

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2012**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, March 13, 2012, with Commissioners Sharon D. Dillon, and Ron Wesen present.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Commissioner Wesen called the proceedings to order at 8:32 a.m. and excused Chairman Dahlstedt, who was attending a conference in Washington D.C.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

III. AGENDA:

a) 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Planning and Development - Gary Christensen, Director:

1. Department Work Program, Projects, and Priorities

Mr. Christensen informed the Board that a draft work program had been developed with input from the County Administrator, legal counsel, and other departments. He said that he submitted a proposed Resolution for the adoption of a 2012 work program.

Mr. Christensen briefly discussed four of the major projects needing attention in 2012 which were: 2011 Comprehensive Plan Amendments, Shoreline Master Program Update, Bayview Ridge Subarea Plan Implementation, and Amendments to Skagit County Code 14.34 Flood Damage Prevention. He said that these four items would take up the most time in 2012. Then he briefly discussed some of the other projects being worked on which included: Annual Code Amendments, Envision Skagit 2060 Implementation, Transfer of Development Rights (TDR), Legislative Process Reform, Wind Power Regulations, Clean Samish Initiative, Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP), FEMA/NMFS Biological Opinion Code Amendments, Low Flow Stream Watersheds, and the Periodic Review of Special Purpose District Utility Plans.

Commissioner Dillon shared that she would like some information considered that the Forest Advisory Board brought forward, and she would also like Planning and Development Services to assess the CaRD process. Commissioner Wesen asked Planning and Development Services to consider how many hours each project would take and if there could be a way to get some of the low hour projects done. He said he was interested in looking at the Timber Ordinance and the Exotic Animal Ordinance.

Commissioner Dillon and Senior Planner Kirk Johnson discussed the freeway corridor, interchanges, and growth.

Commissioner Wesen clarified the process for requesting a code amendment. Mr. Christensen said that individuals could mail requests to the Board of County Commissioners and Planning and Development Services would review the change and add it to their annual list of items for the Commissioners to consider docketing.

The Commissioners decided to wait until Chairman Dahlstedt returned before approving the 2012 work program.

Mr. Christensen said that he would appreciate the Commissioners passing the work program by Resolution so that they would have a document to refer to which showed the Board's directive to their department.

## 2. Miscellaneous

Commissioner Wesen asked Senior Planner Kirk Johnson about efforts in Skagit County regarding the Transfer of Development Rights (TDR). Mr. Johnson said that the City of Burlington had a plan in place, which would help revitalize their downtown area. Mr. Johnson informed the Commissioners how TDR worked and also said that it was voluntary. Mr. Johnson said that it has benefited developers that have wanted to develop more intensively and it has benefited preserving farmland. Mr. Johnson said that the TDR program supplemented a publicly funded program with some private dollars.

Commissioner Wesen recessed the proceedings at 9:11 a.m.

### b) 9:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Presentation: Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness

Commissioner Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 9:31 a.m. Director of Skagit County Community Services Jennifer Kingsley introduced Director of Whatcom Homeless Service Center Greg Winter who had been researching homelessness in Skagit County, evaluating programs, and recommending ways to improve services to the homeless population. Mr. Winter shared statistics from 2011 of the number of homeless in Skagit County and gave a general overview of the main types of homelessness which include: households, individual persons, chronic individuals, veterans, survivors of domestic violence, and unaccompanied youth.

In order to consistently serve the homeless population, Mr. Winter said that it was important to use and share the same data collection system. Mr. Winter discussed the federal government's HEARTH Act (Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing) and said that it aligns with Skagit County's goals to reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness, reduce the repeated episodes of homelessness, and reduce the amount of time that people spend in homelessness. Mr. Winter briefed the Commissioners on both the negative and positive anticipated trends regarding Skagit County's efforts to end homelessness which included: continued high unemployment rates and an extreme housing cost burden, stagnation of development of new affordable housing, a low vacancy rate and higher rent prices, decreased access and reduced public assistance, local initiatives to

increase collaborative solutions to end homelessness, increased resources to homeless veterans.

Mr. Winters discussed the strategies to deploy in order to reach the goal which included: centralizing the intake process for proper assessment and referrals for supportive intervention, rapidly re-house families who become homeless, target homeless prevention assistance to individuals who are most at risk, provide interim housing with supportive resources through emergency shelters and transitional housing to those who need it most, link people to services that improve housing stability since supportive services are very important and are a critical strategy to end homelessness, increase the supply of affordable and permanent supportive housing, and measure and report progress towards these goals to continually evaluate and improve the system.

Mr. Winters said that Skagit County was well on its way to end homelessness. He said that the agencies successful implementation of a consistent plan paired with data-driven program development and decision making would make ending homelessness a reality.

Commissioner Dillon applauded the different agencies in Skagit County that partner with each other to end homelessness. She said that she believed it costs less to help people sooner rather than later when they usually end up in the justice system.

Discussion followed on the recording fees which the Skagit County Auditor collects that go towards housing. Mr. Winter and Director of Skagit County Community Action Agency Bill Henkel discussed what the funds are used for which are collected by the Auditor's Office.

Commissioner Wesen recessed the proceedings at 10:10 a.m.

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

Commissioner Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 11:31 a.m.

Carol Ehlers of Fidalgo Island was present to discuss two topics: SKAT's dial a ride pocket service and Skagit County's code which addressed Master Planned Resorts. Ms. Ehlers said in both cases, language needed to be simplified so that the meaning and intent was clear to any who either read the SKAT pamphlet, or Skagit County Code.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Wesen adjourned the proceedings at 11:46 a.m.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

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Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Chairman

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Sharon D. Dillon, Commissioner

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Ron Wesen, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Linda Hammons, Clerk of the Board