

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2004**

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| 8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. | Work Session – Commissioners |
| 8:45 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. | Work Session – County Administrator |
| 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. | Decision – Appeal by Roy Frazier of the Hearing Examiner’s Decision Issued on Appeal No. PL03-0896 |
| *T 10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. | Presentation – Donation of a Staff Compass |
| *T 10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. | Decision – Amending Skagit County Code 3.12, Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) |
| 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. | Consent Agenda and Miscellaneous Items |
| 11:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. | Public Comment Period |
| 2:00 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, January 12, 2004, with Commissioners Ted W. Anderson, Don Munks, and Kenneth A. Dahlstedt present.

**DECISION – APPEAL BY ROY FRAZIER OF THE HEARING EXAMINER’S DECISION
ISSUED ON APPEAL NO. PL03-0896.**

Commissioner Munks stated that at the closed record appeal hearing held on Monday, January 5, 2004, there was a question as to whether or not the Skagit County Code ever referred to visual issues.

Lou Haff, Interim Planning Director, apologized for not giving the Board a written answer to their question. He said that to the best of their knowledge, the Department is not aware of any visual restraints in the code. Civil Prosecuting Attorney, Don Anderson, concurred with the finding.

Commissioner Munks said he has had considerable experience with farming and raising cattle. He said he has visited the property in question and feels that it is definitely ag land and being such; there are specifics that must not be interfered with regarding ag operations. The only other areas the trailer could sit are very wet and would require a lot of fill. Commissioner Munks feels strongly that the site where it now sits is the perfect location.

Commissioner Dahlstedt agreed and said the current site has the least negative impact on the livestock operation.

Commissioner Munks motioned to approve the appeal as submitted by Mr. Roy Frazier, based on fact, pursuant to SCC 14.16.400. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which passed with a unanimous vote. **(A Resolution will be forthcoming.)**

PRESENTATION – DONATION OF A STAFF COMPASS.

Sam Crossman, P. L. S., presented the Board with a staff compass, once owned by John Meehan, which was manufactured by W. & L. E. Gurley Company of Troy, New York in the 1870’s. The magnetic needle compass was used for the subdivision of Townships into Sections, once the exterior boundary of the Township had been established with a solar compass.

The Commissioners gladly accepted the compass and indicated it will be incased along with its history in a place located in the rotunda of the Skagit County Administration Building.

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2004
PAGE NO. 2**

DECISION – AMENDING SKAGIT COUNTY CODE 3.12, REAL ESTATE EXCISE TAX (REET).

Chairman Anderson stated that three letters had been received during the extended written comment period. The letters were from Loren Cavanaugh, Burlington Parks & Recreation Director, Densley H. Palmer of Anacortes, and Mike Cooper, Project Manager of San Juan Preservation Trust. All showed support for the increase of an additional one-quarter percent to the Real Estate Excise Tax.

Commissioner Munks said he reviewed all comments that were submitted. He has also looked at how REET money has been spent in the past and how it will be spent in the future. Even though he doesn't like the thought of increasing taxes, Commissioner Munks said it is one tax that he does support.

Commissioner Dahlstedt said the passage of the additional money is necessary to fund capital improvements. He said raising taxes is something the Board doesn't enjoy or take lightly.

Chairman Anderson indicated that this discussion has taken place every year in the nearly ten years he has been a Commissioner. When people move to this area, they look at Parks and Recreation facilities. They also want to feel safe in their communities, which results in increased law enforcement, which also results in an increase of housing for the criminals. The cities have been taking the extra one-quarter percent for some time. Chairman Anderson feels the increase must be approved for the benefit of the community.

Commissioner Munks motioned to approve amending Chapter 3.12 of the Skagit County Code to add an additional one-quarter percent to the Real Estate Excise Tax. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(Ordinance No. O20040002)**

CONSENT AGENDA.

Commissioner Munks motioned to approve the Consent Agenda for Monday, January 12, 2004, items 1 through 12. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

1. Record of the Proceedings for Tuesday, December 2, 2003.
2. Record of the Proceedings for Monday, January 5, 2004.

BUDGET/FINANCE:

3. Resolution authorizing a Call for a Public Hearing regarding a 2003 Supplemental Budget. The hearing will take place on Monday, January 26, 2004 at 10:45 a.m. **(Resolution No. R20040008)**
4. Resolution authorizing the creation of Skagit County's Insurance Cost Assessment Policy for Fiscal Year 2003. **(Resolution No. R20040009)**
5. Resolution to modify Skagit County's Cost Assessment Policy. **(Resolution No. R20040010)**
6. Resolution establishing Fiscal Year 2003 Cost Allocations to Skagit County Funds. **(Resolution No. R20040011)**

FACILITIES:

7. Amendment No. 1 to Personal Services Agreement **No. C20020260** with John D. Griffin Engineers, Inc. This covers the additional surveying and preparation of drawing and specifications for the parking lot gates in the two Kincaid lots, which were pulled from the Consent Agenda last week due to budget constraints. Assistance was also needed in the review of the legal descriptions from the City of Mount Vernon with regard to the parking lot transfer.

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2004
PAGE NO. 3**

Compensation is increased by \$18,000 and the term of the agreement shall be extended to December 31, 2004. **(Amendment No. A20040013)**

HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

8. Electronic billing agreement between Skagit County Public Health and Premera Blue Cross for billing of medical claims. **(Contract No. C20040021)**

HUMAN SERVICES:

9. Resolution re-appointing Robert Hart to the Skagit County Mental Health Advisory Board effective February 1, 2004 through January 31, 2007. **(Resolution No. R20040012)**

PUBLIC DEFENDER:

10. Amendment No. 4 to Personal Services Agreement **No. C20030030** with Robert S. Jones, which extends the term of the agreement to December 31, 2004. All other terms and conditions of the original contract shall remain in effect. **(Amendment No. A20040014)**

PUBLIC WORKS:

11. Vendor Services Agreement with Northwest Logging and Excavation, which will provide for the removal of drift and woody debris from the piers of the abandoned Burlington Northern Railroad Bridge and releasing it to float downstream. The agreement shall commence on January 1, 2004 and continue through December 31, 2005. Compensation shall total \$94,952. **(Contract No. C20040022)**
12. Personal Services Agreement with Shearer Design to provide necessary consultant work as needed for the repair of the Guemes Ferry Transfer Span. The agreement shall commence on September 15, 2003 and continue through December 31, 2004. Compensation shall total \$34,330. **(Contract No. C20040023)**

MISCELLANEOUS.

1. Staff presented Amendment No. 1 to Vendor Services Agreement **No. C20030046** with Chinook Enterprises, which will provide litter control/patrol services along various County roads and at the Skagit County Recycling & Transfer Station. The agreement shall be extended through December 31, 2005, with the yearly cost to remain at \$46,000, for a two-year total of \$90,000.

Commissioner Munks motioned to approve the amendment as outlined. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(Amendment No. A20040015)**

2. 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 12, 2004, the Board by majority vote, did approve for payment those vouchers included in the above-mentioned list and further described as follows:

Warrants numbered 161089 through 161639 from Clearing Fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$538,719.14 (Transmittal No. C-02-04); and

ACH Transfer Request Form and Certification to Premera Blue Cross from Clearing Fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$49,988.64 (Transmittal No. C-03-04); and

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2004
PAGE NO. 4**

Payroll warrants numbered 961589 through 961730 in the total dollar amount of \$167,298.16 (Transmittal No. P-01-04); and

Payroll warrants numbered 138117 through 138970 in the total dollar amount of \$1,072,893.79 (Transmittal No. P-02-04).

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.

Lloyd Loop of Skagit County expressed his concerns and frustrations over the water rights issue.

Don Bockelman, 30623 South Skagit Highway, Sedro-Woolley, asked the Board to consider creating a Citizen's Advisory Committee, which would be responsible for finding ways to streamline the permitting process.

Tom Solberg, 19019 Minnie Road, Alger, also spoke of the same concerns as Mr. Loop regarding water rights. He also feels that work done by the Planning & Permit Center should be contracted out. He again asked the Board when the Alger Subarea Plan process would begin.

ADJOURNMENT.

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

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Ted W. Anderson, Chairman

Don Munks, Commissioner

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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