

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JULY 3, 2012**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, July 3, 2012, with Commissioners Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Sharon D. Dillon, and Ron Wesen present.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Dahlstedt called the proceedings to order at 8:32 a.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairman Dahlstedt 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. Decision: Road Name Change Petition Request Regarding a Road Name Change of a Portion of County Road Known as Roney Road, No. 30610, to Hopley Road, No. 30620

Chairman Dahlstedt reminded those present that he had recused himself from making a decision on the matter. He said that the Commissioners reviewed Skagit County Code and were probably going to rescind the application. Chairman Dahlstedt asked Commissioner Dillon to share what they learned.

Commissioner Dillon said that the Commissioners reviewed Skagit County Code 15.24.060 (road naming policy) and found that road names already in use will stay the same except for duplicate names. She said that they were not going to move forward with the application and that they would return the fee to the applicant.

Commissioner Wesen shared that the Hopley family had been in the area many years and that they have done a lot for Samish Island. He said that he reviewed Skagit County Code 15.24.060 (road naming policy) and saw that it stated that road names already in use will stay the same except duplicate names may be changed. He said that he did not think Skagit County should be renaming roads contrary to code. He said that it would be confusing. He said that he appreciated the work that the applicant did on the petition and also all of the work that the Hopley family has done for Samish Island.

Chairman Dahlstedt said that they did not want neighbors to be pitted against one other because of this proposed name change. He said that the Hopley family has done a lot of good things for the community as well as many of the other neighbors. He said that the ultimate goal was to serve the public and do the right thing for everyone. He said it would probably be best to leave roads that are already named the same. He asked the Commissioners for a motion on the matter.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dillon to approve rescinding the application for the petition to request the road name change from Roney Road, No. 30610 to Hopley Road, No. 30620 and refund the fee to the applicant. Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

2. Miscellaneous

Mr. Hash said that Public Works did not have any miscellaneous items to discuss. He said that the check to the applicant would be mailed in two to three weeks.

Chairman Dahlstedt asked for some updates on the Anderson/LaVenture and transfer station projects. Brief discussion was also held on other construction projects in Skagit County, and the extension of the PILT and SRS programs (Payment in Lieu of Taxes and Secure Rural Schools).

Chairman Dahlstedt requested that Public Works schedule some time before the Commissioners in order to provide the Commissioners and public with an update on the General Investigation Study on

the Skagit River.

Chairman Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 8:55 a.m.

- b) 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Presentation: Northwest Agriculture Business Center - Food Processing Cluster

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

David Bauermeister, Executive Director at Northwest Agriculture Business Center, thanked the Commissioners for inviting him to give a presentation. He said that their private, non-profit serves Snohomish, Skagit, Whatcom, Island, and San Juan counties. He said that their mission was to help farmers be financially successful by providing business development services, value added product development services, marketing assistance, and workshops and trainings for farmers, processors and producers.

Mr. Bauermeister briefed the Commissioners on Northwest Washington Agricultural Processing Initiative which was seeking to include processors of food and beverages, health care products, fiber, bioenergy, feed, seed, and other agricultural projects in a cluster based initiative in an effort to help the region prosper by providing processing methods, assistance, partnerships, and workforce development. Mr. Bauermeister said that the initiative would help bring food processors back to the region which would also benefit local producers. Mr. Bauermeister discussed methods that would be used to identify processors, agencies, non-profits, and other resources for the success of the initiative. He also discussed the development of cooperatives and funding.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Bauermeister for his presentation. They said that they thought it was a good idea. Commissioner Wesen said that revenue sources needed to be preserved for farmers and that the movement to save farmland also needed to include the farmer. He said that it takes a lot of work to get products to the grocery store.

Chairman Dahlstedt said that farming needed to be economically viable for farmers. He encouraged people who wanted to buy local products to let their grocers know. He asked Mr. Bauermeister to return and give the Commissioners updates on the Processing Initiative.

Mr. Bauermeister and the Commissioners briefly discussed getting food from local farms to local schools and hospitals. Mr. Bauermeister said that there were some budgetary issues that needed to be resolved before the program could be fully implemented at schools. It was encouraged that parents let their schools know if they wanted to see fresh, local food in the school cafeteria.

Chairman Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 9:56 a.m.

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

Chairman Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 11:30 a.m.

Seeing no public present for comment, Commissioner Dillon made a motion to close the public comment period, which was seconded by Commissioner Wesen. The vote passed unanimously.

The Commissioners commented on local parades and firework displays in the area, thanked the men and women serving and who have served America, and wished everyone a happy and safe Independence Day.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Dahlstedt adjourned the proceedings at 11:35 a.m.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Chairman

Sharon D. Dillon, Commissioner

Ron Wesen, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Linda Hammons, Clerk of the Board