

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2018**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, May 8, 2018, 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. – 9:30 a.m. Public Works – Dan Berentson, Director:

Director Berentson invited Project Manager Jennifer Swanson to provide an overview of the bridge replacement project.

1. Update: Burlington Northern Overpass Project

Project Manager Jennifer Swanson provided an update on the bridge project. She showed photographs and described the work currently being performed. She said that the contractor was approximately 2 – 3 weeks behind due to the intermittent absence of a BNSF Railroad flagger. She said that they were still on budget.

2. Discussion: Vessel Replacement Surcharge

Ferry Operations Division Manager Rachel Rowe informed the Board that the Guemes Ferry was unexpectedly out of service in order to repair a steering issue.

Ms. Rowe requested direction from the Commissioners regarding when to implement a surcharge. She reviewed timeline scenarios, surcharge amount scenarios, and answered questions. The surcharge was expected to provide approximately \$245,000 annually.

Discussion followed amongst the Board of Commissioners and they directed Public Works to meet with the Guemes Island Ferry Committee and decide on surcharge amounts to recommend to the Board of Commissioners for implementation within the next month or two.

Funding sources and grant opportunities were also discussed. It was believed that there would not be as many opportunities for funding as time went on due to the continued reduction in gas tax amounts and the need to repair and rebuild infrastructure state-wide increased.

3. Presentation: 2017 Annual Bridge Report

Engineering Technician Torey Nelson presented the Annual 2017 Bridge Report. Mr. Nelson was the co-inspector for bridge inspections. Mr. Nelson said that the Bridge Report was 1 of 16 reports submitted annually to the County Road Administration Board (CRAB).

Mr. Nelson provided an overview of the report which included facts and sufficiency ratings for all 107 bridges in Skagit County (3 made predominately of timber, 13 of steel, and 91 of concrete). He said that Skagit County currently has 6 structurally deficient bridges and 15 functionally obsolete bridges.

Mr. Nelson said that the County also provided inspection services for 13 city or town bridges, and that Skagit County was in the process of inspecting short span bridges, updating bridge load ratings, and working with GIS to provide an interactive map of all bridges and short span bridges in Skagit County. He also discussed plans for future bridge replacement and rehabilitation, and discussed the types of maintenance and repairs regularly performed on bridges.

The 2017 Annual Bridge Report can be found here:

<ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/05072018/>

Chair Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 9:33 a.m.

b) 9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Consideration of the Hearing Examiner’s Recommendation for Approval for the Following Open Space Applications:

Chair Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 9:36 a.m. and introduced Current Use Specialist Kiffin Saben from the Assessor’s Office.

1. Resolution Concerning a Transfer of 8.4 Acres from Current Use Farm and Agriculture to Current Use Open Space by Charles and Joni Bulfinch CU/OS #1-2018

Ms. Saben provided the location of the property, said that it was traditional farmland that no longer met the requirement for gross commercial agricultural income, and said that there would be little if any tax shift.

A motion was made by Commissioner Janicki to approve the Resolution Concerning an Application to Transfer 8.4 Acres from Current Use Farm and Agriculture to Current Use Open Space by Charles and Joni Bulfinch CU/OS #1-2018 (**Resolution No. R20180100**) Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

2. Resolution Concerning a Transfer of 31.25 Acres from Current Use Farm and Agriculture to Current Use Open Space by John and Nannette Denouden CU/OS #2-2018

Ms. Saben provided the location of the property, said that it was traditional farmland that no longer met the requirement for gross commercial agricultural income, and said that there would be little if any tax shift.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wesen to approve the Resolution Concerning an Application to Transfer 31.25 Acres from Current Use Farm and Agriculture to Current Use Open Space by John and Nannette Denouden CU/OS #2-2018 (**Resolution No. R20180101**) Commissioner Janicki seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

3. Resolution Concerning a Transfer of 16.42 Acres from Current Use Farm and Agriculture to Current Use Open Space by Skagit Land Trust CU/OS #3-2018 (**Resolution No. R20180102**)

Ms. Saben provided the location of the property, said that it was traditional farmland that no longer met the requirement for gross commercial agricultural income, and said that there would be little if any tax shift.

The Commissioners asked questions about the remaining 3 transfers requested by Skagit Land Trust and then decided to approve them all in one motion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Janicki to approve each of the 4 Resolutions Concerning Applications to Transfer land from Current Use Farm and Agriculture to Current Use Open Space by Skagit Land Trust CU/OS #3-2018, CU/OS #4-2018, CU/OS #5-2018, and CU/OS #6-2018. Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

4. Resolution Concerning a Transfer of 2.46 Acres from Current Use Farm and Agriculture to Current Use Open Space by Skagit Land Trust CU/OS #4-2018 (**Resolution No. R20180103**)
5. Resolution Concerning a Transfer of 22.34 Acres from Current Use Farm and Agriculture to Current Use Open Space by Skagit Land Trust CU/OS #5-2018 (**Resolution No. R20180104**)
6. Resolution Concerning a Transfer of 38.08 Acres from Current Use Farm and Agriculture to Current Use Open Space by Skagit Land Trust CU/OS #6-2018 (**Resolution No. R20180105**)

Chair Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 9:43 a.m.

- c) 9:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Presentations from Western Washington University Students and Certificates of Appreciation for the Sustainable Communities Partnership

Chair Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 9:47 a.m. and introduced Assistant Planning Director Ryan Walters.

Mr. Walters discussed the formation of the intern-partnership with Western Washington University to assist Planning and Development Services on projects that they did not have the capacity to perform, and to provide students with an enriching experience that applied to their degree from the University.

Students had travelled from Bellingham to provide presentations on their projects that included best practices for rainwater catchment, updates to the Ordinance regarding setbacks, and the verification of septic systems on properties.

Western Washington University student Joe Kuljis provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the potential utilization of potable rainwater catchment systems, best practices and system designs to consider adopting.

Discussion followed regarding the use of rainwater catchment systems in many parts of the world and the support to implement such a system in Skagit County.

Students Andrew Graminski, Candice Trusty, McKale Jones and Allison Tompkins provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding their review of the setbacks portion of Skagit County's Code and provided detailed revisions and clarifications to make it less complex and possibly reduce the number of variances requested by property owners.

Discussion followed regarding the complicated nature of setbacks and appreciation that the students were able to comprehensively simplify them.

Student Dennis Wiebe provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the identification of septic systems in Skagit County and he described the method of cross-referencing 3 different datasets to identify if a parcel had a septic system or was connected to a sewer system. The method highlighted that data was sometimes misaligned due to the nature of being managed by different departments and some results were clear, but others needed to be followed up on. A table was being created by Mr. Wiebe and one of his suggestions was the creation of a new parcel identification number to track property data.

Discussion followed regarding the importance of updating and maintaining county records, and performing inspections of septic systems.

For their time, dedication, and service on behalf of the people, for the community, and in the public interest, the Board of County Commissioners presented each student with a Certificate of Appreciation.

The Commissioners thanked the students, the teachers of the students, and staff for collaborating on important projects.

Student presentations can be found here: <ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/05072018/>

d) 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Planning and Development Services – Hal Hart, Director:

1. Public Hearing/Possible Action: To Consider Public Testimony Regarding a Proposed Ordinance Amending the Impact Fee Schedule to Update the Amounts Collected for Mount Vernon School District, which Recently Adopted New Impact Fee Amounts

Assistant Director Ryan Walters briefed the Commissioners on the proposed amendment to the Ordinance in order to update the Impact Fee Schedule to reflect the amounts recently approved by the Mount Vernon School District.

Chair Dahlstedt opened the public hearing at 11:13 a.m. Mount Vernon School District Assistant Superintendent Bill Nutting provided testimony in favor of amending the Ordinance.

Seeing no further public testimony forthcoming, Chair Janicki made a motion to close the public hearing at 11:16 a.m. which was seconded by Commissioner Wesen. The vote passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Janicki to approve the Ordinance updating the Impact Fee Schedule as presented (**Ordinance No. O20180006**) Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

2. Code Enforcement Update Presentation

Mr. Walters provided some additional information on other projects students from Western Washington University were working on and then gave an update to the Commissioners on the status of some code enforcement activities and showed multiple before and after photographs.

He thanked Code Enforcement Officer Scott Duncan, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Will Honea, and Building Official Jack Moore for helping to bring multiple cases into compliance.

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

Chair Dahlstedt continued the proceedings into County and Individual Success Stories and Public Comment Period.

1. County and Individual Success Stories

Senior Local Government Affairs Representative Lynn Murphy representing Puget Sound Energy was present to share some updates with the Commissioners and public: that 100% of the revenue received through their corporate taxing programs was being passed onto their customers who would see a \$7.00 decrease in their bill.

Lynn Murphy also briefed the Commissioners on their de-carbonization plans to transition away from coal in Montana, develop new products, support cleaner transportation initiatives like electric vehicles, work on policies at the state level, and grow the Together Campaign for the encouragement and use of LED lighting, home weatherization, etc.

Discussion followed about the reduction of emissions that would be achieved by the operation of a new electric ferry and the generator and solar panels that Puget Sound Energy had gifted to the Food Distribution Center in Sedro-Woolley.

2. Public Comment Period

No additional comments were provided.

3. Miscellaneous Announcements

No miscellaneous announcements were made.

f) *12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Appreciation Lunch with Students from Western Washington University

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Dahlstedt adjourned the proceedings at 11:45 a.m.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Chair

Lisa Janicki, Commissioner

Ron Wesen, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board