

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2012**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, March 27, 2012, with Commissioners Sharon D. Dillon, and Ron Wesen present.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Commissioner Dillon called the proceedings to order at 8:30 a.m. and excused Chairman Dahlstedt who was travelling to Washington DC.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

III. AGENDA:

a) 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Public Works - Henry Hash, Director:

Public Works Director Henry Hash thanked the Commissioners for inviting Public Works back to finish their Division Manager updates. Mr. Hash introduced Skagit County Engineer Paul Randall-Grutter.

1. Continuation of Quarterly Division Managers Work Session

Mr. Randall-Grutter discussed Capital Improvement Projects and how Public Works partners with and keeps other entities informed of upcoming projects so that resources and staff time can be better utilized and projects can be simultaneously worked on.

Design Construction Manager David Walde briefed the Board on the Parson Creek Road and Friday Creek Road stabilization projects as well as the Francis Road Realignment project. Mr. Walde said that portions of Francis Road would expand from 23 feet to 43 feet. He said that safety would be improved for traffic, bicyclists, pedestrians and farmers, and traffic would be able to maneuver around farm equipment more safely. He said that the project required 3.45 acres and 1.75 acres would be returned to farmable ground.

Project Manager Jennifer Swanson briefed the Board on the Transfer Station. She said that it was in its 13th month of construction and that it was scheduled to be completed in May or June. She also informed the Board that the Anacortes and Guemes Island Ferry Dock Replacement Project had been submitted to the American Public Works Association for consideration for the project of the year award. Ms. Swanson said that they are also working on various run-off-the-road and intersection safety improvement projects.

Mr. Randall-Grutter said that Public Works does more than road projects. He said that they submit annual reports to the County Road Administration Board (CRAB) for project funding and provide services to other departments including concurrency reports, development review, over-weight/over-height

permits, special roadway use permits, surveying services, right-of-way acquisition and vacations, franchise agreements, vehicle collision reporting, priority array report, traffic counts, county freights and goods system, and bridge inspections. He said that Skagit County has 108 bridges and that they also perform inspections on 14 city bridges.

Mr. Randall-Grutter briefed the Board on some potential upcoming projects. He said that Public Works was exploring replacement options for the Old 99 BNSF Bridge and researching if a round-about would solve traffic problems at a 5-way intersection on Pioneer Highway. Public Works was also looking for funding for widening the North Fork Bridge which was very narrow and has required structural work. He said that it is utilized by pedestrians and bicyclists. A portion of Bow Hill Road needs widening and stabilization. The rest of Francis Road needs to be brought to current road safety standards. Mr. Randall-Grutter said that \$22 million in construction would be provided to the economy and was funded federally, by the state, and by the county.

The Commissioners thanked Public Works for the information and Commissioner Dillon recessed the proceedings at 9:08 a.m.

2. Miscellaneous

Public Works did not have any miscellaneous items to discuss.

b) 9:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. Budget and Finance - Trisha Logue, Director:

Commissioner Dillon reconvened the proceedings at 9:30 a.m.

1. Public Hearing: To Consider Testimony Regarding Amending the 2012 Skagit County Budget

Budget and Finance Director Trisha Logue was present to discuss the proposed budget amendments from the following Skagit County departments: Cooperative Extension, Administrative Services, Facilities, Prosecuting Attorney, Superior Court, Elections, Substance Abuse Services, Conservation Futures, Planning and Development Services, Low Income Housing, Treasurer's REET, Facility Improvement, and Unemployment Insurance.

Commissioner Dillon opened the public hearing at 9:37 a.m.

Superior Court Judge Meyer was present to answer any questions the Commissioners might have. He said that his department was requesting increasing their 60% bailiff to full-time. He explained that a few years ago, in order to accommodate an employee's schedule they reduced a full-time position to one 60% position and one 40% position. The individual who was working at 40% left three years ago and his department has not asked to return it to 100% due to the financial climate. However, they have now

concluded that they do need a full-time position.

Seeing no further public testimony forthcoming, Commissioner Wesen made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:42 a.m., which was seconded by Commissioner Dillon. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wesen said that he appreciated hearing from Judge Meyer and would like to help his office run smoother.

Commissioner Dillon said that she respected Commissioner Wesen and Judge Meyer but she said that she opposed increasing the position back to full-time since the county had recently eliminated over 70 positions. She understood that the work load had increased but she questioned whether that work load would be sustained or if it would taper off. She said that she would like to wait for Chairman Dahlstedt to return to vote on the proposed budget amendments.

The Commissioners decided to delay taking action on the proposed Resolution for the budget amendments until Chairman Dahlstedt returned. Commissioner Dillon recessed the proceedings.

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

Commissioner Dillon reconvened the proceedings at 11:30 a.m. Seeing no public present to comment, the Commissioners reminded everyone that they can come any Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. to share news and information.

Commissioner Wesen said that he had a discussion with Anacortes Mayor Maxwell regarding some issues that were brought up by a deputy prosecuting attorney and Commissioner Wesen wanted to make sure that local governments worked together for the common good and he did not approve of the language used by a Skagit County employee to a State Representative.

Commissioner Dillon agreed.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Dillon adjourned the proceedings at 11:33 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