

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2013**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Wednesday, November 6, 2013, with Chair Sharon D. Dillon, Commissioner Ron Wesen, and Commissioner Kenneth A. Dahlstedt present.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Dillon called the proceedings to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. AGENDA:

- a) \*1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Emergency Management Council Meeting (Ron Richeson Training Room, 2911 E. College Way, Mount Vernon)
- b) 6:00 p.m. Informational Public Forum by Emergency Services Consulting International (ESCI) Regarding Future Provision of Emergency Medical Services in Skagit County

Chair Dillon said that this meeting was the first of three meetings intended to review and discuss the evaluation of Skagit County's Emergency Medical Service (EMS) system, future plans and design of the emergency response and ambulance services.

Commissioner Wesen stated that it was important to preserve the highest level of Advanced Life Support (ALS) service to all citizens across the entire county, from Anacortes to Marblemount, and Conway to Alger. He noted that last year the voters approved an increase in the EMS Levy tax rate.

Commissioner Dahlstedt stated that when the Commissioners make decisions, they are made on behalf of the whole county and that it was important to integrate services to be cost effective and efficient. He noted that the Board of Commissioners valued the expertise of Emergency Services Consulting International (ESCI).

Earl Klinefelter, Skagit County EMS Commission Manager, provided a brief history of the EMS Council which was formed in 1974 as the Skagit, Stanwood, Camano EMS Council.

Kyle Gorman and Jim Broman of ESCI provided a brief history of their work experience.

Mr. Gorman provided a PowerPoint presentation and stated that ESCI had been retained by the Skagit County Board of Commissioners and Skagit County EMS Commission to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the County's Emergency Medical Services. He presented the EMS System Evaluation and Management Plan, dated March 2013.

Mr. Gorman explained how ESCI conducted its analysis and noted several components of the EMS system evaluation, the strengths and critical issues. He noted that their analysis resulted in multiple recommendations to help EMS restructure in a manner consistent with earlier visions of system stakeholders; expand the role of the first responder system; implement a financial plan that would be sustainable in light of declining reimbursement levels; position the organization to integrate with Public Health; the changing landscape of the health care industry; improve data collection, quality assurance, and analysis.

Mr. Gorman provided an overview of future opportunities for EMS, which included establishing a full-time quality assurance and data position; and providing an annual report to the citizens of Skagit County. He presented several financing options and financial recommendations; including maintaining the status quo; providing levy support based on regional average cost of deploying an ambulance; allocating financial resources in a manner that funds the necessary infrastructure to maintain system readiness, first response and transport components of the system.

Mr. Gorman pointed out that the current levy would expire in 2018. He recommended that a long-term budget should be established and that annual budget requests by agencies should be eliminated.

Brian Harris of 1815 Lindsey Loop; and Tim Mosier of 2134 Clara Place in Sedro-Woolley asked Mr. Gorman to clarify his comments regarding the lack of supportive medical data.

Jim Kennedy of 2530 Lyman Highway in Hamilton said that Skagit County needed to continue training to EMS responders.

Mr. Gorman stated that there was not enough medical research data available in the industry to determine how many paramedics were needed to respond to each medical incident.

The Commissioners encouraged the public to voice any thoughts or concerns they may have about the EMS system.

The ESCI/EMS report can be found on Skagit County's website at [www.skagitcounty.net](http://www.skagitcounty.net), navigate to the Health Department, the report is located in the upper right corner.

III. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Dillon adjourned the proceedings at 7:18 p.m. and announced that the next public forum with ESCI would be held on Monday, December 9, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Hearing Room.

**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