

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2011**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 13, 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 8:31 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/Possible Action: To Consider Testimony Regarding the Application for a Franchise Agreement with San Juan Cable, Incorporated, d/b/a "PacAccess Cable and Internet" and Considering a Resolution Authorizing Execution and a Franchise Agreement with San Juan Cable, Incorporated, d/b/a "PacAccess Cable and Internet"

Henry Hash introduced Engineering Technician Torey Nelson to discuss their first item.

Mr. Nelson discussed the proposed Resolution and Agreement with PacAccess Cable and Internet and he informed the Commissioners that PacAccess had paid the Application Fee in the amount of \$892.12, and that they would also remit 5% of their gross revenue to Skagit County. Mr. Nelson stated that the Agreement would end on June 2, 2022, and that the Franchise Agreement was for county rights-of-way on Guemes Island.

Commissioner Dillon asked if PacAccess had the ability to transmit Skagit County's Skagit 21 television station.

Deputy Civil Prosecuting Attorney Stephen Fallquist answered that as with the previous provider, Wave Cable, they are not able to carry and transmit Skagit 21. Mr. Fallquist noted that they are working with PacAccess to provide a channel which would show the line for the ferry on Guemes Island.

Chairman Wesen opened the public hearing at 8:35 a.m. Seeing no public present to give testimony, Commissioner Dahlstedt made a motion to close the public hearing, which was seconded by Commissioner Dillon. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dillon to approve and sign the Resolution to authorize execution of a Franchise Agreement with San

JuanCable, Inc., d/b/a PacAccess Cable and Internet (**Resolution No. R20110289**) Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dahlstedt to approve and execute a Franchise Agreement with San Juan Cable, Inc., a Washington corporation, d/b/a PacAccess Cable and Internet, authorizing them to make reasonable and lawful use of the Rights-of-Way within the Franchise Area for the purpose of providing cable services. (**Contract No. C20110405**) Commissioner Dillon seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

2. **Public Hearing/Possible Action: To Consider Testimony Regarding the Vacation of a Portion of Unopened County Right-of-Way Known as Skagit City Road #45610**

Engineering Technician Shane Whitney briefed the Board on the portion of Right-of-Way which Joe and Lisa Hardy petitioned to Skagit County for vacation. Mr. Whitney stated that the area is currently unused by Skagit County, is of no benefit to motorized transportation, that if vacated then an easement in gross would be reserved for utilities (if any) located within the Right-of-Way, and that no properties would be land-locked due to the vacation. Mr. Whitney also stated that Joe and Lisa Hardy paid the petitioner's fee of \$349.32 and that if the vacation of the 0.128 acres was approved, Joe and Lisa Hardy would compensate Skagit County the assessed value: \$1,639.57. Mr. Whitney ended by saying that no telephone calls or letters of concern were received regarding this petition. Discussion followed regarding the issue of the Hardy's barn being built without a permit which is being rectified and the Commissioners stated that the vacation of the Right-of-Way would be contingent on the Hardy's meeting their obligations to Skagit County.

Chairman Wesen opened the public hearing at 8:47 a.m. Seeing no public present to give testimony, Commissioner Dillon made a motion to close the public hearing, which was seconded by Commissioner Dahlstedt. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dahlstedt to approve the Resolution to vacate a portion of unopened County Right-of-Way known as Skagit City Road (#45610) (**Resolution No. R20110290**) Commissioner Dillon seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

3. **Public Hearing/Possible Action: To Consider Testimony Regarding the Sale**

of County Surplus Vehicles, Equipment, and Furniture

ER & R Fund Coordinator Mike Elde discussed the items ready for surplus by Skagit County. Mr. Elde stated that the items would be auctioned off at the James Murphy Public Auction in Kenmore as that venue generates more revenue for Skagit County than holding a public auction in Burlington. Mr. Elde stated that the auction this year in Kenmore would be held on October 22, 2011, at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Elde also shared that all items could be previewed in person all day on Friday October 21, 2011, or online at jamesmurphy.com and that people could also bid on items online. Commissioner Dahlstedt wanted to make sure that the list of items was shared with the other municipalities in Skagit County before going to auction. Mr. Elde confirmed that that would be done and that it was standard procedure to do so. Chairman Wesen opened the public hearing at 8:54 a.m. Seeing no public present to give testimony, Commissioner Dahlstedt made a motion to close the public hearing, which was seconded by Commissioner Dillon. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dillon to approve the Resolution regarding the disposal of County surplus property. **(Resolution No. R20110291)** Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

4. Proclamation: Flood Awareness Week (October 18 - 21, 2011)

Mr. Berentson stated that this year Flood Awareness Week would be October 18 through 21, 2011. He stated that many Skagit County employees and multiple agencies are involved in a coordinated flood response and that every year these individuals and entities participate in preparatory exercises and trainings. Public Works appreciates the Commissioners passing the annual Flood Awareness Week proclamation. The Commissioners thanked Public Works for their efforts and then Commissioner Dahlstedt read the proclamation declaring October 18 through 21, 2011, as Flood Awareness Week in Skagit County.

5. Update: The David Brookings Rain Garden Maintenance Plan

Stormwater Permit Progress Coordinator Michael See and Jane Billingham from Washington State University Extension Center's Master Gardener's Program were present to update the Commissioners on the maintenance plan of the David Brookings Rain Garden. Mr. See stated that Skagit County and the Washington State University Extension Center's Master Gardener's Program shall work together on the maintenance of the rain garden.

Ms. Billingham described the function of rain gardens and the best maintenance practices. She stated that rain gardens mimic forest systems and look more natural than a traditional flowerbed. She stated that rain

gardens reduce erosion, re-charge local aquifers, and remove pollutants from the groundwater. Ms. Billinghamurst said that since rain gardens are essentially stormwater processing facilities, pesticides and fertilizers should be avoided. Ms. Billinghamurst ended by saying that representatives from the Master Gardeners Program would come four times a year to observe the system and perform maintenance.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. See and Ms. Billinghamurst for the information and stated that they appreciated the partnership.

6. Miscellaneous

Public Works did not have any miscellaneous items to discuss.

Chairman Wesen recessed the proceedings at 9:17 a.m.

b) 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Presentation: Skagit Public Library Directors

Chairman Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 9:30 a.m.

Burlington Public Library Director Maggie Buckholz thanked the Commissioners for their support. Ms. Buckholz stated that the libraries served over 720,000 people in 2010 and that they continually do their best to find ways to improve services and reduce costs. Ms. Buckholz stated that the libraries have increase reciprocal borrowing and are also coordinating purchases for discounted rates. Ms. Buckholz stated that today they wanted to share information with the Commissioners about the benefits of developing early literacy in children.

Mount Vernon City Library Youth Services Librarian Linda Allen briefed the Commissioners on her experiences at the library and the work she has performed with children in early learning. She shared the importance of early literacy and stated that many children do not attend preschool before kindergarten. She said that the Library helps children prepare for kindergarten with reading, games, and crafting.

Burlington resident Tonya Bieche shared her and her child's experiences with the programs at the Burlington Public Library. Ms. Bieche stated that her expectations were surpassed as she has seen how the children at the library become connected to the world through stories and activities. Ms. Bieche stated that her daughter is learning language, social skills, manners, and respect. Ms. Bieche appreciates and supports the work performed at the local libraries.

City of Anacortes Police Chief Bonnie Bowers stated that there is a correlation between early learning and crime prevention. Chief Bowers shared that she periodically reads a story to the children at the library and she said that this is also an opportunity for the children to interact positively with a police officer for the first time. Chief Bowers stated that the costs and benefits of investing in children's programs and helping children learn to read benefit the community and cost less than incarcerating individuals later in life. Chief Bowers informed the Commissioners about some of the activities and programs that the Anacortes Public Library has in place for children and adults. Chief Bowers stated that libraries play

an important role in their communities, especially in tough economic times. Chief Bowers ended by quoting Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Carnegie. Sedro-Woolley Public Library Director Debra Peterson shared her experiences at the library and briefed the Commissioners on the work she has performed with the children in early learning. She invited the Commissioners to attend the next Sedro-Woolley Early Learning League (SWELL) meeting on October 4th.

The Commissioners thanked the librarians for the presentation and information. Chairman Wesen appreciated the opportunity to share this information with Skagit County citizens. He also pointed out that approximately 70% of the budget goes to law enforcement. Chairman Wesen recessed the proceedings at 10:03 a.m.

c) 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Parks, Recreation & Fairgrounds - Brian Adams, Director:

1. Public Hearing: To Consider Testimony Regarding a Proposal to Dispose of Skagit County Real Property Located at 1412 Walter Street in Mount Vernon

Chairman Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 11:00 a.m.

Brian Adams was present to discuss the property in question which is adjacent to the fairgrounds. Mr. Adams stated that a home is situated on the property and used to be where the caretaker of the fairgrounds resided. Mr. Adams stated that Parks and Recreation has been able to maintain the fairgrounds without the help of a caretaker and that the home and property has no value to future of the fairgrounds. The valuation of the property was discussed and the idea of making the parcel extra parking was discussed. Commissioner Dahlstedt requested that the funds received for selling the property should be held for fair or parks projects.

Mr. Adams clarified the location of the property and stated that this parcel is near the fairgrounds, but is not part of the fairgrounds.

Chairman Wesen opened the public hearing at 11:05 a.m. Seeing no public present to give testimony, Commissioner Dahlstedt made a motion to close the public hearing, which was seconded by Commissioner Dillon. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dillon to approve the Resolution to dispose of Skagit County real property located at 1412 Walter Street in Mount Vernon. **(Resolution No. R20110292)** Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

2. Miscellaneous

Mr. Adams stated that there were no miscellaneous items to discuss.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Adams for putting on a successful fair.

Mr. Adams reported that they increased revenue by 4.5%.

Chairman Wesen recessed the proceedings at 11:10 a.m.

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

Chairman Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 1:31 p.m.

Margaret Rojas, Vice Chair at Skagit Valley College updated the Commissioners on the search for a new President of Skagit Valley College to replace Dr. Gary Tollefson who is retiring. Ms. Rojas stated that they have some strong candidates for the position.

The Commissioners gave their condolences to the friends and family of Public Works employee Brad Pinneke.

Chairman Wesen recessed the proceedings at 11:36 a.m.

- e) 11:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Proclamation: September as Recovery Month in Skagit County

Commissioner Dillon reconvened the proceedings at 11:45 a.m. and excused Chairman Wesen.

Director of Community Service Jennifer Kingsley, Marti Wall of the Peer Connection Center, Mike Manley of Sunrise Services, Margaret Rojas of North Sound Mental Health Association, Joel Burroughs, Stacy Blouin, and Kay Fulton all shared their appreciation for the funds from the one-tenth sales tax which funds mental health and substance abuse causes, and they each shared stories of how these funds have helped them and/or their treatment center.

The Commissioners thanked everyone for coming and sharing their stories and experiences.

Commissioner Dahlstedt stated that he understood that mental health and substance abuse problems are an illness, as cancer is an illness, and that support and programs need to be in place for the recovery process.

Commissioner Dahlstedt read the proclamation declaring September as Recovery Month in Skagit County.

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Dillon adjourned the proceedings at 12:12 p.m.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Ron Wesen, Chairman

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

Sharon D. Dillon, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Linda Hammons, Clerk of the Board