

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2013**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, August 6, 2013, with Commissioners Sharon D. Dillon, Ron Wesen, and Kenneth A. Dahlstedt present.

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Dillon called the proceedings to order shortly after 8:30 a.m.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

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

**III. AGENDA:**

- a) 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Washington State Association of Counties Legislative Steering Committee Meeting with Elected Officials RE: County Fiscal Sustainability Initiative

Chair Dillon recognized Assessor Munks, Auditor Youngquist, and Sheriff Reichardt and introduced Island County Commissioner Helen Price Johnson, the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) Vice Chair. Commissioner Johnson said that she was collecting feedback from Washington State Counties regarding their needs in relation to the fiscal sustainability initiative.

WSAC, made up of 39 Washington counties, is a membership organization serving as an advocate for Counties in the legislature. Commissioner Johnson said that the fiscal sustainability initiative was being finalized to present to legislators and the general public in order to fully educate them on the services Counties provide, how they differ from Cities and the State, and how decisions made by legislatures impact Counties. Commissioner Johnson said that Washington State Counties have taken multiple measures to balance budgets, but that many were unsustainable. She described the need to fully educate decision makers on counties' role in their communities, how they have met needs in hard times, and where they have fallen short. For this reason she wanted to hear from Skagit County's Elected Officials and Department Heads and find out more about how services have been impacted, and steps that have been taken to meet changes.

Sheriff Reichardt, Planning and Development Services Director Dale Pernula, Community Services Director Jennifer Kingsley, Assessor Munks, Public Health Director Peter Browning, Auditor Youngquist, Commissioner Wesen, Commissioner Dahlstedt, Chair Dillon, Administrator Holloran, and Information Services Director Mike Almvig, discussed successes and failures with Commissioner Johnson.

Commissioner Johnson thanked the audience for their feedback. She said that proposed policy solutions were being drafted based on feedback in order to present to legislative representatives in the Fall. She requested remaining Elected Officials and Department Heads take the following survey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8XMTGLB>.

Chair Dillon thanked Commissioner Johnson for the information and for coordinating the important project. Chair Dillon recessed the proceedings at 9:25 a.m.

b) **9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Presentation: WSU Cooperative Extension Programs - Update**

Chair Dillon reconvened the proceedings at 9:31 a.m.

Director Don McMoran introduced Nutrition Specialist Diane Smith who briefed the Commissioners on her past work experience and current work at WSU Extension Center.

The Commissioners were also briefed on the Food \$ense Program and WSU Cooperative Extension's work with children in elementary schools as well as with adults and the types of classes offered to improve life skills and reduce dependence on public assistance.

Director McMoran updated the Commissioners on meetings and agriculture tours that WSU provided as well as irrigation work and evaluation in the county.

Coordinator of the Small, Beginning and Immigrant Farming Program Sarita Schaffer informed the Commissioners that she would be returning to school full-time and would no longer hold the coordinator position at WSU Extension Center, but that she would remain on the Viva Farms Board. She discussed the farming program which had grown in popularity and become world renown over the last four years. Ms. Schaffer advocated that the program continue to be staffed at full-time, shared success stories from the program, and thanked the Commissioners for their commitment to agriculture.

4-H Extension Coordinator William Frietas briefed the Commissioners on the 4-H program and shared the positive impacts 4-H made in kids' and young adults lives.

The Commissioners thanked WSU Cooperative Extension staff for the updates and appreciated the good work being performed in Skagit County.

Chair Dillon recessed the proceedings at 10:21 a.m.

c) **10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Facilities Management Introduction of New Staff: Custodial Supervisor Jim Pittis**

Chair Dillon reconvened the proceedings at 10:30 a.m. and introduced Operations Supervisor Ron Kitchener.

Mr. Kitchener introduced a recent hire made by Skagit County: Custodial Supervisor Jim Pittis and he thanked Mr. Pittis for his knowledge, energy and enthusiasm.

The Commissioners welcomed Mr. Pittis and Chair Dillon recessed the proceedings at 10:36 a.m.

d) **11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Public Works - Henry Hash, Director:**

Chair Dillon reconvened the proceedings at 11:02 a.m. and introduced Mr. Hash.

1. **Discussion/Possible Action: Ordinance Amending Chapter 12.18 Skagit County Code (Solid Waste)**

Mr. Hash reminded the Commissioners that this item had been before them during a public hearing held on July 9, 2013 and that the Commissioners had decided to wait to make a decision after hearing from the solid waste boards.

Mr. Hash informed the Commissioners that the Solid Waste Governance Board did not have an opportunity to discuss the proposed changes to the Ordinance at their last meeting, and so they did not yet have any input or recommendations for the Commissioners. Their next meeting is scheduled for August 21, 2013.

The Commissioners asked if there were any time constraints on their final decision. There were not. The Commissioners expressed their preference to receive input from the Solid Waste Governance Board and Solid Waste Advisory Committee before making a final decision on the proposed ordinance. They estimated a decision in mid-September and stated notice would be given on the Commissioners weekly Agenda.

**2. Miscellaneous**

Public Works did not have any miscellaneous items to discuss.

Chair Dillon recessed the proceedings.

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

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

**1. Public Comment Period**

Ed Stauffer of Alger was present for public comment and discussed his concerns with regionalization and the need to ask more questions about whether or not new programs being offered by the State and Federal government were necessary in Skagit County. He urged the Commissioners to keep Skagit County's values in mind when solving problems.

**2. Miscellaneous Announcement**

The Commissioners reminded people to turn in their election ballots and attend the Skagit County Fair.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair Dillon adjourned the proceedings for the day.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

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Sharon D. Dillon, Chair

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Ron Wesen, Commissioner

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Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Clerk of the Board