

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2017**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Wednesday, October 11, 2017, with Chair Ron Wesen, Commissioner Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, and Commissioner Lisa Janicki present.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Wesen called the proceedings to order at 1:30 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

III. AGENDA:

a) *10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. United Way Campaign Kick-Off and Coffee

b) 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Public Works - Dan Berentson, Director:

1. Work Session with County Road Administration Board (CRAB) Executive Director John Koster - County Ferry Capital Improvement Program

County Engineer Paul Randall-Grutter introduced the following people who were present in the gallery:

CRAB Executive Director John Koster
CRAB Deputy Director of Engineering Walt Olsen
Public Works Director Dan Berentson
Ferry Operations Division Manager Rachel Rowe
Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Steve Fallquist
CRAB Inter-Governmental Policy Manager Jeff Monsen
Public Works Controller Jim Mickel
Transportation Programs Manager Forrest Jones
Member of Guemes Island Ferry Committee Steve Orsini
Member of Guemes Island Ferry Committee, Carl (Bud) Ullman

Ms. Rowe noted that in order to qualify for the full funding amount from CRAB, the County would need to form a ferry district. She pointed out that the establishment of a ferry district and collection of revenue affected the amount of funding Skagit County may receive from the County Ferry Capital Improvement Program. She said that upon consultation with the County Prosecuting Attorney's office, they had concerns about the County forming a ferry district based on the language in R.C.W. 36.54, which, in their interpretation, only allowed the formation of a ferry district for passenger only ferries. Ms. Rowe addressed concerns that the Prosecuting Attorney's office had about forming a new taxing district without adequate legislation in place.

Mr. Koster indicated that it was the Legislatures intent to encourage counties to create ferry districts. He said that in his opinion, there was nothing that would preclude the County from moving forward with the formation of a ferry district. He went on to address alternative sources of generating revenue to use as a match for the Ferry Program Funds.

Commissioner Janicki mentioned that she was a member of the CRAB Board.

Mr. Olsen indicated that in his opinion, R.C.W. 36.4.120 provided the County with the ultimate authority to form a ferry district for any type of ferry.

There was a brief discussion about alternative sources of additional generated revenue that could be used in lieu of establishing a ferry district.

Commissioner Janicki directed Public Works to provide an estimated financial plan prior to the submittal of the grant application on December 31, 2017.

The Commissioners recessed the proceedings at 2:19 p.m.

d) 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Joint Meeting - Board of Skagit County Commissioners and Housing Authority Board of Skagit County

Chair Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed the following Housing Authority Board of Skagit County (HASC) Board members:

Chairperson Abraham González
Commissioner Bruce Lisser
Commissioner Shelley Nevitt
Commissioner David Cleave

Board Chairperson Abraham González reconvened the HASC's proceedings and excused Commissioner Lonnie Clark's absence.

Public Health Analyst Kayla Schott-Bresler provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding housing affordability and the need for low-income housing in Skagit County. Ms. Schott-Bresler announced that on November 9, 2017, Public Health, in partnership with the Economic Alliance of Skagit County (EDASC) and Skagit Council of Governments (SCOG), would be hosting an affordable housing summit.

There was a discussion about the ability to develop within Urban Growth Areas and building multi-family units within city limits.

HASC Executive Director Melanie Corey provided a PowerPoint presentation about the Housing Authority. She noted their mission was to provide, facilitate and finance housing for a diverse population of low-income and medium-income residents in Skagit County. Ms. Corey said that the HASC was established by a Skagit County Resolution in 1979.

Ms. Corey discussed HASC's programs and goals. She noted that Skagit County's Seasonal Farmworker Housing Project had initially been a 14-unit housing project and had developed into three (3) distinct projects with several additional mini/sub-projects. The projects were 1) La Fayette Road Improvements; 2) Sewer Connections for Raspberry Ridge I and II; and 3) Skagit County Seasonal Farmworker Housing.

HASC Weatherization Program Manager Rachel Kingsley provided an overview of the Program.

HASC Section 8 Program Manager Cathy Kerr noted that the Program was created by the Housing and Community Development Act of 1978. The Program provides assistance to eligible low-and moderate-income families to enable them to rent housing in the private market. She provided information about the recipients that were served by the Program. Ms. Kerr discussed the collaboration that HASC had with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) to provide veterans with HUD-VASH housing vouchers.

HASC Family Self-Sufficient (FSS) and Resident Services Manager Ario Salazar explained that the FSS Program helped Section 8 tenants reduce their dependence on government assistance and transition into a life of social and economic independence.

HASC Finance Director Ginger Wang provided a brief overview of HASC's accounting and fiduciary responsibilities.

HASC Property Manager Gilberto Estrada provided information about the affordable housing units that HASC managed.

Chair Wesen opened the public comment period at 7:04 p.m.

Mary Hudson of the City of Mount Vernon commented on the need for affordable housing and a temporary homeless shelter.

Nathan of Mount Vernon commented on the need for community choice guides to help integrate people back into the community.

A resident of Mount Vernon and former farmworker commented on the need for medical care for low-income residents.

HASC Chairperson Abraham Gonzalez spoke about the need to find solutions to homelessness in Skagit County.

Chair Wesen spoke about the new procedures that would be implemented to appoint and reappoint members to the HASC Board.

HASC Board member Bruce Lisser thanked staff for their presentations.

Commissioner Janicki thanked HASC staff for the presentation and spoke about the importance of preserving existing housing structures. She commented on the 114 multi-family units under construction in the City of Sedro-Woolley and stressed the need for a dedicated funding source for affordable housing without the help of the federal government.

Commissioner Dahlstedt stressed the need to identify areas that could accommodate affordable workforce and permanent supportive housing.

County Administrator Tim Holloran thanked everyone for being affordable housing advocates. Mr. Holloran spoke about the vision of permanent supportive housing and the need to have agency staff work together to share their strategic plans to address affordable housing needs.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentations:](#)

<ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/10092017/>

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Wesen adjourned the proceedings at 7:40 p.m.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Ron Wesen, Chair

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

Lisa Janicki, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board