

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2015**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, March 24, 2015, with Commissioner Lisa Janicki, and Commissioner Ron Wesen present. Chair Kenneth A. Dahlstedt excused.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Commissioner Wesen called the proceedings to order at 8:30 a.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

III. AGENDA:

a) 8:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. Public Health and Community Services - Jennifer Johnson, Director:

Director of Public Health and Community Services Jennifer Johnson introduced Operations Manager Bob Hicks.

1. Public Hearing to Consider Testimony on the 2015 HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME Program) Funding

Mr. Hicks said that he was also the Skagit County Consortium Lead Agency staff for this project and he briefed the Commissioners on the opportunities provided by the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, which was administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Mr. Hicks said that Skagit County had joined with two other counties: Island and Whatcom, and multiple cities and towns within the three counties in order to create a 19 member cooperative consortium to apply for the HOME grant. He said that the 19 member cooperative consortium was formed by Interlocal Agreement No. C20140290 in order to receive funds under the National Affordable Housing Act for the program for the years 2015 through 2017, if approved, and that the funds would be used to assist low to moderate income persons needing housing. Mr. Hicks shared that the 19 member consortium was the first regional cooperative formed in the State of Washington and Skagit County was responsible to administer the program/grant.

Paul Schissler, Lead Agency technical assistance provider, said that he had been working on ways to obtain additional funding for low to moderate income for persons and that Margaret Fleek from the City of Burlington informed him of the HOME funding opportunity. Mr. Schissler said that the total HOME program grant awarded \$623,166 and the Consortium Advisory Committee had agreed on an allocation formula, and agreed that administrative costs would remain low. The group discussed how to disperse the grant funds and they agreed to go through a Request for Proposal process and disperse to qualified Community Housing Development Organization's (CHDO).

Commissioner Wesen opened the public hearing at 8:40 a.m.

Margaret Fleek of the City of Burlington was present to thank Skagit County for coordinating the project. She said that Burlington needed additional affordable housing.

Jodi Monroe of Home Trust of Skagit was present along with additional members of their board and she was looking forward to assisting to provide affordable housing in Skagit County.

Mani Gomez of Habitat for Humanity was present to thank the county for their work to provide the community with affordable housing. Mr. Gomez shared that he had been part of Habitat for Humanity since 1985 and they worked to provide permanent housing solutions.

Commissioner Janicki made a motion to close the current public hearing. Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

An additional public hearing would be held on May 5, 2015, at 8:30 a.m.

2. Miscellaneous

Public Health and Community Services did not have any miscellaneous items to discuss.

b) 10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. Public Health and Community Services - Jennifer Johnson, Director:

Commissioner Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 10:34 a.m. and he introduced Jennifer Johnson, Director of Public Health and Community Services.

1. Public Hearing to Consider Testimony on an Application for a Public Service Grant Component of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for Community Development and Housing Needs for Low to Moderate Income Persons in Skagit County

Ms. Johnson introduced Operations Manager Bob Hicks. Mr. Hicks informed the Commissioners that the CDBG was a pass through grant from Washington State Department of Commerce to Skagit County to Community Action of Skagit County. He said that the CDBG was an annual award and that Skagit County had been partnering with Community Action of Skagit County for a number of years to provide services in eastern Skagit County.

Lynn Christofersen, Director at Community Action of Skagit County (CASC) briefed the Commissioners on the partnership shared by CASC and Skagit County and she provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining the services they were able to provide at the East County Resource Center.

PowerPoint Presentation:

<ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/03242015/>

Commissioner Wesen opened the public hearing at 10:46 a.m. Seeing no public testimony forthcoming, Commissioner Janicki moved to close the public hearing at 10:47 a.m. Commissioner Wesen seconded the Motion. The vote passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Janicki to approve the Resolution authorizing the submission of an application to the Washington State Department of Commerce to request \$58,897 of 2015-16 Community Development Block Grant (CDGB) funds to provide community services via Community Action of Skagit County. **(Resolution No. R20150122)** Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously. Chair Kenneth A. Dahlstedt's absence was excused

2. Miscellaneous

Public Health and Community Services did not have any miscellaneous items to discuss.

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

Commissioner Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 11:31 a.m.

1. County and Individual Success Stories

No one was present for this item.

2. Public Comment Period

No one was present for this item.

3. Miscellaneous Announcements

Commissioner Janicki announced that two additional vouchers and warrants had been submitted by the Auditor's Office for their approval.

A motion was made by Commissioner Janicki to approve vouchers and warrants, numbers C-49-15 and P-12-15 for Tuesday, March 24, 2015. Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously. Chair Kenneth A. Dahlstedt's absence was excused

Commissioner Janicki shared that Leadership Skagit was accepting applications from community members to participate in their next session.

The Commissioners shared that they had judged a cheerleader competition on Saturday, March 21, 2015 for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Commissioner Wesen shared that he attended meetings in Sidney on Victoria Island regarding the importance of the ferry run from Anacortes to Sidney, and he said that Tulip season had started.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Wesen adjourned the proceedings at 11:37 a.m.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Chair

Lisa Janicki, Commissioner

Ron Wesen, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board