

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2004**

8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	Work Session – County Commissioners
8:45 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Work Session – County Administrator
*T 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Adoption of the 2005 Budget
*T 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Presentation – 2005 Verizon Tulip Festival Telephone Book Cover
11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Consent Agenda and Miscellaneous Items
11:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Public Comment Period
*T 1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Public Hearing – Adoption of 2005 Levy Rates
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, December 20, 2004, with Commissioners Ted W. Anderson, Don Munks and Kenneth A. Dahlstedt present.

ADOPTION OF THE 2005 BUDGET.

Gary Rowe, County Administrator, lead the discussion regarding the County budget for 2005. He indicated that funds from the reserve account would cover the difference between revenues and expenditures. Mr. Rowe said the reserve fund balance is approximately \$8 million dollars.

Commissioner Munks motioned to approve a Resolution adopting the 2005 Skagit County budget as presented by Mr. Rowe. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. R20040435)**

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Rowe, Trisha Logue and Sue Brown for their efforts on preparing the budget.

PRESENTATION – 2005 VERIZON TULIP FESTIVAL TELEPHONE BOOK COVER.

Cindy Verge, Director of the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival, presented the Commissioners with the 2005 Tulip Festival poster in recognition of the County's sponsorship. Ms. Verge indicated that the poster has graced the cover of the Verizon phone book for a number of years.

Ms. Verge introduced Krishna Matheson, Regional Account Manager for Verizon. Ms. Matheson said she is responsible for representing Skagit County by selling yellow page advertisements, as well as sponsoring community wide events.

The Commissioners thanked Ms. Verge and Ms. Matheson for their presentation and said they are excited to see Verizon supporting many of the various events that are held in the County each year.

CONSENT AGENDA.

Commissioner Munks motioned to approve the Consent Agenda for Monday, December 20, 2004, items 1 through 17. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE:

1. Record of the Proceedings for Monday, December 13, 2004.

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2004
PAGE NO. 2**

2. Record of the Proceedings for Tuesday, December 14, 2004.
3. Resolution appointing members to the Skagit County Emergency Medical Services Commission for four year terms beginning January 1, 2005. **(Resolution No. R20040436)**

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES:

4. Resolution establishing 2005 salary increases and Health and Welfare benefits for non-union employees. **(Resolution No. R20040437)**

BUDGET & FINANCE:

5. Amendment No. 2 to Interlocal Cooperative Agreement **No. C20020158** between Skagit County and the Town of La Conner for a fiber optic project identified in the Town's Technology Plan. The amendment will extend the expiration date to August 31, 2006. All other terms and conditions of the original contract shall remain in effect. **(Amendment No. A20040222)**

INFORMATION SERVICES:

6. Resolution authorizing the cancellation of Resolution No. R20040426, the transfer of surplus computer equipment. This resolution was made in error as equipment was already being surplusd to another agency. **(Resolution No. R20040438)**

HUMAN RESOURCES:

7. Resolution requesting a sick leave transfer for an employee of the Public Works Department. **(Resolution No. R20040439)**

HUMAN SERVICES:

8. Personal Services Agreement with Skagit Preschool and Resource Center (SPARC), which will provide, through its Skagit County Parent to Parent Program, various services to parents of children with special needs. The Skagit County Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board allocated 2005 millage funds in the amount of \$8,500 to support the continuation of program activities. The agreement shall commence on January 1, 2005 and continue through December 31, 2005. **(Contract No. C20040518)**

TREASURER'S OFFICE:

9. Resolution designating banks as depositories for all public funds for the year 2005. **(Resolution No. R20040440)**

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES:

10. Personal Services Agreement with Charles M. Britt, M.A., to provide specialized child, adolescent, adult and family assessment evaluation and treatment, consultation, education classes, monitoring with written reports as required, and training as referred by the Department. The agreement shall commence on January 1, 2005 and continue through December 31, 2006. Compensation is not to exceed a total of \$10,000. **(Contract No. C20040519)**
11. Personal Services Agreement with Liz Findley M.S.W., to provide specialized child, adolescent, adult and family assessment evaluation and treatment, consultation, education classes, monitoring with written reports as required, and training as referred by the Department. The agreement shall commence on January 1, 2005 and continue through December 31, 2006. Compensation is not to exceed a total of \$10,000. **(Contract No. C20040520)**

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2004
PAGE NO. 3**

12. Personal Services Agreement with Dawn Duncan-Lewis, to provide specialized child, adolescent, adult and family assessment evaluation and treatment, consultation, education classes, monitoring with written reports as required, and training as referred by the Department. The agreement shall commence on January 1, 2005 and continue through December 31, 2006. Compensation is not to exceed a total of \$10,000. **(Contract No. C20040521)**

PUBLIC WORKS:

13. Cost/Share Agreement between Skagit County and Robert and Melissa Sutton in the amount of \$10,000 for public benefit expenses incurred for the physical relocation of the Sutton residence, located at 15280 State Route 530, Concrete, out of the floodway of the Sauk River. The involved real property is part of the Drainage Utility, and it has been determined that a public benefit exists. The agreement shall commence on August 1, 2004, and continue until December 31, 2004. **(Contract No. C20040522)**
14. Amendment No. 2 to Vendor Services Agreement **No. C20040106** with GeoTest Services, Inc. The amendment will extend the expiration date from March 1, 2005, to October 31, 2005. All other terms and conditions of the original contract shall remain in effect. **(Amendment No. A20040223)**
15. Right-of-Entry Agreement between Skagit County and Sharron Crawford, which allows County staff to enter the property in order to construct a streambank stabilization project. The agreement shall expire at such time as the County has completed the project. **(Contract No. C20040523)**
16. Amendment No. 2 to Vendor Services Agreement **No. C20020460** between Skagit County and Arrow Launch Service, Inc., which increases the compensation amount to \$2,000 a day, with a maximum to total no more than \$40,000. This would bring the new contract total to \$134,000. The increase is due to the emergency haul out and outage for the dolphin repairs for the Guemes Island Ferry. All other terms and conditions of the original contract shall remain in effect. **(Amendment No. A20040224)**
17. Right-of-Entry Agreement between Skagit County and Alan Mesman, which allows County staff to enter the property to construct a streambank stabilization project. The agreement shall expire at such time as the County has completed the project. **(Contract No. C20040524)**

MISCELLANEOUS.

1. Staff provided an emergency Resolution, which authorizes a review of damages and allows necessary corrective actions to be taken in flooded areas of the Skagit River Basin, including the Coal Creek area, and in other regions flooded by tributaries of the Skagit River.

Commissioner Munks motioned to approve the Resolution as presented, which was seconded by Commissioner Dahlstedt. The motion passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. R20040441)**
2. Staff presented an Interlocal Cooperative Agreement, per Resolution No. R20030019, between Skagit County and Island County, which enables Island County to provide juvenile detention services as required by law. The agreement shall commence on January 1, 2004 and continue through December 31, 2006.

Commissioner Munks motioned to approve the agreement, which was seconded by Commissioner Dahlstedt. The motion passed unanimously. **(Contract No. C20040525)**
3. Staff presented an Interlocal Cooperative Agreement, per Resolution No. 15829, between Skagit County and San Juan County, which would enable San Juan County to provide juvenile detention

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2004
PAGE NO. 4**

services as required by law. The agreement shall commence upon the date of execution and remain in effect until December 31, 2025.

Commissioner Munks motioned to approve the agreement, which was seconded by Commissioner Dahlstedt. The motion passed unanimously. **(Contract No. C20040526)**

4. 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, December 20, 2004, the Board by majority vote, did approve for payment those vouchers included in the above-mentioned list and further described as follows:

(Out of Sequence) ACH Transfer Request Form and Certification to Premera Blue Cross from Clearing Fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$64,975.79 (Transmittal No. C-157-04); and

ACH Transfer Request Form and Certification to Premera Blue Cross from Clearing Fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$104,224.45 (Transmittal No. C-161-04); and

Warrant number 186242 from Clearing Fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$94,000 (Transmittal No. C-162-04); and

Purchase Card Electronic Payment to JP MORGAN CHASE from Clearing Fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$25,776.42 (Transmittal No. C-163-04); and

Warrant number 186243 from Clearing Fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$371.07 (Transmittal No. C-164-04); and

Warrants numbered 186244 through 186777 from Clearing Fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$1,105,074.18 (Transmittal No. C-165-04).

5. Maile Acoba, Human Services Director, advised the Board that a Vendor Services Agreement with a real estate broker is being routed for signatures. She said it appears that the County will be leasing a building in which to house a Mental Health Triage Center. Ms. Acoba noted that the County may need to pay for finding fees in connection with the agreement; however, those costs would be covered under the Human Services budget.

Commissioner Dahlstedt said that costs incurred for these services should be shared with the cities, proportionate to their use.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.

Pat Bunting, 3643 Legg Road, Blanchard, shared photographs with the Commissioners and spoke about the effects the recent flooding had on her property and other properties located in the Blanchard area. Ms. Bunting asked the Board to provide assistance for the repair and maintenance of a nearby levy, which is full of holes and overflows in various places during flood events.

PUBLIC HEARING – ADOPTION OF 2005 LEVY RATES.

Mr. Rowe explained that when the Board adopted the budget for 2005 it was with the recommendation of increasing property taxes by 1%, as allowed by law.

Chairman Anderson opened the public hearing.

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2004
PAGE NO. 5**

Tony Splane, 714 Sapp Road, Sedro-Woolley, asked why property taxes continue to increase for retired people who are living on fixed incomes. He said it is difficult to keep up with the increases year after year. Mr. Splane asked the Board if they could provide some relief for those retirees which are barely living on their social security checks.

Chairman Anderson said he has talked to legislators in the past about providing relief for senior citizens, including the possibility of freezing assessed values. He said he would revisit the issue with the legislators again; however, because the State receives the bulk of the property taxes anyway, they are loathe to make any changes that may affect their revenues. Chairman Anderson also noted that in some areas the millage rate is actually less than it was last year. This is due to adding new construction to the tax roles. He indicated that people automatically assume that because their assessed value increases then property taxes increase accordingly. That isn't always the case as taxes rise in some areas and decrease in others.

Commissioner Munks said there are only three things that the County isn't mandated to do. They are County Fairs, Library Districts, and Parks and Recreation Departments. Washington State continues to cut funds to counties for essential services but they don't cut back on those services.

Chairman Anderson said the Parks and Recreation Department was told that the fees they charge for services need to cover the price of the programs being provided, including administrative costs.

Commissioner Dahlstedt said that the cities continue to annex property, which causes a reduction in the County's tax base. Therefore, there is no other avenue of funding.

There being no further public testimony, Commissioner Munks motioned to close the public hearing. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The public hearing was closed.

Commissioner Munks motioned to approve a Resolution authorizing a property tax increase for the 2005 Road Levy in the approximate amount of \$10,295,000, which was seconded by Commissioner Dahlstedt and passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. R20040422)**

Commissioner Munks motioned to approve a Resolution authorizing a property tax limit factor increase of 101% for the 2005 Road Levy, which was seconded by Commissioner Dahlstedt and passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. R20040423)**

Commissioner Munks motioned to approve a Resolution authorizing a property tax increase for the 2005 Conservation Futures Levy in the approximately amount of \$595,000, which was seconded by Commissioner Dahlstedt and passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. R20040424)**

Commissioner Munks motioned to approve a Resolution authorizing a property tax limit factor increase of 101% for the 2005 Conservation Futures Levy, which was seconded by Commissioner Dahlstedt and passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. R20040425)**

Commissioner Munks motioned to approve a Resolution authorizing a property tax limit factor increase of 101% for the 2005 General Levy, which was seconded by Commissioner Dahlstedt and passed unanimously. **(Resolution No. R20040426)**

Commissioner Munks motioned to approve a Resolution authorizing a property tax increase for the 2005 General Levy in the approximate amount of \$15,870,000, which was seconded by Commissioner Dahlstedt and passed. **(Resolution No. R20040427)**

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2004
PAGE NO. 6**

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