

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2015**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, August 18, 2015, with Chair Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner Lisa Janicki, and Commissioner Ron Wesen present.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Dahlstedt called the proceedings to order at 8:33 a.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chair Dahlstedt led the galery in the salute to the flag.

III. AGENDA:

a) 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Public Works - Dan Berentson, Director:

Chair Dahlstedt introduced Dan Berentson.

1. Public Hearing/Possible Action: To Consider Testimony Regarding a Fare Increase to the Skagit County Ferry Fare Schedule, to Rescind Resolutions R20110099, R20120139, and R20130190, and to Establish a New Ferry Fare Structure

Dan Berentson introduced Ferry Division Manager Rachel Rowe to provide a brief overview of the 2015 draft Fare Revenue Target Report.

Ms. Rowe reviewed the report and went over a rate proposal and comparison sheet with the Commissioners. Report and sheet can be found here: <ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/08172015>

Ms. Rowe said the Public Works was currently recommending a \$2.00 increase to all peak and non-peak fares be become effective on October 1, 2015.

Chair Dahlstedt opened the public hearing at 9:05 a.m.

Steve Orsini of Guemes Island informed the Board that he was also on the Guemes Island Ferry Committee and he had concluded that Skagit County could do better at managing ferry operations. Mr. Orsini showed information on ferry expenses, ridership and showed that the ferry was expensive. He suggested finding an alternate boat and/or a foot passenger boat, and he suggested updating the Resolutions regarding the Guemes Island Ferry.

Bud Ullman of Anacortes presented a draft resolution from the Ferry Committee for the Commissioners to consider

regarding how to enact a fare increase.

Mike Haschak of Guemes Island discussed improving ferry punch cards. He preferred the previous 10-punch version instead of the 20-punch version which had a 90-day expiration.

Mike Beelner of Guemes Island was concerned about cost overruns and supported the resolution prepared by the Ferry Committee. He pointed out that ferry costs put the road fund under duress, and, that residents on Guemes Island had limited access to water, police, and ambulance services.

Penni Sturgill of Guemes Island requested a Ferry District be created to gain access to additional funding for operations, etc.

Dan Sturgill of Guemes Island asked the Commissioners to research forming a Ferry District.

Sally Staff of Lewis Lane informed the Commissioners that a flat \$2.00 increase to all fares equaled a 25% increase in non-peak fares and a 20% increase in peak fares. To make things fair, she suggested peak should be increased to \$3.00 which came to a 30% increase.

Commissioner Wesen made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:32 a.m. which was seconded by Commissioner Janicki. The vote passed unanimously.

The Commissioners thanked audience members for their comments.

Ms. Rowe said that Public Works would bring a resolution for the Commissioners consideration on the fare increase on September 8, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. and could provide the resolution to the Ferry Committee the week prior.

2. Miscellaneous

Ms. Rowe said that the ferry would be hauled out from September 28, to October 25, 2015.

Chair Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 9:40 a.m.

b) 10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Information Services - Mike Almvig, Director:

Chair Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 9:59 a.m. and introduced Mike Almvig.

1. 2015 Digital Counties Survey Award

Mr. Almvig said that the annual survey was conducted by the Center for Digital Government and the National

Association of Counties and that it focused on highlighting counties that achieved improved results and transparency in government through technology. Mr. Almvig said that the Information Services Department achieved positive results by working closely with other county departments.

The Commissioners congratulated Information Services (I.S.). County Administrator Tim Holloran thanked I.S., Geographic Information Services, and the Board for supporting the Central Services model.

Chair Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 10:17 a.m.

c) 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Emergency Medical Services - Mark Raaka, Director:

Chair Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 10:30 a.m. and introduced Mark Raaka.

1. General Update

Mr. Raaka informed the board that he had invited multiple providers to give updates to the Commissioners on their operations. Mr. Raaka said that Anacortes, Sedro-Woolley, and Mount Vernon were unavailable to attend the meeting, and so they would be invited to the next update in October.

Aero-Skagit, Central Valley Ambulance Authority, and Fire District #13 provided updates on their agencies operations, responses, transports, and challenges with reimbursement rates from Medicare and Medicaid. They spoke in appreciation of the assistance received from the new third party billing service provider.

Quality and Assurance Manager Kevin Chao provided an update on the training he would be providing, what he had learned so far, and where to start making changes.

EMS Director Mark Raaka briefed the Commissioners on the work being performed to improve data collection and system standardization, match resources to needs, enhance prevention activities and optimize levy funds.

PowerPoint and some additional documents provided to the Commissioners in session can be found here: <ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/08172015>

Chair Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 11:31 a.m.

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

Chair Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 11:32 a.m.

1. County and Individual Success Stories

2. Public Comment Period

Dave Buchan of Channel Drive in La Conner was present to express his continued disappointment in Skagit County's response to the Great Wolf Lodge property tax decision.

Linda Ryan of Channel Drive in La Conner said that the tax shift that the Great Wolf Lodge ruling created was not fair or equitable. She said that families were being taxed out of their homes.

Martin Howard of Channel Drive in La Conner asked the Commissioners if they would have advocated for more help from the State of Washington had the Great Wolf Lodge decision affected more properties than only those in La Conner.

Tony Smith of Aero Skagit Emergency Service read letter into the record:  
<ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/08172015>

Marion Flagg of Beaver Lake Road was present to ask the Commissioners for assistance in helping the drainage and irrigation district in her area drain water off and away from their fields.

3. Miscellaneous Announcements

- e) \*12:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. 25th Anniversary and Ribbon Cutting of Hexcel Burlington (Hexcel Burlington, 15062 Steele Road, Burlington)

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Dahlstedt adjourned the proceedings at 11:48 a.m.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

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Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Chair

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Lisa Janicki, Commissioner

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Ron Wesen, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Clerk of the Board