

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2014**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, February 25, 2014, with Chair Ron Wesen, Commissioner Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, and Commissioner Sharon D. Dillon present.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Wesen called the proceedings to order at 9:30 a.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairman Wesen led the gallery in the salute to the flag.

III. AGENDA:

- a) 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Discussion/Possible Action: Amending Potentially Dangerous Animals Ordinance, Skagit County Code, Title 7

Chair Wesen introduced the item up for discussion and asked Chief Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Will Honea and Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Ryan Walters if they had anything to add to the record.

Mr. Walters briefed the Board on action taken to date on the draft ordinance and said that the Commissioners could either adopt the draft ordinance, further amend the draft ordinance, or take no action.

Mr. Honea pointed out that the ownership of wild animals was not being altogether prohibited, it was restricting the ownership of those animals to zoos and wildlife sanctuaries.

Commissioner Dillon said that the Commissioners routinely update Skagit County Code, and had been working on Title 7 for many years when they started with Chapter 7.02 Kennels in 2008. She said she would like Skagit County Code to be comparable to Washington State Law.

Commissioner Dahlstedt thanked everyone for providing passionate testimony both for and against the proposed ordinance. He shared that public safety was his priority and shared information from an article published by Born Free USA which compiled reported preventable incidents by exotic animals in the United States from 1990 – 2014. He said that the article compiled incidents including deaths, injuries, and escapes by animals held at zoos, a refuge, a circus, and privately. He said that animals held privately had much higher incidents. Incidents privately: 66%, zoos: 17%, refuge: 12%, and a circus: 5%. He said that he would like Skagit County Code to be more consistent with Washington State requirements.

Chair Wesen shared that he was a dairy farmer and his wife worked with dogs nationally. He said that a safe facility was a requirement in his and his wife's work. He shared that public safety was important to him and discussed Washington State Law. He said Skagit County needed a better ordinance than what was currently in place and believed it made sense to update the code and bring it closer to matching current Washington State Laws.

The Commissioners discussed the effective date and compliance date of the proposed ordinance. Mr. Honea clarified that the proposed ordinance followed Washington State Law, RCW 16.30.050 which allowed municipalities to adopt more restrictive measures and that many cities and counties had done so already.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dahlstedt to approve to approve the ordinance amending Skagit County Code Title 7, providing regulations for wild animals, to be effective May 1, 2014, and for compliance by December 31, 2014. Commissioner Dillon seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

Mr. Walters said a clean copy of the ordinance would come before the Commissioners for execution at a future consent agenda.

Chair Wesen recessed the proceedings at 9:47 a.m.

b) 11:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Certification of 2013 Fixed Asset Inventory

Chair Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 11:15 a.m. and introduced Financial System Administrator Chris Stamey.

Mr. Stamey briefed the Board on the fixed asset inventory which was a complete listing of all county owned property purchased for \$500 or more. Also included was high risk county property purchased for \$300 or more. And, Mr. Stamey also informed the Commissioners that the fixed asset inventory included all county owned buildings, land, parks, development rights, bridges, roads, and right-of-way infrastructure assets.

The Commissioners appreciated the detailed report and the additional listing of the buildings, land, parks, development rights, bridges, roads, and right-of-way infrastructure assets.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dahlstedt to approve and certify the 2013 fixed asset inventory. Commissioner Dillon seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

Chair Wesen recessed the proceedings at 11:20 a.m.

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

Chair Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 11:30 a.m. and asked Interim Public Works Director Dan Berentson to present his item before opening the public comment period. (See Item 2. Miscellaneous Announcements).

1. Public Comment Period

Chair Wesen opened the public comment period.

City of Mount Vernon Mayor Jill Boudreau was present to discuss recent correspondence between the cities and county regarding the EMS structural reform. She informed the Commissioners that the Cities of Anacortes, Burlington, Mount Vernon, and Sedro-Woolley would like to research implementing a fire based deployment system. Mayor Boudreau asked that the EMS Manager be hired soon and a meeting scheduled by June 1, 2014 to discuss the research of the fire based deployment system.

Jim Kennedy of Sedro-Woolley received copies of the correspondence Mayor Boudreau discussed and he discussed concerns that the research focused too much on Advanced Life Support and did not fully explore Basic Life Support deployment options. He also encouraged the Commissioners to hire an EMS Director and put an advisory board in place.

The Commissioners thanked Mayor Boudreau and Mr. Kennedy for attending public comment period.

2. Miscellaneous Announcements

Mr. Berentson was present to discuss Item No. 4, an Amendment that was pulled from the February 24, 2014 Consent Agenda. He said that the Amendment was pulled because some legal questions needed to be answered and they had been resolved. He informed the

Commissioners that waiting one more week for the execution of the Amendment would interrupt business and he asked the Commissioners to consider approving the document.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dillon to approve approve Amendment No. 3 to Personal Services Agreement No. C20120059 with Innovative Environments, LLC to provide services related to the protection and preservation of farmland and for the management of forest resources. **(Amendment No. A20140015)** Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Wesen adjourned the proceedings at 11:42 a.m.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Ron Wesen, Chair

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

Sharon D. Dillon, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board