

Commissioners' Record Of the Proceedings – Skagit County, Washington

Date: December 19, 2014

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in a joint special meeting on Friday, December 19, 2014, with Chair Ron Wesen, and Commissioner Kenneth A. Dahlstedt present. Commissioner Sharon D. Dillon's absence was excused.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Wesen called the proceedings to order at 9:00 a.m. and announced that the meeting was being audio recorded for Skagit County.

Port of Skagit attendees: Commissioner Steve Omdal; Commissioner Kevin Ware; and Commissioner Bill Schuler.

City of Sedro-Woolley attendees: Mayor Mike Anderson; Council member Kevin Loy; Council member Brenda Kinzer; Council member Keith Wagoner; and Council member Germaine Kornegay.

Other attendees present: Port of Skagit Executive Director Patsy Martin; Skagit County Commissioner Elect Lisa Janicki; Skagit County Community Services Human Services Manager Rebecca Clark; State Department of Enterprise Services, Ann Sweeney; North Sound Mental Health Administration Executive Director Joe Valentine; Skagit County Administrator Tim Holloran; City of Sedro-Woolley Attorney Eron Berg; Architect, Construction/Project Management Marc Esvold; Environmental Planner Maul Foster & Alongi, Inc., Michael Stringer; Port of Skagit Planning and Environmental Project Administrator Heather Haslip; Port of Skagit Community Outreach Administrator Carl Molesworth; Port of Skagit Human Resources Administrator Kristin Troxel; Port of Skagit Director of Business Development Scott Peterson; and Skagit Valley Herald Reporter Kimberly Cauvel.

II. AGENDA:

a) Northern State – Adaptive Re-Use Study 2014

Ms. Martin provided background information regarding the Interlocal Agreement entered into between the Port of Skagit, Skagit County and the City of Sedro-Woolley, dated January 13, 2014, and the Washington State Supreme Court determination that the State of Washington was inadequately managing some mentally ill patients within the state.

Mr. Holloran addressed the location, design timeline for the Pioneer, and Evaluation and Treatment (E and T) facilities.

Mr. Berg addressed the City of Sedro-Woolley's relationship with the Northern State Hospital and the current management of the property.

Mr. Valentine pointed out that the facility commonly known as the Regional Support Network (RSN) Building was closed in 2010 due to state budget cuts. Mr. Valentine indicated that after the RNS Building closed, the number of people being boarded in community hospitals rose significantly and that the hospitals did not have ability to care for the patients in need of involuntary commitment. Mr. Valentine discussed the recommendation of a three-year short term lease in order to meet the needs of psychiatric care of patients and to comply with the Supreme Court decision.

Mr. Stringer discussed the Northern State Adaptive Re-Use Study performed by Maul Foster & Alongi, Inc. He addressed potential conflicts of the Northern State property being used as a mental health facility and the proposed memorandum of intent to enter into a due diligence process to resolve any outstanding issues, uncertainties, and concerns which he indicated would be followed by the execution of a transfer agreement by June of 2016.

There was a discussion about the opportunity to accommodate the immediate need for a mental illness crisis and drug and alcohol treatment facility; and alternate locations for the mental illness crisis and drug and alcohol treatment facility after the three-year lease period.

A motion was made by the Port of Skagit; the City of Sedro-Woolley and the Board of Skagit County Commissioners to direct staff to continue to pursue the partnership's goals for the Northern State property for the highest economic value for the community consistent with the consultant's recommendation and recommend that the State authorize the use of the RSN Building for an E and T facility for 36 months from the date of opening on July 1, 2015, with no lessee option to renew the lease which passed unanimously.

There was a discussion about incompatibility the Pioneer facility due to its formidable appearance and security staff who discourage public access anywhere near the facility and finding a long-term solution for the facility.

A motion was made by the Port of Skagit; the City of Sedro-Woolley and the Board of Skagit County Commissioners to direct staff to continue to pursue the partnership's goals for the continued operation of the Pioneer facility with no lessee option to renew the lease which passed unanimously.

III. [ADJOURNMENT:](#)

The proceedings were adjourned at approximately 11:00 a.m.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Ron Wesen, Chair

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

Sharon D. Dillon, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board