

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2016**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 26, 2016, with Chair Lisa Janicki, Commissioner Ron Wesen, and Commissioner Kenneth A. Dahlstedt present.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Janicki called the proceedings to order at 9:30 a.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

III. AGENDA:

a) 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Board of Health:

Public Health Director Jennifer Johnson introduced Community Health Analyst David Jefferson.

1. Population Health Trust Update

Mr. Jefferson provided an update on the community Population Health Trust (PHT) work saying that the main assessment had been completed and they were moving towards the planning phase. He reviewed the accomplishments to date and progress made, and he discussed the broad range of support received across the county for improving health in Skagit County.

Discussion was held on other priorities that the PHT membership group should add to their health assessment which included: prescription drug abuse and access to dental care.

Mr. Jefferson's PowerPoint presentation can be found here:

<ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/01252016>

2. Population Health Trust Proclamation & Recommendation for 2016 Membership

Commissioner Wesen read the proclamation for the Skagit County Board of Health Population Health Trust and named the current and new committee members.

A copy of the proclamation can be viewed here:

<ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/01252016>

Jennifer Johnson recognized staff from the Public Health Department that worked closely with the Population Health Trust committee and she agreed to include more work on prescription drug abuse. She asked Health Officer Dr. Howard Leibrand to brief the Commissioners on the epidemic. He said more data was needed on the issue but that over 500 deaths a year in the nation were attributed to prescription drug overdose.

3. Housing Summit Presentation

Operations Manager Bob Hicks reviewed a portion of the presentation made on January 22, 2016, at McIntyre Hall in Mount Vernon. He reported that approximately 300 people attended the summit. He said that dynamic group conversations were held after the presentations and that an inspiring amount of excellent, written, feedback had been received as well.

The PowerPoint provided by Mr. Hicks can be found here:

<ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/01252016>

4. Behavioral Health Assessment & Planning Update (SMART Program)

Human Services Manager Rebecca Clark provided an update to the Commissioners on the SMART Program and the progress made to date by the core group which consisted of staff from North Sound Mental Health Administration, Skagit County, Special Education Directors and staff from the University of Washington's SMART center.

Information provided by Ms. Clark can be found here:

<ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/01252016>

5. Certificate of Appreciation for Corinne Story, Environmental Health Manager

Public Health Director Jennifer Johnson, Environmental Health Specialist Polly Dubbel, Water Quality Analyst Rick Haley and the Commissioners expressed their appreciation for the hard work and leadership provided by Corinne Story while employed at Skagit County.

Commissioner Dahlstedt read the Certificate of Commendation recognizing Ms. Story's dedicated public service from 1986 to 2016.

Chair Janicki recessed the proceedings at 10:36 a.m.

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

Chair Janicki reconvened the proceedings at 10:41 a.m. and introduced EMS Director Mark Raaka.

Mr. Raaka provided a PowerPoint presentation which updated the Commissioners on basic life support (BLS) transport integration; EMT and Paramedic staffing provided by current ambulance providers; passage of the EMS Levy in 2012; findings from the studies performed on the EMS system by Emergency Services Consulting International and the Public Financial Management Group; the importance of matching resources to needs; comparing Skagit County's EMS system to neighboring EMS systems; the ambulance fleet replacement plan; EMS Levy Fund reserve amounts; and the revenue EMS providers will be able to recuperate from the recent passage of HB 2007.

PowerPoint provided by Mr. Raaka can be viewed here:

<ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/01252016>

Mr. Raaka and Commissioner Wesen briefly discussed some of the improvements made to the EMS System: movement towards BLS transportation and the standardized billing used by the EMS providers.

Commissioner Dahlstedt discussed EMS Levy funding and the level of services provided to city residents in comparison to residents in rural Skagit County.

Chair Janicki and Mr. Raaka discussed quality assurance results reviewed by Dr. Matthew Russell, the EMS Medical Program Director, of the BLS transports to date.

Mr. Raaka announced that the next EMS update to the Commissioners was scheduled for February 16, 2016, at 10:30 a.m.

Chair Janicki recessed the proceedings.

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

1. County and Individual Success Stories

Greg Anders, Executive Director of the Heritage Flight Museum located in Burlington at the Port of Skagit was present to inform the Commissioners that they had been granted their occupancy permit. He also thanked Skagit County for the award of funds from the Lodging Tax Committee for marketing and advertising for museum events.

2. Public Comment Period

Carol Ehlers of Fidalgo Island was present to share a map printed in the New York Times illustrating the increase in deaths from drug overdose from 2002 to 2014, and, she informed the Commissioners that the new MacGregor plaid Yellowbook was no longer user friendly and did not have the phone number for many Skagit County Departments including the Commissioners Office. Ms. Ehlers also discussed laws relating to public access, and, the importance of carefully drafted laws.

3. Miscellaneous Announcements

No one was present to provide miscellaneous announcements.

d) 11:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Presentation: 2016 Skagit Valley Tulip Festival Poster

Cindy Verge, Executive Director of the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival, thanked Skagit County for support of the annual Skagit Valley Tulip Festival. Tulip Festival Board of Director Vice President Rachael Sylte of Judd & Black discussed the increased economic activity Skagit County experienced during the Tulip Festival. Tulip Festival Board of Director Secretary Greg Reed informed the Commissioners about the upcoming Tulip Festival Student Ambassador selection/competition on February 9, 2016 at the Cascade Mall.

Ms. Verge presented the 2016 poster by Sandy Haight to the Commissioners, discussed features in the updated brochure, and invited the Commissioners to the 2016 Gala Celebration on March 24, 2016, at 5:30 p.m. at the Swinomish Casino & Lodge in Anacortes.

The Commissioners thanked Cindy Verge, Rachael Sylte, and Greg Reed for the information.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Janicki adjourned the proceedings at 12:03 p.m.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Chair

Lisa Janicki, Commissioner

Ron Wesen, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board