

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2015**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 15, 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 8:30 a.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

III. AGENDA:

a) 8:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. Planning and Development Services - Dale Pernula, Director:

1. Update: Affordable Housing through the 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update Process

Dale Pernula, Director, noted that as part of the 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update process, the County had contracted with BERK Consulting to assist with the update. Mr. Pernula provided an overview of the report prepared by BERK Consulting entitled "Skagit County Affordable Housing Needs - Local Community Housing Profiles", dated July 2015. He also provided information about the meeting on February 17, 2015, hosted by Skagit County's Planning Commission to consider housing opportunities and challenges in Skagit County.

Mr. Pernula introduced Kirk Johnson, Skagit County Planning and Development Services Senior Planner; Bob Hicks, Skagit County Public Health and Community Services Operations Manager; Paul Schissler, Independent Housing Consultant; and Kevin Murphy, Skagit Council of Governments (SCOG), Executive Director who were present to provided additional information.

Kevin Murphy discussed a recent City Council meeting in Burlington where there was a discussion about affordable housing, land use, and how to best create a regional, collaborative affordable housing strategy that would address County-wide needs without duplicating efforts. He indicated that City of Burlington Mayor Sexton would discuss the affordable housing strategy at the next SCOG meeting in October.

Bob Hicks commented on the need for more affordable housing and the need to move forward with building more affordable multifamily units. Mr. Hicks discussed the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding that was successful in helping low income people obtain housing.

Kirk Johnson discussed the link to Puget Sound Regional Council Housing Toolkit located at

<http://www.psrc.org/growth/housing/hip>; and the work being done by Anacortes, Burlington and Mount Vernon to increase the development of multifamily homes. Mr. Johnson spoke about the need for a comprehensive inventory of available land for multifamily housing.

There was a discussion about the lack of permits that had been approved for multifamily housing and the need to approve zoning for multifamily dwellings.

Link to Affordable Housing Meeting Materials:

<ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/09142015/>

2. Miscellaneous

There were no miscellaneous items for Planning and Development Services to discuss.

Chair Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 9:26 a.m.

b) 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Public Works - Dan Berentson, Director:

Chair Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 9:34 a.m.

Dan Berentson, Director; and Paul Randall-Grutter, County Engineer, were present to introduce the agenda item and answer questions. Mr. Randall-Grutter noted that the purpose of the public of hearing was to consider testimony regarding the establishment of quiet zone(s) policies and procedures in an effort to provide a consistent and orderly process for residents who wish to create a Quiet Zone in their community.

Forrest Jones, Lead Engineering Technician, provided a PowerPoint presentation and discussed the proposed establishment of policies and procedures for the creation of a Railroad Quiet Zone within Skagit County. Mr. Jones noted that Federal regulation and the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) authorized the County legislative authority to establish a Railroad Zone for the abatement of train horn noises at County road crossing locations.

PowerPoint Presentation:

<ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/09142015/>

1. Public Hearing to Consider Testimony Regarding the Proposed Establishment of Policies and Procedures for the Creation of Railroad Quiet Zones

Commissioner Dahlstedt opened the public hearing at 9:45 a.m. and explained that the public would be given three minutes each to provide their testimony.

Lisa, Eden, Brian and Ted Williams; James Yount; Steve Reimer; Lea Lucky; Tom Wake; Margery Hite; Pat Bunting of Bow-Blanchard spoke in support of the establishment of policies and procedures for the creation of a railroad quiet zone and the need to make the process simpler; more user friendly; the need for an appeal process if the petition for a Quiet Zone were denied; liability issues; and the funding mechanism.

The Commissioners were provided with a comment letter from Patricia Yount of Bow and comments from Mr. Snipes and Mr. Frasier that were received by e-mail.

Comment Letter from Patricia Yount:

<ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/09142015/>

A motion was made by Commissioner Wesen to approve closing the public hearing at 10:12 a.m. Commissioner Janicki seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wesen to approve rendering a decision regarding the establishment of policies and procedures for the creation of a Railroad Quiet Zone on Tuesday, September 29, 2015, at 10:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' hearing room. Commissioner Janicki seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

2. Miscellaneous

Chair Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 10:22 a.m.

c) 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Facilities Management - Dan Fitting, Director:

Chair Dahlstedt reconvened the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Dan Fitting, Director, said that the Concrete Chamber of Commerce had submitted an application and a \$10.00 fee to renew the lease. He indicated that they currently leased approximately 100 square feet of the East County Community Resource Center in Concrete. The Chamber uses these premises to house the Concrete Chamber of Commerce which operates Concrete Licensing and the Visitor Information Center. The current lease expires on October 1, 2015. The Chamber would like to enter into a five-year lease and are requesting to pay the same rate as they currently pay, which is \$150 per month plus leasehold tax.

1. Public Hearing to Consider Testimony Regarding Skagit County's Notice of Intent to Lease Approximately 100 Square Feet of County Property, Located at 45770 Main Street in Concrete, Commonly Known as the East Skagit County Community Center to the Concrete Chamber of Commerce

Seeing no public testimony forthcoming, Commissioner Janicki made a motion to close the public hearing at 10:34 a.m. Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Fitting said that he would bring the lease agreement forth on the consent agenda before September 30, 2015.

Chair Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 10:34 a.m.

d) 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Public Health and Community Services - Jennifer Johnson, Director:

1. Proclamation Recognizing September as National Senior Center Month

Chair Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 11:00 a.m.

Jennifer Johnson, Director, introduced staff members that work and help contribute to the various senior programs: Sara Pritchard, Concrete Senior Center Coordinator; Ellen Palmer, Sedro-Woolley Senior Center Coordinator; Jackie Cress, Burlington Senior Center Coordinator; Rebecca Clark, Public Health and Community Services Program Manager; Renee Corcoran, Nutrition Program Coordinator; Kelli Perry, Meals on Wheels and Nutrition Program Specialist; and Kristl Torset, Mount Vernon Senior Center Coordinator. Ms. Johnson thanked all the volunteers and spoke about the benefits of the Meals on Wheels Program.

Commissioner Wesen read the Proclamation recognizing September as National Senior Center Month.

Chair Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings 11:22 a.m.

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

Chair Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 11:30 a.m.

1. County and Individual Success Stories

There was no one present to provide County and Individual Success Stories.

2. Public Comment Period

Seeing no one present to provide Public Comment, Chair Dahlstedt closed the public comment period at 11:32 a.m.

3. Miscellaneous Announcements

Commissioner Janicki spoke about the Skagit Council of Governments Growth Management Act Steering Committee meeting taking place on Wednesday, September 16, 2015, and encouraged the public to provide their input about the direction that should be taken to provide an affordable housing strategy.

Commissioner Wesen commented on several community events that he attended over the weekend; the Open Bike Street event in Anacortes; the Hospice of the Northwest event; and the Anacortes Antique Engine Day event.

Commissioner Dahlstedt commented on the 35th Anniversary of Chinook Enterprises.

f) \*2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Executive Session (Litigation - RCW 42.30.110(1)(i))

Chair Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner Lisa Janicki, and Commissioner Ron Wesen attended an executive session on Tuesday, September 15, 2015, from 2:05 p.m. to 3:08 p.m. The purpose of the executive session was Litigation - RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). (Matters relating to County enforcement actions, actual litigation, or potential litigation.) The following attorneys were present at the executive session and provided legal advice to the Board of County Commissioners: Chief Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Melinda Miller; and Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Will Honea. Other attendees: Public Works Director Dan Berentson; and County Administrator Tim Holloran.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Dahlstedt adjourned the proceedings at 11:37 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