

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2005**

- 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Skagit Conservation District's Annual Partnership and Breakfast Meeting (Lutheran Brotherhood Church – 123 Evergreen, Mount Vernon)
- \*T 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Public Hearing - To Consider Public Testimony Regarding the 2006 Preliminary Budget For EMS (Emergency Medical Services)
- 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Closed Record Appeal No. PL05-0722 by Skagit County Dike District Nos. 1, 12, and 17, the City of Mount Vernon, and the City of Burlington Regarding Hydropower Shoreline Exemption No. PL05-0295, Submitted by Puget Sound Energy
- \*T 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Planning and Development Services – Gary Christensen, Director
1. Discussion – Growth Management Act Update Steering Committee Draft Comprehensive Plan and Development Code
  2. Discussion/Possible Action – Resolution on Growth Management Act Update Status Report and Schedule For Action
  3. Miscellaneous

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, December 13, 2005, with Commissioners Don Munks and Kenneth A. Dahlstedt present. Commissioner Ted W. Anderson's absence was excused.

**PUBLIC HEARING – TO CONSIDER PUBLIC TESTIMONY REGARDING THE 2006 PRELIMINARY BUDGET FOR EMS (EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES).**

Emergency Medical Services Director Jodi Monroe, Accountant Daryl Heiner and Division Manager Bill Holstein reviewed the proposed 2006 budget for the EMS Commission.

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

County Administrator Gary Rowe indicated that the Board would be asked to vote on the proposal on Monday, December 19, 2005, at 10:30 a.m.

**CLOSED RECORD APPEAL NO. PL05-0722 BY SKAGIT COUNTY DIKE DISTRICT NOS. 1, 12, AND 17, THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, AND THE CITY OF BURLINGTON REGARDING HYDROPOWER SHORELINE EXEMPTION NO. PL05-0295, SUBMITTED BY PUGET SOUND ENERGY.**

A motion was made and seconded that by stipulation and agreed order, the hearing date for this item shall be continued until January 10, 2006, at 2:00 p.m.

**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, December 13, 2005, the Board by majority vote, did approve for payment those vouchers included in the above-mentioned list and further described as follows:

ACH Transfer Request Form and Certification to Premera Blue Cross from Clearing Fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$304.73 (Transmittal No. C-160-05).

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES – GARY CHRISTENSEN, DIRECTOR**

**1. Discussion – Growth Management Act Update Steering Committee Draft Comprehensive Plan and Development Code.**

Director Gary Christensen reviewed the Skagit County Growth Management Act (GMA) Update Steering Committee recommendations on the Comprehensive Plan and development code. According to a GMA schedule established by the Washington State Legislature, each city and county in Washington must take legislative action to review and, if needed, revise its Comprehensive Plan and development regulations to ensure compliance with GMA. Skagit County and the cities/towns within are required to update their GMA plans and regulations by December 1, 2005. The update cycle is every 7 years thereafter.

According to Mr. Christensen, Skagit County's approach to updating the Comprehensive Plan and development regulations is largely based on a public participation program that involves a wide variety of interest groups and citizens, and boards and committees with technical expertise. Along with the GMA Update Steering Committee, three other Board appointed groups have assisted with the GMA update process, including the Forest Advisory Board, and a subcommittee of the Farmland Legacy and Agricultural Advisory Board.

Mr. Christensen indicated that the GMA update process has progressed relatively well to date. The deliberative and comprehensive manner in which it has occurred has enabled all parties involved in the update process to share personal opinions and sometimes divergent views on what is best for Skagit County.

Mr. Christensen provided a 2005 Growth Management Update Status Report. The Department of Planning and Development Services will organize meetings in the first half of 2006 to review the Steering Committee's final elements of the Comprehensive Plan.

**2. Discussion/Possible Action – Resolution on Growth Management Act Update Status Report and Schedule For Action.**

Mr. Christensen stated that the Washington State Department of Community Trade and Economic Development (CTED) advises jurisdictions that if they are not able to meet the December 1, 2005, update deadline, that the local government legislative body adopt a resolution that demonstrates the good faith effort and progress made in complying with GMA. In such cases, CTED recommends that the local government (a) adopt a resolution that documents the local progress already made, including a schedule for completing the update; and (b) continue moving ahead as quickly as possible to be in full compliance with the GMA.

Following these interim steps does not relieve Skagit County of its update requirements or immunize it from a failure-to-act challenge, nor does it necessarily mean that it will be eligible for state grants and loans. CTED has reported that only 32% of the jurisdictions required to complete their GMA updates in 2004 had met their adoption deadlines. Mr. Christensen said this figure suggests that many local governments are finding the GMA updates no simple task with limited resources and a wide range of viewpoints to address the many important issues facing their communities.

Commissioner Dahlstedt motioned to approve a resolution providing a status report and adoption schedule for the review and revisions of the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan and development regulations under the Growth Management Act. Chairman Munks seconded the motion, which carried. **(Resolution No. R20050449)**

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2005  
PAGE NO. 3**

**3. Miscellaneous.**

- a) Mr. Christensen asked the Commissioners to set a date and time to consider a closed record hearing for a preliminary plat application of Windsong Ranch No. PL05-0457, submitted by Aloha Lumber.

Commissioner Dahlstedt motioned to schedule the hearing for Monday, January 9, 2006, at 10:00 a.m. The motion was seconded by Chairman Munks and passed unanimously. **(Approved)**

- b) Mr. Christensen asked the Commissioners to set a date and time to consider a closed record hearing for the alteration of the final plat of Red Tail Flats.

Commissioner Dahlstedt motioned to schedule the hearing for Monday, December 19, 2005, at 2:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Chairman Munks and passed unanimously. **(Approved)**

- c) Skagit County Building Official Bill Dowe stated that the Planning and Development Services Department is changing the way to apply for a building permit in order to speed up the review process. Experience shows that an incomplete application or skipping steps of the process can cause unnecessary delay. It is the goal of the Department to make the process as fast as possible.

The new process will be similar to making an online purchase, making sure vital information is provided at the time of application before moving to the next step. According to Mr. Dowe, the main prerequisites to submit a building permit are:

- Can the project happen at all? Lot certification answers that question.
- Where? A critical areas review identifies environmentally sensitive or hazardous areas and provides guidelines for the location of the development.
- Is a septic design and proof of water required?

Mr. Dowe said a new application form is available either on the Skagit County website or in the Planning and Development Services Department.

**ADJOURNMENT.**

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

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

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Don Munks, Chairman

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Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

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Ted W. Anderson, Commissioner

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2005  
PAGE NO. 4**

ATTEST:

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