

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2013**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, December 10, 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 8:30 a.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

I. AGENDA:

a) 8:30 a.m Budget and Finance - Trisha Logue, Director:

1. Adoption of 2014 Budgets and Levies

Trisha Logue, Director, presented thirteen (13) budget and levy resolutions and noted two changes that were made since the preliminary budget since it was released on November 18, 2013.

Chair Dillon stated that the Board of County Commissioners had received several public comment letters which had been submitted regarding the 2014 budget and that all the comments had been reviewed by each Commissioner. She noted that the Commissioners were accountable and responsible for the decisions made in the 2014 budget.

Commissioner Dahlstedt noted that seventy-two (72) positions had been cut over the past five (5) years and that all the decisions made by the Board had been carefully considered and that the County would continue to provide a vital and strong health program to protect the community.

Commissioner Wesen thanked County staff for their continued hard work and dedication. He indicated that he was in support of the budget but did not want to raise the property tax.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dahlstedt to approve a resolution adopting the 2014 County budget as presented on November 18, 2013, and as modified by the Budget and Finance Director to correct errors. **(Resolution No. R20130365)** Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dahlstedt to approve a Resolution adopting the 2014 Emergency Medical Services budget. **(Resolution No. R20130366)** Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dahlstedt to approve a Resolution adopting the 2014 Central Valley Ambulance Authority budget. **(Resolution No. R20130367)** Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dahlstedt to approve a Resolution to authorize the property tax limit factor for the 2014 Skagit County General Levy at 101% of the 2013 levy. **(Resolution No. R20130368)** Chair Dillon seconded the motion.

The vote passed on a 2 - 1 vote with Commissioner Wesen dissenting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dahlstedt to approve a Resolution to authorize the property tax levy for the 2014 Skagit County General Levy. **(Resolution No. R20130369)** Chair Dillon seconded the motion.

The vote passed on a 2 - 1 vote with Commissioner Wesen dissenting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dahlstedt to approve a Resolution authorizing the property tax limit factor for the Road Levy at 101% of the 2013 levy. **(Resolution No. R20130370)** Chair Dillon seconded the motion.

The vote passed on a 2 - 1 vote with Commissioner Wesen dissenting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dahlstedt to approve a Resolution authorizing the property tax levy for the 2014 Skagit County Road Levy. **(Resolution No. R20130371)** Chair Dillon seconded the motion.

The vote passed on a 2 - 1 vote with Commissioner Wesen dissenting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dahlstedt to approve a Resolution authorizing the property tax limit factor for the Conservation Futures Levy at 101% of the 2013 levy. **(Resolution No. R20130372)** Chair Dillon seconded the motion.

The vote passed on a 2 - 1 vote with Commissioner Wesen dissenting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dahlstedt to approve a Resolution authorizing the property tax levy for the 2014 Skagit County Conservation Futures Levy. **(Resolution No. R20130373)** Chair Dillon seconded the motion.

The vote passed on a 2 - 1 vote with Commissioner Wesen dissenting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dahlstedt to approve a Resolution authorizing the property tax limit factor for the Emergency Medical services Levy at 101% of the 2013 Levy. **(Resolution No. R20130374)** Chair Dillon seconded the motion.

The vote passed on a 2 - 1 vote with Commissioner Wesen dissenting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dahlstedt to approve a Resolution authorizing the property tax levy for the 2014 Skagit County Emergency Medical Services Levy. **(Resolution No. R20130375)** Chair Dillon seconded the motion.

The vote passed on a 2 - 1 vote with Commissioner Wesen dissenting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dahlstedt to approve a Resolution authorizing the shift of \$700,000 from the 2014 Road Levy to the 2014 General Levy. **(Resolution No. R20130376)** Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dahlstedt to approve a Resolution authorizing a diversion of \$1,350,000 from the 2014 Road Levy to the 2014 General Fund for traffic law enforcement. **(Resolution No. R20130377)** Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

2. Miscellaneous

There were no miscellaneous items for Budget and Finance to discuss.

b) 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Planning and Development Services - Dale Pernula, Director:

Chair Dillon reconvened the proceedings at 9:02 a.m.

1. Update: Status of the Shoreline Master Program

Mr. Pernula was present to introduce the agenda items and answer questions.

Betsy Stevenson, Senior Planner, noted that after numerous Shoreline Advisory Committee meetings, Planning Commission work sessions, and public open houses a preliminary draft of

the Shoreline Master Program had been submitted to the Department of Ecology (DOE) by the Planning Department in early 2013. She indicated that preliminary comments had been received from DOE. Ms. Stevenson provided a brief outline of some of the historic dates in the process and a preliminary timeline for the remaining tasks and public process. She said that the items were interdependent, so if one item changed, the timeline for all items may need to be adjusted but the Planning Department was diligently working to get the next draft document out to the Planning Commission by early 2014.

Chair Dillon requested that Ms. Stevenson provide the Board of County Commissioners with any dates that have been set for future meetings as she would like to announce the dates in open public session during the Commissioners miscellaneous public announcements on Skagit 21.

2. Update: 2013 Building Division

Mr. Pernula reported that construction activity was very important to Skagit County as it was an indicator of the economic health of the local economy. He said that the purpose of the agenda item was to provide the Board of County Commissioners with information from staff that deal on a day-to-day basis with the permitting activities.

Ms. Stevenson noted that the Natural Resources Work Group included Alison Mohns, Leah Forbes, John Cooper and herself. She said that they were responsible for reviewing all land use and development applications which included building; grading; septic; floodplain; compliance; variance; special use; and land divisions which they reviewed for compliance with critical areas, water and shoreline regulations. Ms. Stevenson provided a PowerPoint presentation depicting the Natural Resources Work Group permit activity.

Brandon Black, Senior Planner, noted that the Current Planning Work Group was responsible for reviewing Land Use Permit applications that are permitted under the current code. He provided a PowerPoint presentation depicting the number of permits received for the years 2011, 2012, and 2013. He noted that the number of permits that had been applied for had not increased significantly but had held steady over the last year.

Jack Moore, Building Official and Flood Plain Manager, noted that the Building Division had experienced a number of improvements and positive outcomes in 2013. He provided some graphic representations about the number days for permit review over the last two building seasons. Mr. Moore noted that the Building Department had made several changes that had resulted in reduced time frames for permits in 2013. He explained that a plan for 2014 had been developed which would allow the Department to reduce permit time frames.

Mr. Moore noted that the hours and times for daily inspections had increased and were up approximately fifteen (15) percent per month. He indicated that for the years 2011 and 2012, the majority of building permit applications were for residential remodels, additions and private garages. He noted that in 2013, there was an increase in commercial projects and new homes. Mr. Moore said that revenues were continuing to increase due to the greater number of permits and the increase in the average size of projects.

Mr. Moore explained the difference between Planning Permits and Building Permits. He noted that during the plan review process, County staff reviewed the permit application and building plans for compliance with the building codes and noted that plan review must be completed prior to the issuance of a building permit. Mr. Moore explained that a planning permit was an application for permission to develop or use land for a particular purpose.

There was a discussion about the continued partnership between the Health, Public Works, and Planning and Development Departments.

The Commissioners thanked everyone for the update and encouraged anyone who was thinking about a building project to come in to the Planning Department as early as possible.

3. Discussion/Possible Action: Ordinance Adopting the 2014-2019 Capital Facilities Plan

Mr. Pernula said that the Capital Facilities Plan was last updated in 2012 and that the

Washington Administrative Code (WAC) recommends an update of the plan at least every two (2) years.

Ryan Walters, Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, presented an Ordinance Adopting the 2014-2019 Capital Facilities Plan. He explained the process and indicated that pursuant to the Board of County Commissioners recommendations, the Plan had been modified to include most of the Planning Commission's recommendations.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wesen adopt the 2014-2019 Capital Facilities Plan. **(Ordinance No. O20130006)** Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

4. Miscellaneous

Mr. Pernula noted that Skagit County Planning and Development Services had released guidance for businesses seeking to apply for permits under the Washington State recreational marijuana law. He said that a memorandum had been prepared and was posted online. He indicated that the memorandum did not propose any new regulations; it instead informed applicants of how their proposals might fit into the County's existing land use code. More information can be found on the Planning and Development's website located at <http://www.skagitcounty.net/planning>, navigate to "Guidance for I-502 Marijuana Permitting," under the Planning Projects of Current Interest tab.

Chair Dillon recessed the proceedings 9:51 a.m.

c) 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Public Works, Dan Berentson, Interim Director:

Commissioner Dillon reconvened the proceedings at 10:03 a.m. and excused Commissioner Dahlstedt from this portion of the proceedings.

Dan Berentson, Interim Director, was present to introduce the agenda item and answer questions.

1. Discussion/Possible Action: Guemes Island Ferry 14-Year Capital Facilities Plan (2014-2027)

Rachel Rowe, Ferry Operations Manager, explained that the requirement for a fourteen (14) year capital improvement plan for County-owned ferries was outlined in the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 36.54.015. She said that the purpose of the Plan was to be used as a general guide for long-range planning purposes. Ms. Rowe presented the Guemes Island Ferry Fourteen (14) Year Capital Improvement for the years 2014-2027, and indicated that if the Board of County Commissioners adopt the Plan, it would be submitted to the County Road Administration Board.

Steve Orsini of 4971 Guemes Island Road in Anacortes, noted that he was a member of the Guemes Island Ferry Committee. He indicated that the Ferry Committee had received the plan but had not had a chance to provide input. He indicated that the Ferry Committee would meet in January and provide their input at that time.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wesen to approve the resolution to approve the Guemes Island Ferry Fourteen-Year Capital Improvement Plan 2014-2027. **(Resolution No. R20130378)** Chair Dillon seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

2. Miscellaneous

There were no miscellaneous items for Public Works to discuss.

Chair Dillon recessed the proceedings at 10:20 a.m.

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

1. Public Comment Period

Commissioner Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 11:31 a.m. and excused Chair Dillon's absence.

Arnold Byron of 1067 Fidalgo Drive in Burlington, shared several ideas he had regarding a not-for-profit bottling plant and the Skagit River. He spoke about the recent proposal to build a water bottling plant in Anacortes. He said that now that Thethys had withdrawn their proposal to build a bottling plant, it would be a good time for the people of Skagit County to get into action to make certain that Skagitonians own and control the resources and future of the Skagit River. He suggested that a meeting be set up to determine if there would be interest in setting up a smaller, locally-owned, not for profit water bottling operation. He said people could call him at (360) 757-7641 to discuss setting up a meeting.

Carol Ehlers of West Fidalgo Island spoke about the public hearing to consider testimony regarding an ordinance amending Skagit County Code Chapter 12.19, Drainage Utility, meeting taking place on December 17, 2013, and addressed several drainage concerns.

Marion Flaig of 15057 Beaver Lake in Mount Vernon said that she had lived in the Beaver Lake Valley for 70 years. She spoke about the floods over years and said that historically the water had drained from the valley but in the last five (5) years, the valley had been plugged up with flood water and a gravel bar. She urged the Commissioners to get emergency funds to drain the water out of the valley before the next flood event.

Lea Lucky of 3455 Legg Road; Patty Daut of 3457 Lake Road; James Daut of 3457 Legg Road in Bow thanked the Commissioners for their in support in trying to create a quiet zone in the Blanchard area.

Seeing no further public comment forthcoming, Commissioner Dahlstedt closed the public period at 11:53 a.m.

2. Miscellaneous Announcements

There were no miscellaneous items to discuss.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Dahlstedt adjourned the proceedings at 11:53 a.m.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Sharon D. Dillon, Chair

Ron Wesen, Commissioner

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board