

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2005**

*T 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Public Hearing - To Consider Public Testimony Regarding a Request From the Housing Authority of Skagit County to Invoke RCW 35.83 (The Housing Cooperation Law) to Waive Certain Land Use Regulations to Facilitate the Expansion of the Low Income Housing Development Known as Raspberry Ridge in Burlington

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, September 7, 2005, with Commissioners Don Munks and Kenneth A. Dahlstedt and Ted W. Anderson present.

PUBLIC HEARING – TO CONSIDER PUBLIC TESTIMONY REGARDING A REQUEST FROM THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF SKAGIT COUNTY TO INVOKE RCW 35.83 (THE HOUSING COOPERATION LAW) TO WAIVE CERTAIN LAND USE REGULATIONS TO FACILITATE THE EXPANSION OF THE LOW INCOME HOUSING DEVELOPMENT KNOWN AS RASPBERRY RIDGE IN BURLINGTON.

Tom Karsh, Special Projects, explained the proposed development which consists of up to 75 additional multifamily rental units for low income housing, known as Raspberry Ridge located in Burlington. Mr. Karsh said that the property proposed for development lies immediately north of Raspberry Ridge and extends to Lafayette Road, totaling approximately 19 acres. He also stated that the property was acquired by the Housing Authority of Skagit County in July 2002 and the structures will be a mix of duplexes to six-plexus, two-story townhouses and single-story flats.

The current Skagit County zoning does not permit multifamily housing. The Housing Authority of Skagit County has requested that the Board of Commissioners consider waiving specific sections of County zoning in conformance with RCW 35.83, Housing Cooperation Law.

John Smith, Executive Director of the Skagit County Housing Authority, thanked the Board for the opportunity to come forward to express his support. Mr. Smith read from a letter that he received from Officer Jon Gerondale of the Mount Vernon Police Department regarding a comparison of Raspberry Ridge Apartments to five other apartment complexes in the Kulshan Creek neighborhood. He explained that Mr. Gerondale had an analysis of the 911 calls received from a per unit basis at Raspberry Ridge, which showed that fewer calls for service per unit were made compared to the other apartments in that area.

Several people from the audience also spoke in support of the housing project.

Jon Aarstad, Administrator for the City of Burlington, said that he felt the location of the site was wrong due to flooding issues.

Commissioner Anderson said approving Raspberry Ridge was one of his proudest moments. He believes that everyone is entitled to good housing.

Commissioners Munks and Dahlstedt concurred and stated that they support this proposal as safe, decent and affordable housing for Skagit County residents, which is greatly needed.

Commissioner Dahlstedt made a motion to render a decision regarding this matter on October 10, 2005, at 10:30 a.m. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which carried.

Mr. Karsh asked the Commissioners to sign a letter addressed to Mr. Smith regarding partial financing of new construction housing for low-income farm workers.

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A motion was made by Commissioner Anderson to sign the letter as outlined. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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:

Melissa Collins, Assistant Clerk of the Board
Skagit County Board of Commissioners