

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2016**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, June 7, 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 8:32 a.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

III. AGENDA:

a) 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Public Works – Dan Berentson, Director:

Chair Janicki introduced Dan Berentson.

1. Discussion/Possible Action: Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Nonexclusive Franchise Agreement with the Livingston Family to Install, Operate and Maintain Certain Single Residence Utilities, Including, but not Limited to, Power Lines, Water Lines and a Residential Septic Drain-Field within the Franchise Area

Mr. Berentson introduced Engineering Technician Tory Nelson. Mr. Nelson provided both background information and new information on the request for a Franchise Agreement from the Livingston Family. The Agreement was being requested in order to install a new septic system as the current septic system failed and the only suitable soils were on adjoining property owned by Skagit County. Mr. Nelson said that the Commissioners had postponed a decision on the matter due to the concerns of a neighbor about a potential dangerous tree. Mr. Nelson reported that the tree had been trimmed.

Mr. Nelson also informed the Board that, although right-of-way and ownership of the proposed septic system area was being litigated in civil court, Public Works was confident that Skagit County had right-of-way and recommended the Franchise Agreement be executed.

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Steve Fallquist provided additional information on the legality of granting a Franchise Agreement for a septic system and said that the Commissioners were free to approve or deny the Agreement. Mr. Fallquist informed the Board that a Franchise Agreement for a similar purpose had been approved for a neighboring property owned by Thomas James Dodd.

Discussion followed between the Commissioners and Mr. Fallquist about whether or not to grant the Franchise Agreement, or, possibly vacate the right-of-way if Skagit County would not need the property in the future.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dahlstedt to approve the execution of a Nonexclusive Franchise Agreement with the Livingston Family to install, operate and maintain certain single residence utilities, including, but not limited to, power lines, water lines and a residential septic drain-field within the Franchise Area. The motion failed due to no seconder.

After further discussion was held on the possibility of vacating the property, ownership of the property, and the need to correct the failing septic system, the Commissioners requested that Public Works prepare a summary regarding the option to vacate to

property.

2. Discussion/Possible Action: Consideration of a Nonexclusive Franchise Agreement with the Livingston Family to Install, Operate and Maintain Certain Single Residence Utilities, Including, but not Limited to, Power Lines, Water Lines and a Residential Septic Drain-Field within the Franchise Area

See note above for information: a) 1.

3. Presentation: 2015 Annual Bridge Report

Transportation Programs Section Manager Forrest Jones provided a summary of the 2015 Annual Bridge Report to the Commissioners.

Mr. Jones reported that 109 bridges were within the Skagit County road system and that 64 inspections had been completed: 48 county bridges and 15 city bridges. Mr. Jones said that 7 bridges were structurally deficient (received a poor rating due to the condition of the deck, superstructure, substructure, culvert and retaining walls, or waterway adequacy), and 15 bridges were functionally obsolete (due to deck geometry, under clearance, approach roadway alignment, structural evaluation or waterway adequacy which no longer met the standard for road users).

Mr. Jones briefed the Commissioners on repairs performed to bridges and plans for future replacement, rehabilitation and repair. He said that all bridges were in good condition and safe for travel. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Jones for the presentation.

The 2015 Annual Bridge Report can be found at this link:

<ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/06062016>

Chair Janicki recessed the proceedings at 9:20 a.m.

- b) 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Planning and Development Services – Dale Pernula, Director:

Chair Janicki reconvened the proceedings at 9:31 a.m. and introduced Dale Pernula.

1. Discussion: Comprehensive Plan and Planning Commission Recommendations

Mr. Pernula presented a memorandum to the Commissioners regarding the 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update which included the Planning Commission's May 31, 2016, Recorded Motion, recommendations, and additional recommendations, and, the recommendations from the Planning Department. The memo can be found at this link: <ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/06062016>

Mr. Pernula recognized Planning Commission members Josh Axthelm and Kathy Mitchell who were in the audience.

Mr. Pernula asked the Commissioners to provide direction on what should be included in the final proposal and whether or not to hold an additional public comment period and he briefed the Commissioners on the department's recommendations on open space, administrative variances, and Natural Resource Land zone (NRL) setbacks.

Discussion was held between Mr. Pernula, Assistant Director Ryan Walters and the Commissioners on the Planning Commissions' recommendations, the Planning Department's recommendations, and additional clarification was provided on the Comprehensive Planning process.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wesen to approve holding a public hearing on the proposed 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update on Monday, June 20, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Hearing Room. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

Chair Janicki recessed the proceedings at 10:39 a.m.

c) 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Skagit Libraries Program Update

Chair Janicki reconvened the proceedings at 10:45 a.m.

Mount Vernon City Library Director Brian Soneda provided an overview of library use, statistics, and upcoming events.

Mount Vernon City Library Youth Services Librarian Beth Bermani provided an overview of the 2016 Summer Reading Program, *On Your Mark, Get Set...READ!* Ms. Bermani highlighted some of the events and activities that had been planned.

Their PowerPoints can be found at this link:

<ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/06062016>

The Commissioners moved directly from the library update to the next scheduled agenda item and Chair Janicki introduced Eron Berg from the City of Sedro-Woolley.

d) 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Presentation: Sedro-Woolley STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Network

City of Sedro-Woolley Supervisor/Attorney Eron Berg provided an outline for why STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) was being focused on in Sedro-Woolley. He said that Washington State ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the country for technology-based corporations but 46<sup>th</sup> in participation in science and engineering graduate programs even though 100 years ago Sedro-Woolley was a leader in STEM fields.

Mr. Berg said that with the success and establishment of local companies, the redevelopment of the Northern State Campus into an innovation and technology center, and the receipt of a \$30,000 Planning Grant from Washington STEM to develop a STEM Network, now was a good opportunity to expose students to STEM and the possibilities of a career in a STEM field. Sedro-Woolley School District Superintendent Phil Brockman briefed the Commissioners on the mission and the plans of the school district to provide resources and collaborate with educators, administrators, and community organizations to enable the assistance of helping students acquire the knowledge and skills required for a career in STEM.

STEM advocate Michelle Judson talked about her career in a STEM field and her involvement in STEM in Sedro-Woolley to help prepare students for success. She said once STEM was established, they would be looking to expand the program to the other Skagit County school districts.

The Commissioners expressed appreciation for the information and indicated that they supported the program. More information can be found at [www.Sedro-WoolleySTEM.com](http://www.Sedro-WoolleySTEM.com)

Chair Janicki recessed the proceedings at 11:27 a.m.

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

Chair Janicki reconvened the proceedings at 11:31 a.m.

1. County and Individual Success Stories

2. Public Comment Period

Carol Ehlers of Fidalgo Island discussed the importance of descriptive information and provided examples of graphs and maps: some which were excellent, and some which lacked important information.

Ellen Bynum from Friends of Skagit County discussed due process, the Comprehensive Update and the Shoreline Master Plan. She asked the Commissioners to make it easier for an average citizen to participate in government processes and plan updates. Ed Stauffer of Alger discussed the Shoreline Master Plan: the budget and the clause for a public participation plan.

Carolyn Gastell of Skagit Land Trust provided comments on the Tursi Trail ribbon cutting that occurred on June 4, 2016. She said it was well attended and she was impressed by the collaboration and partnerships formed over the course of the project. Kit Rossen local cyclist, provided information to the Commissioners about some upcoming bicycling safety classes which were free for Skagit County residents. The classes were occurring on June 23 and 25, 2016, and people could call 360-814-2424 to register.

3. Miscellaneous Announcements

A motion was made by Commissioner Wesen to approve a voucher from the Auditor's Office, Transmittal No. C-76-16. Commissioner Dahlstedt seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

Chair Janicki recessed the proceedings at 11:47 a.m.

f) 2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Jail Construction Update

Chair Janicki reconvened the proceedings at 2:00 p.m. Project Manager Marc Estvold provided some updated information on some change orders including the installation of a sewer line, the removal of a 4 x 8 underground tank and work being performed for the groundwater filtration pond (and the accompanying amendments that would need to be executed with Maul Foster to perform the testing work associated with these projects). He also said to expect an Amendment from GeoTest Services due to additional work that was being performed on concrete compaction testing and smoke testing.

Discussion was held on the continued increases in costs and Mr. Estvold reviewed some photographs taken of construction work at the site.

IV. AJOURNMENT:

Chair Janicki adjourned the proceedings at 2:28 p.m.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

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Lisa Janicki, Chair

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Ron Wesen, Commissioner

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Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Clerk of the Board