

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2007**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, November 27, 2007, with Commissioners Chair Sharon D. Dillon, Commissioner Don Munks, and Commissioner Kenneth A. Dahlstedt present.

I. AGENDA:

A. 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Public Hearing - Revision of Drainage Utility Rates

W. Eugene Sampley, Interim Natural Resources Manager, gave an overview of the proposals to revise the countywide drainage utility rates and the proposal to establish a drainage utility rate surcharge in the Bay View Ridge Subarea.

Mr. Sampley introduced Michael Dean of Financial Consultants Group (FCS Group). Mr. Dean gave a PowerPoint presentation on the current financial issues facing the drainage utility, the current proposed rate, and a comparison of stormwater rates. He also gave a short review on drainage improvements in the Bay View Ridge Subarea and a recommended rate surcharge to pay for those improvements.

Mr. Dean stated a significant countywide drainage utility rate increase is needed to meet the current operating costs, and to fund planned capital improvements throughout the County, and specifically, improvements needed in the Bay View Ridge Subarea amount to \$10.1 million dollars. He reviewed a number of options to fund the improvements needed in the Bay View Ridge Subarea. He stated that after reviewing all the options, his FCS Group recommends the Bay View Ridge Subarea improvements be funded by a surcharge on the drainage utility rate. In addition to the base County rate of \$47.57 per year, FCS Group recommends that single family parcels in the Bay View Ridge Subarea pay a rate surcharge to fund the necessary improvements. This recommendation requires that Drainage Districts 14 and 19 allow the County to assess a surcharge within the areas of their districts that are within the Subarea. He said the surcharge would fund debt payments on bonds issued to pay for the Bay View improvements. Mr. Dean reviewed the pros and cons of all the options FCS Group analyzed.

Dwyer Dale, resident of Bay View Ridge, was present and gave public testimony. He asked how the Port contributes to the improvements since they have the greatest contribution in the area. Mr. Sampley responded by saying the Port would be a commercial or institutional contributor and they are in the drainage utility and do pay a drainage utility rate. The rate would be established on a per acre basis plus 2.03 cents per impervious square foot. Mr. Dale asked why the 300 to 400 residents are being singled out to pay this extra surcharge. Mr. Dale felt this is part of Growth Management and it should be the responsibility of the entire County.

Curtis Johnson stated he has been involved in drainage in this County all his life and disagrees with the previous speaker's opinion regarding the whole county paying for drainage in the Bay View Ridge Subarea. Mr. Johnson also disagrees with paying more for drainage.

Commissioner Dillon opened the public hearing.

The following people were present and gave public testimony: Kim Johnson, Peterson Road, objects to the surcharge.

John Roozen, 12632 Avon Allen Road, commented on the dike and drainage districts in Skagit County. Mr. Johnson stated the people that should be paying the surcharge are the people that benefit from the improvements.

Carly Ruacho, landowner in Bay View Ridge, stated that part of her land is in a dike district and part of it is in a drainage district. Ms. Ruacho requested that folks that are in the drainage district be separated out from people that are not. Ms. Ruacho also brought up the point that no distinction was made between the existing residents and the new lots that are going to be created.

Bill Knutzen, property owner in the urban growth area, agrees with the proposed surcharge but is opposed to impact fees.

Roger Mercer, property owner on Peterson Road, disagrees with the proposed surcharge and thinks funding should come from new development that occurs on the Ridge. Mr. Mercer felt there is still more work to be done to require UGA to be responsible for the stormwater that comes from their developments.

Roger Knutzen, 16505 Peterson Road, limited his comments to the area north of Peterson Road and gave the Commissioners a utility comparison for the area.

A motion was made by Commissioner Don Munks to approve closing the Public Hearing. Commissioner Kenneth A. Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

- B. 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Public Works Department - James E. Voetberg, P.E., Director/County Engineer
1. Public Hearing - Consideration to Vacate a Portion of Second Street (County Road #85450) Located Within the Plat of the Town of Conway

Shane Whitney, Engineering Technician, gave an overview of the area located in Plat No. 4098 in the Town of Conway. Mr. Whitney stated on September 7, 2007, a petition was received for vacation from the adjacent property owner to the right-of-way. He went on to say no letters or phone calls of concern have been received regarding the proposed vacation. He stated Public Works recommends the vacation of the strip of right-of-way and the costs to the petitioners would be \$325 for Public Works fees and \$33 for Auditor's recording fee.

Commissioner Dahlstedt said he was concerned about reducing the width of the road that is currently being used. Chair Dillon mentioned concerns with vacating the right-of-way. The Commissioners had questions regarding the public parking in the area.

Chair Dillon opened the public hearing.

Carol Huttenstine, who is the property owner, said nothing would change

and people could still use the property for parking.

Chair Dillon asked what the reason was behind the vacation. Ms. Huttenstine stated it would add to her property value and she has been maintaining this portion for 25 years.

A motion was made by Commissioner Don Munks to close the public hearing. Commissioner Kenneth A. Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Commissioners continued a short discussion about the alley, right-of-way and boundary lines of the property.

A motion was made by Commissioner Don Munks to vacate the alley way to the property owner, but not the road right-of-way. Commissioner Kenneth A. Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Jeff Miller stated the resolution will be forthcoming.

2. Signature - Resolution Regarding Revisions to Skagit County Drainage Utility Rates Effective January 1, 2008 **(This item was pulled from the agenda pending further discussion)**
3. Signature - Resolution Regarding the Establishment of a Surcharge on Skagit County Drainage Utility Rates in the Bay View Ridge Subarea Effective January 1, 2009 **(This item was pulled from the agenda pending further discussion)**
4. Discussion - 2008 Guemes Island Ferry Annual Operational and Performance Report

Ron Panzero, Guemes Island Ferry Operations Manager, presented the November 2007 Guemes Island Ferry Annual Report. He stated 2007 was a relatively normal year for ferry ridership. The passenger count is up 5.5% over year-to-date figures from 2006 and vehicle traffic is up 2.6% for the same time period. Actual ferry revenues did not meet the revenue target for 2007. The target was missed by the amount of \$42,509. Public Works is pursuing cost saving efforts to reduce overall costs, which include combining the Ferry Operations Manager and Senior Master position into one position, which resulted in operational savings of approximately \$40,000 per year. Subject to discussions with the Ferry Collective Bargaining Unit, beginning January 1, 2008, the ferry base crew size will be a three-person crew. The fourth crew member will be brought on during busy periods to increase ridership in order to maintain ferry schedules. Ferry shipyard repair periods have been changed from a 24-month cycle to a 12-month cycle.

Mr. Panzero indicated until the full impact of operational changes are realized, a general fare increase is not recommended for 2008. They are working through the roundtable process for minor modifications between classification of fares and multiple ticket discounts. He went on to say projected 2008 fare revenue is anticipated to be \$846,000, which assumes a summer surcharge.

5. Discussion - Speed Limit Revision Process Change

Forest Jones discussed the current process of setting speed limits. Mr. Jones touched on the proposal to allow the County Engineer to have the authority to set or revise limits (with a simple process for citizen appeal). He went on to say Public Works could implement more uniform and consistent speed limits and more readily respond to engineering, law enforcement, and customer speeding concerns and issues.

6. Miscellaneous

There were no miscellaneous items for Public Works.

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

- a) ACH Transfer Request Form and Certification to Trusteed Plans Service Corporation from Clearing Fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$225,398.36 (Transmittal No. C-180-07).

III. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Dillon adjourned the proceedings.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Sharon D. Dillon, Chairman

Don Munks, Commissioner

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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