Girls Club and membership currently stands at 75, which peak to 125 at certain times. Those students that have no place to go home to after school like to tell how much the program benefits them. Mayor Maxwell indicated that several Anacortes businesses have pledged \$2,500 a piece for the next five years to help the club survive.
- Lisa Janicki, CFO of Janicki Industries in Sedro-Woolley, testified that as a business person and neighbor to Cascade Middle School, home of the Boys and Girls Club, she has seen a dramatic change and a remarkably reduced amount of vandalism, theft and trespassing since the club was opened. It has given the kids a real purpose in life. She supports the networking and additional parenting that takes place in all of the clubs.
- Karen Peterka, Grant Writer, said she is highly supportive of the clubs and hopes the Board is as well.

Several more audience members spoke favorably of the 4 Boys and Girls Clubs. Mr. Crawford indicated that to enable these clubs to function in 2004, an additional \$250,000 in funding is needed.

Commissioner Anderson said Skagit County has put a lot of money into the Best Self program for early intervention. At one point, mention was made regarding reduced funding for the program, however the opposition was enormous. Although the Boys and Girls Clubs do a phenomenal job, funding cuts of 10% around the County have been proposed and a balanced budget still cannot be achieved, stated Commissioner Anderson. However, he said he would be supportive of removing money from reserves to support the clubs on a year-by-year basis. The children of the community are important to all of us and if

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you give them opportunities, all society benefits in the long run. He said juvenile detention growth has stagnated in Skagit County compared to other counties, which is due largely to early intervention practices.

Commissioner Munks said the County needs to be looked at as a whole, including cities, towns and unincorporated areas. This is a situation that affects all of us and it will take an effort by all of us to try to make after school programs work. Whatever youth activity that mentors our kids and grandkids and at the same time passes on to them an education, social values and work ethics will help in treating them as adults. Commissioner Munks would like to see all organizations network together to form one countywide organization that looks at the needs of many children. He said if there is one structure instead of ten, more money is available for the kids.

Chairman Dahlstedt thanked everyone for coming. He said the Boys and Girls Clubs in our community are much needed and he will do everything he can to support them. He doesn't want to see a duplication of services and thinks if you consolidate programs such as Best Self, Boys and Girls Clubs, the YMCA and other organizations, there is additional money available to better meet the needs of our youth.

MISCELLANEOUS.

During a budget work session, Commissioner Anderson motioned to approve a resolution accepting the preliminary Fiscal Year 2004 Budget. Commissioner Munks seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous vote. **(Resolution No. R20030375)**

ADJOURNMENT.

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

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Chairman

Ted W. Anderson, Commissioner

Don Munks, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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