

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
THURSDAY, JULY 7, 2016**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, July 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 1:30 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

III. AGENDA

a) 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Presentations from Economic Development Grant Applicants

Budget and Finance Director Trisha Logue provided information about the funding source administered by Skagit County through a sales tax rebate from the state. She said that the economic development grant funds were to be awarded for public infrastructure projects that retained and/or created family wage jobs, as well as personnel in economic development offices. The program was established in 1998 with funding growing from .04% to .09%.

Ms. Logue said that counties were allowed to collect funds for 25 years. Skagit County would be able to offer the program until August of 2032.

In 2000 the county issued bonds against the revenue stream and the partners all agreed to temporarily discontinue awarding funding instead of taking on a portion of the debt. From 2011 to 2014, economic grant funds were not dispersed. Awards began again in 2015. To date, nearly \$27 million has been awarded to 95 projects. The current committee is reviewing applications that were submitted earlier this year. The advisory committee is made up of the chair of the Board of County Commissioners, the Skagit County Administrator, the Executive Director of the Economic Development Association of Skagit County (EDASC), one mayor from the cities, one mayor from the towns, one Port representative, and one business representative.

The Economic Development Advisory Committee was introduced:

Lisa Janicki, Chair of the Board of Skagit County Commissioners

Tim Holloran, Skagit County Administrator

Steve Sexton, Mayor of Burlington/City Mayor Representative

Eddie Hills, Mayor of Lyman/Town Mayor Representative

Patsy Martin, Port of Skagit Representative

Richard Hodges, Hexcel Corporation/Business Community Representative

John Sternlicht, Director of Economic Development Association of Skagit County Chair Janicki thanked the committee for their work in reviewing the applications and being available to hear the presentations from the applicants. She informed the audience that the projects had been grouped into two categories: fiber optic projects and non-fiber optic projects and announced

that each organization would have 4 minutes to present their project with a few minutes afterwards for questions from the committee.

Representatives from the City of Anacortes, the City of Burlington, the City of Mount Vernon, the Town of La Conner, and Public Utility District No. 1 of Skagit County provided presentations on their fiber optic projects. Questions and answers followed each presentation. The Port of Skagit announced they were withdrawing their fiber optic application due to their preference to wait until the fiber study had been completed. EDASC Director John Sternlicht provided information about the fiber study being performed.

Next, representatives from Skagit County, Housing Authority of Skagit County, Port of Skagit, City of Mount Vernon, Town of Concrete, City of Burlington, Port of Anacortes, City of Sedro-Woolley, and the Economic Development Association of Skagit County provided presentations on their public facility projects. Questions and answers followed each presentation.

The Commissioners thanked the organizations for the presentations. A summary of the projects can be found here:

<ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/07042016>

Chair Janicki announced that the Economic Development Advisory Committee would take a short break and then convene in the Colony Room to discuss funding recommendations.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Janicki adjourned the proceedings at 2:50 p.m.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Lisa Janicki, Chair

Ron Wesen, Commissioner

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board