

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2013**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, February 12, 2013, with Commissioners Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Sharon D. Dillon, and Ron Wesen present.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Dillon called the proceedings to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

III. AGENDA:

- a) 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Presentation: Skagit County Housing Authority Veterans' Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) Program

Gustavo Ramos, Jr. Skagit County Housing Authority Executive Director spoke about the benefits and challenges the Housing Authority faced. He thanked the Commissioners for their continued support and introduced staff from the Skagit County Housing Authority Karen Linder, Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Coordinator; and Melanie Corey, Executive Director.

Karen Linder, FSS Coordinator reported that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Veterans Affairs (VA) Supportive Housing Program (VASH) provides rental assistance vouchers specifically targeted to homeless veterans. Public housing authorities work closely with VA Medical Centers to manage the program. In addition to the rental assistance, VA Medical Centers provide supportive services and case management to eligible homeless veterans.

The Skagit County Department of Housing Services received an award for twenty-five (25) VASH vouchers to serve homeless veteran households. There was a discussion regarding how the Housing Authority could get more vouchers and assist more veterans.

There was an update on the Section 8 FSS Program, an employment and incentive program for increased participant self-sufficiency. Ms. Linder reported on the Farm Labor, Tax Credit, Affordable Housing and Weatherization programs.

Ray, a Skagit County veteran and participant of the VASH Program shared his story about the positive impact the program has had on his and his son's lives.

Chair Dillon recessed the proceedings at 10:43 a.m.

- b) 11:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Board of County Commissioners:

1. Public Comment Period

Chair Dillon reconvened the proceedings at 11:30 a.m.

Mike Newman of 1000 South 21st Place in Mount Vernon spoke about the Skagit Council of Governments' (SCOG) Revolving Loan Fund. He indicated that there was \$250,000 of non-performing loans. Mr. Newman urged the Commissioners to consider withdrawing from the SCOG Board as a way to save taxpayer dollars. He spoke in opposition to using public money to finance bicycle racks in downtown areas.

Commissioner Wesen said he was the Chair of the SCOG Board for 2013. Commissioner Wesen explained how the Revolving Loan Fund was created and the purpose of the Fund.

Seeing no further public comment forthcoming Chair Dillon closed the public comment period at 11:42 a.m.

2. Miscellaneous Announcements

Public meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 12, 2013, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. being hosted by Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group and Skagit County Public Works regarding the proposal for South Skagit Highway MP 14 Bridge Construction. The meeting will be held at Day Creek Volunteer Fire Station, located at 31963 South Skagit Highway in Sedro-Woolley.

Public meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 26, 2013, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. to discuss the financing options for the Public Safety Jail Project.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Dillon adjourned the proceedings at 11:45 a.m.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Sharon D. Dillon, Chair

Ron Wesen, Commissioner

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board