

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2011**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 25, 2011, with Commissioners Ron Wesen, Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, and Sharon D. Dillon present.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Wesen called the proceedings to order at 8:30 a.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairman Wesen led the gallery in the salute to the flag.

III. AGENDA:

a) 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Public Works - Henry Hash, Director:

1. Public Hearing: To Consider Testimony Regarding Vacation of a Portion of County Right-of-Way Known as Snee-Oosh Road, No. 40010

Tory Nelson, Engineering Technician, discussed the petition to vacate a portion of right-of-way known as Snee-Oosh Road (#40010), submitted by Elissa Fjellman on behalf of the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community.

Mr. Nelson indicated that the Tribe is the adjacent landowner located on either side of the proposed vacation. If the County vacated the property the Tribe represents that it intends to keep that portion of Snee-Oosh Road open for public use and the Tribe shall assume all future responsibility and liability for the maintenance and use of the vacated portion.

The Commissioners discussed the concerns about Skagit County Sewer District #1 sewer line addressed by Terry McNeil in an e-mailed, dated Friday, January 14, 2011 at 2:19 p.m.

Mr. Nelson stated that Public Works recommends vacation of this road.

Chairman Wesen opened the public hearing at 8:32 a.m.

Elissa Fjellman commented on behalf of the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community. Ms. Fjellman assured the Board of County Commissioners that the public would continue to have access to the road. She stated that the reason the Tribe requested the vacation was to enable them consistently maintain the road on a regular basis, and to be able enforce the 15-mile an hour speed limit.

Seeing no further public testimony forthcoming, Commissioner Dahlstedt made a motion to close the public hearing at 8:42 a.m. Commissioner Dillon seconded the motion the, which passed unanimously.

The Board of County Commissioners directed Public Works staff to prepare a Final Order of Vacation for a portion of Snee-Oosh Road (#40010) for the Board's signature on the next available consent agenda.

2. Viewing of Seat Belt Safety Video Entitled "Jessica's Story" as Funded by the Washington Traffic Safety Commission

Don McKeehen, Traffic Safety Coordinator, presented a video regarding the importance of wearing seat belts. He stated the video production and distribution was funded by the Washington State Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC). Mr. McKeehen thanked staff of Skagit 21 for producing the video.

Mr. McKeehen indicated that in 2009 Jonna VanDyk, Occupant Protection Program Manager at the Washington Traffic Safety Commission in Olympia, was contacted by a woman whose 23-year old daughter had been killed in a motor vehicle crash because she was not wearing a seat belt. He stated that the young woman's mother wanted to turn the family's grief into something positive, and asked if it would be possible to produce a DVD that could be used as an educational tool designed to stress the importance of always buckling up. Mr. McKeehen went on to say that the target audience would be high school students and young adults.

Mr. McKeehen explained that 45% of people who die in motor vehicle crashes would survive if they had worn a seatbelt. He said that a duplicate video had been sent to WTSC. He indicated that WTSC would make copies for statewide distribution.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. McKeehen for the presentation.

3. Miscellaneous

There were no miscellaneous items for Public Works to discuss.

Chairman Wesen recessed the proceedings at 9:00 a.m.

- b) 9:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. Decision: Closed Record Appeal PL10-0467 Submitted by Skagit County Planning and Development Services to Revoke or Modify Special Use Permit PL08-0438 for Failing to Meet the Conditions of Approval (Special use Request (PL08-0439) Submitted by Travis Lundgren

Chairman Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 9:31 a.m.

Commissioner Dahlstedt stated that due to ongoing settlement discussions, a decision on this appeal would not be made at this time.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dahlstedt to approve postponing the decision on Closed Appeal PL10-0467 submitted by Skagit County Planning and Development Services to Revoke or Modify Special Use Permit PL08-0438 for Failing to Meet the Conditions of Approval of (Special Use Request PL08-0439), submitted by Travis Lundgren pending further discussions. Commissioner Dillon seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

Commissioner Dillon stated that this matter would be brought back before the Board on Tuesday, February 8, 2011, at 8:15 a.m. in the Skagit County Commissioners' Hearing Room.

Chairman Wesen recessed the proceedings at 9:34 a.m.

- c) 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Port of Skagit County and Port of Anacortes:

Chairman Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 10:00 a.m.

1. .09 Funding Update

Carl Molesworth, Communications Manager of the Port of Skagit County, thanked the Commissioners for their support over the years in pursuing the Port's mission of creating jobs for Skagit County.

Mr. Molesworth provided a PowerPoint presentation. He stated that since 2002, Skagit County has granted \$1,549,000 in Rural Distressed County Sales and Use Tax funds to the Port of Skagit County for six economic development projects. He went on to discuss how the Port of Skagit used the funding.

Mr. Molesworth indicated that the Port of Skagit hopes to continue to apply for and receive .09 funding. He said that funding would allow the Port to carry on creating jobs for the community.

The Commissioners agreed that the Port of Skagit and the Port of Anacortes have been successful in creating and retaining jobs for the Skagit County community.

Bob Hyde, Director of the Port of Anacortes, provided a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Hyde thanked Skagit County for allowing the Port to use Skagit County Channel 21 to show Port Commission meetings.

Mr. Hyde stated that the Port of Anacortes has received approximately \$600,000 in .09 funding over the past few years. He went on to discuss the various projects that were able to move forward due to receiving the .09 funding. He explained the Prilled Sulfur Export project, and the opening of Anthony's Restaurant on January 15, 2011.

The Commissioners thanked the Port of Skagit and the Port of Anacortes for the update.

Chairman Wesen recessed the proceedings at 10:31 a.m.

- d) 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Skagit County Board of Health:

- a. Current and Future State and Federal Budget Cuts and How They Affect Services

Peter Browning, Director of Public Health, introduced Bobby Casella. Mr. Browning stated that Mr. Casella is the new AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer for Skagit County. He is currently working with the Medical Reserve Corps.

Mr. Browning indicated that because of Skagit County's size, it does not receive the same funding that larger communities receive. He indicated that the Health Department would be addressing funding issues with the State funding agencies.

Mr. Browning went on to discuss the 2011 public health legislative agenda. He stated that the Skagit County Health Department would support the efforts of the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) and others to provide counties with more funding tools; and help to develop public health funding solutions while balancing local-level needs.

Sandi Paciotti, Communicable Disease Manager, indicated that due to the States budget shortfall, funding for several Skagit County health programs was been eliminated for the first six months of 2011.

Corinne Story, Environmental Public Health Manager, briefly discussed drinking water and on-site sewage programs. Ms. Story indicated that permit activity has been down since the economic downturn. Ms. Story mentioned that the loss of the funding resulted in the elimination of food worker card packets to food service establishment operators; eliminated campground inspections; closed the water lab, and eliminated or changed several duties in the Department.

Ms. Story stated that the Department has received funding from the Washington State Department of Health to start Septics 201 classes and to pursue on-line Septics 101. They have received a grant from the Department of Ecology for the proper disposal of waste tires, and the Clean Samish Initiative EPA grant for the cleanup of the Samish Basin.

Jennifer Walton, Child and Family Health Manger, provided an update of the Child & Family Health programs.

Mr. Browning indicated that because of a decrease of \$1.2 billion in tax revenue, the State has had to cut an additional \$3.8 million for the biennium July 2009 through June 2011. He said that as a result, Skagit County Public Health has lost several key programs. He went on to address the loss of 15.87 full-time employees in 2008 and 18 in 2011. He said that several areas would be impacted due to the cuts. There would be a decrease of hours of service, the clinics would have longer waiting periods, there would be more problems controlling disease outbreaks, fees would have to be raised, controlling the rising number of sexually transmitted disease would be difficult, and there would be less family planning services.

b. New County Health Rankings

Mr. Browning stated that Skagit County is ranked 16 out of 39 by the Washington County Health Rankings. He said that the rankings are primarily used to rate the overall health of counties. The county ranked number 1 is considered the healthiest county in the state.

Commissioner Dahlstedt urged citizens to write letters to their legislatures because public health funding decisions are made at the state and federal level.

c. Miscellaneous

There was a brief discussion held regarding the possibility of using volunteers to help provide support to the Department.

e) 11:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Public Comment Period

Chairman Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 11:45 a.m.

Seeing no public comment forthcoming, Commissioner Dillon made a motion to close the public comment at 11:45 a.m. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Wesen adjourned the proceedings at 11:45 a.m.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

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Ron Wesen, Chairman

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Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

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Sharon D. Dillon, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Linda Hammons, Clerk of the Board