

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2004**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, November 1, 2004, with Commissioners Ted W. Anderson, Don Munks and Kenneth A. Dahlstedt present.

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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 |
| *T 10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. | Department Head Meeting |
| *T 10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. | Public Hearing – Forest Excise Tax Ordinance |
| 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. | Consent Agenda and Miscellaneous Items |
| 11:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. | Public Comment Period |
| 11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. | Skagit County Employee Recognition Committee Luncheon (Max Dales Restaurant – 2030 Riverside Drive, Mount Vernon) |
| 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. | Executive Session – Personnel, Litigation and Land Acquisition |

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DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING.

The Commissioners introduced the following members of the Skagit County Employee Recognition Committee (SCERC) and presented them with plaques:

Marge Swint, Cheryl Peterson, Judy Rantschler, Debylnne Whittlesey, Patti Worl, Margo Frydenlund, Matt Kaufman, Leslie Carty, Janice Proper, Sharon Kirkman, Theresa Alberts and JoAnne Giesbrecht.

Chairman Anderson asked those present to recommend volunteers to serve on the Committee.

Commissioners Munks and Dahlstedt thanked the SCERC members for all of their efforts, including hosting the first annual countywide picnic.

Health Department Director, Peter Browning, provided an update on the United Way campaign. He stated that Dan Berentson, Jere La Follette, Rick Grimstead and he would be conducting presentations for every County department. Pledge sheets will be available at that time.

Information Services Coordinator, Mike Almvig, introduced Sandra Ball, who is the new Help Desk contact person. He also reviewed several items including: List Serve, LaserFiche and Information Technology Guidelines.

Ned Zaugg, Skagit County Extension Director, invited everyone to The Forum entitled “50,000 New Neighbors! What Would You Do?” which deals with the Comprehensive Plan update. This event will be held on Thursday, November 4, 2004, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Public Utilities District building.

Emergency Management Services Director, Tom Sheahan, spoke about the importance of List Serve when emergency situations arise. Information such as safe shelters, road closures, situation reports, sandbag locations and individual sandbag locations will be available under List Serve, which can be found at www.skagitcounty.net.

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Billie Kadrmas, Human Services Director/Risk Manager, provided information regarding Premera insurance claims relating to the Skagit Valley Medical Center. She indicated that the provider will continue to see patients and the resulting charges will continue to be paid.

Senior Services Director, Tim Holloran, announced that the Health Department has received additional flu vaccines. His Department has clinics set up at all the Senior Centers for qualifying clients that are 65 or older.

Ms. Kadrmas noted that the 2004 Health and Benefits Fair will be held on Tuesday, November 9, 2004, from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Skagit Station, the new multimodal center.

Mr. Browning also mentioned that anyone under the age of 50 can obtain a live flu virus that is used through the nasal passages.

PUBLIC HEARING – FOREST EXCISE TAX ORDINANCE

County Administrator, Gary Rowe, presented a forest excise tax Ordinance, which would amend Ordinance No. 10161. He indicated that this Ordinance would impose an excise tax on timber harvested from private and public lands, phased in over a ten-year period.

Mr. Rowe said there is currently a five percent tax imposed by the State on timber harvested from public and private lands. The County tax would be credited against the State tax, thus maintaining the current rate of five percent and not increasing the tax burden imposed on timber harvesters. Washington State law provides that the State Department of Revenue will collect, administer and distribute the proceeds of the County timber excise tax to the County.

Chairman Anderson opened the public hearing. There being no public testimony forthcoming, Commissioner Munks motioned to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dahlstedt and passed. The public hearing was closed.

Commissioner Munks said it is important to note that this is not an additional tax. It allows the County to receive some of the income that they weren't receiving before.

Commissioner Dahlstedt reiterated the fact that the County tax will be credited against the State tax, thus maintaining the current rate of five percent.

Commissioner Munks motioned to approve the Ordinance relating to taxation and imposing an excise tax on timber harvested from private and public lands. The Ordinance will amend Ordinance No. 10161, which was passed on August 13, 1984. It includes new authorization passed by the State legislature in 2004, which allows counties to impose a timber excise tax to include timber harvested on public lands. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(Ordinance No. 020040018)**

CONSENT AGENDA.

Commissioner Munks motioned to approve the Consent Agenda for Monday, November 1, 2004, items 1 through 18. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE:

1. Record of the Proceedings for Monday, October 25, 2004.
2. Record of the Proceedings for Tuesday, October 26, 2004.
3. Record of the Proceedings for Wednesday, October 27, 2004.

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BUDGET & FINANCE:

4. Interlocal Cooperative Agreement, per Resolution No. R20040342, between Skagit County and the City of Anacortes for library services beginning January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2004. Compensation shall total \$15,198. **(Contract No. C20040464)**
5. Interlocal Cooperative Agreement, per Resolution No. R20040181, between Skagit County and the Town of Hamilton to provide the framework allowing the County to act as the fiscal agent for three flood-related grants. The agreement shall commence on July 1, 2004 and continue through August 31, 2006. Compensation to the County shall be paid at the rate of \$9.54 per warrant in 2004, \$9.90 per warrant in 2005, with the rate for 2006 established by the Skagit County Auditor. **(Contract No. C20040465)**
6. Resolution accepting the recommendations of the Economic Development Public Facilities Advisory Committee for projects submitted in September 2004. **(Resolution No. R20040383)**

FAIRGROUNDS:

7. Amendment No. 1 to Vendor Services Agreement **No. C20040341** with Pacific Party Canopies, which increases the compensation amount by \$2,103.97. This is due to the fact that additional tents were needed during the 2004 Skagit County Fair. **(Amendment No. A20040190)**

FARMLAND LEGACY PROGRAM:

8. Personal Services Agreement with Skagit Surveyors & Engineers to provide professional surveying services for the Harts Island Conservation Easement. The agreement shall commence upon the date of signature and continue through January 31, 2005. Compensation shall not exceed a maximum amount of \$23,585. **(Contract No. C20040466)**

HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

9. Personal Services Agreement with Linda Kathleen Wigal for the provision of First Steps nursing services. This contract is funded via DSHS medical coupons, which pay for the services. As this is a fee for service-based contract, there is not dollar limit. Based on fiscal history, it is anticipated that the Contractor will be paid approximately \$27,500. The agreement shall commence on October 1, 2004 and continue through September 30, 2005. **(Contract No. C20040467)**
10. Personal Services Agreement with Linda Cecilia Meintel for the provision of First Steps nursing services. This contract is funded via DSHS medical coupons, which pay for the services. As this is a fee for service-based contract, there is not dollar limit. Based on fiscal history, it is anticipated that the Contractor will be paid approximately \$5,000. The agreement shall commence on October 1, 2004 and continue through September 30, 2005. **(Contract No. C20040468)**

INFORMATION SERVICES:

11. Addendum No. 1 to Purchase Agreement **No. C20040369** with VP Consulting, which specifies the software license agreement terms and conditions for the LaserFiche Integrators Toolkit. It also adds \$3,250 to the existing contract amount of \$21,749 for a new total of \$24,999. All other terms and conditions of the original contract shall remain in effect. **(Amendment No. A20040191)**
12. Addendum No. 1 to Service Level Agreement **No. 04685** with the City of Sedro-Woolley, which modifies the termination clause to be less restrictive on the City's use of their network. Specifically, the City is being allowed to connect their police department computers to their

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network. All other terms and conditions of the original contract shall remain in effect.
(Amendment No. A20040192)

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY:

13. Amendment No. 1 to Personal Services Agreement **No. C20030514** with Louis J. Haff, dba Haff Engineering and Management Services, which extends the termination date of this contract to October 12, 2004. All other terms and conditions of the original contract shall remain in effect.
(Amendment No. A20040193)
14. Amendment No. 1 to Personal Services Agreement **No. C20030141** with Summit Law Group, which revises the 2004 rate schedule for attorneys and paralegals. It also adds the name and rate for attorney Denise Ashbaugh. All other terms and conditions of the original contract shall remain in effect. **(Amendment No. A20040194)**

TREASURER'S OFFICE:

15. Resolution canceling warrants that are over one year old in the amount of \$11,780.85, per RCW 36.22.100. **(Resolution No. R20040384)**

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES:

16. Personal Services Agreement with Northwest Care Advocates to provide juvenile offender evaluations, treatment (group and/or individual), consultations and monitoring for juveniles and/or their families, as referred by the Department. The agreement shall commence on October 1, 2004 and continue until September 30, 2006. Total annual compensation shall not exceed \$175,000 per calendar year. **(Contract No. C20040469)**

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:

17. Resolution calling for a public hearing to vacate an unopened County right-of-way for Mr. and Mrs. Warnie Johnson of Rockport, Washington. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, November 23, 2004, at 9:00 a.m. **(Resolution No. R20040385)**
18. Resolution regarding implementation of distribution of Federal Surface Transportation Funds to Towns in Skagit County. **(Resolution No. R20040386)**

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, November 1, 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 182490 through 182921 from Clearing Fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$1,381,875.69 (Transmittal No. C-137-04); and

ACH Transfer Request Form and Certification to Premera Blue Cross from Clearing Fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$116,038.59 (Transmittal No. C-138-04).

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.

During the public comment period, Ed Johnson, 3308 College Way, Mount Vernon, spoke about businesses utilizing public funding for their own use. He mentioned that the location of the multimodal

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center is a fiasco and in his opinion, there seems to be a lot of planning and finances used for various projects that always seem to fall short. Mr. Johnson said he is hopeful that this election will give the public a chance to get involved, make necessary changes, and offer support.

Ned Zaugg, Director of the Skagit County Extension Office, stated that Washington State University (WSU), in conjunction with community agriculture leaders, is proposing an Agriculture Business Innovation Center that will be used to help transition northwest Washington farmers into more profitable agricultural operations for the future. The idea is to establish a rural business incubator program to provide comprehensive assistance to beginning and established food entrepreneurs in value-added product development and business development, including marketing.

Mr. Zaugg indicated that funding avenues to implement this concept are being explored. In 2003, the U.S. Department of Agriculture funded Innovation Centers in ten states. Local producers and the Washington Association of Small Business Incubators and the Washington Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development are considering requesting funding for the incubator program from the State legislature in 2005, based on enabling legislation passed in 2004. Mr. Zaugg noted that WSU is willing to provide a match for this program.

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