

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2018**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, May 15, 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. - 9:00 a.m. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week:

1. Proclamation: May 20 through May 26, 2018 as EMS Week

EMS Director Jeff Sargent presented a Proclamation to the Commissioners and discussion was held regarding the important work provided by those involved in the EMS system who responded to incidents in Skagit County when 911 was called.

Commissioner Wesen read the Proclamation regarding May 20 through May 26, 2018 as Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week.

2. Central Valley Ambulance Authority: Recognition of Paramedics

Director of Central Skagit Medic One Jada Trammell honored and acknowledged paramedics who had served for 10 and 15 years. The following paramedics were recognized and presented with a lapel pin for their years of dedicated service:

15 Years of Service
Brad Scharnickel
Dan Laine (absent)
Jeremy Payette (absent)

10 Years of Service
Scott Lang
Yvonne North
Lee Knodel
Matthew Wienker (absent)

The Commissioners thanked them for their service to the community.

Chair Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 8:44 a.m.

b) 9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Proclamation Recognizing National Public Works Week

Chair Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 9:00 a.m. and introduced Public Works Director Dan Berentson.

Mr. Berentson invited County Engineer Paul Randall-Grutter to provide a presentation to the Commissioners regarding National Public Works Week. The theme for 2018 was “The Power of Public Works” and an overview of the public services provided by the Skagit County Public Works Department was provided by Mr. Randall-Grutter. A video was also shown that had been compiled and edited by Skagit County Communications Coordinator Bronlea Mishler.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Randall-Grutter for providing the overview of the work performed by the Public Works Department and they thanked the employees for their dedication to the residents of Skagit County.

Commissioner Janicki read the Proclamation regarding May 20 through May 26, 2018 as National Public Works Week. Chair Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 9:16 a.m.

c) 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Proclamation Recognizing May as Wildfire Awareness Month

Chair Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 9:30 a.m. and introduced Skagit Conservation District Forrester Al Craney.

Mr. Craney presented information about wildfire awareness and steps that a homeowner could take in order to protect their home during a fire. The website firewise.org had additional information about fires and home protection. Mr. Craney shared a map that showed areas in Skagit County that were at risk for fires due to the amount and type of vegetation and soil that was present.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) District Manager Rich Dodd was present to talk about the Firewise Program and updates being implemented by DNR for fire prevention and response. He also discussed the importance of partnerships.

Emergency Management Department Director Doug ten Hoopen shared that they were expecting another fire season similar to last year and were planning a Tabletop Exercise as if there was a large fire on Burlington Hill.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Craney, Mr. Dodd and Mr. ten Hoopen for the information and Commissioner Janicki read the Proclamation recognizing May as Wildfire Awareness Month.

Chair Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 10:01 a.m.

d) 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Public Works - Dan Berentson, Director:

Chair Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 10:04 a.m. and introduced Director Berentson.

1. Presentation: Certificate of Commendation for Staff Assistant Cheri Renfro

Mr. Berentson shared that Cheri Renfro had recently completed her master’s degree in counseling and was leaving Skagit County Public Works to work as a student counselor.

Mr. Berentson, Water Quality Analyst Rick Haley, Stormwater Coordinator Lori Wight, past Surface Water Section Manager Jan Flagan, Administrative Assistant Samantha Clark, Waste Reduction/Recycling Education Specialist Callie Martin, Administrator Tim Holloran, Senior Planner/Team Supervisor Betsy Stevenson, and father Roger Burke talked about working with Cheri Renfro and they congratulated her on her new profession.

Cheri Renfro talked about working at Skagit County and the Commissioners thanked her for her service. Commissioner Wesen read the Certificate of Commendation in recognition of dedicated public service by Cheri Renfro from January 21, 2003 to May 8, 2018.

Chair Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 10:23 a.m.

e) 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Public Health - Jennifer Johnson, Director:

Chair Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 11:01 a.m.

1. Public Hearing/Possible Action: To Consider Public Testimony Regarding the Submittal of an Application for a General Purpose Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funding for Affordable Housing Projects that Principally Benefit Low- and Moderate-Income Persons

Public Health Analyst Kayla Schott-Bresler provided an overview of the application that was proposed to be submitted to the Washington State Department of Commerce for a Community Development Block Grant to provide funding for affordable housing projects that benefited low-and moderate-income persons.

She briefed the Commissioners on past and current work accomplished through similar block grants and the objectives of the current grant application. An overview of the process and input received towards the completion of the draft application was discussed, as well as the details of the application and regional partnership approach with Island, Whatcom, and San Juan Counties to be able to fund up to \$25,000 towards the down payment of a home.

Ms. Schott-Bresler shared that Skagit County currently administered a similar grant and worked with nonprofit partners Home Trust of Skagit and Skagit Habitat for Humanity to pass the funds through for the use of low-and moderate-income persons. Ms. Schott-Bresler's contact information: kaylasb@co.skagit.wa.us or 360-416-1520.

The PowerPoint provided by Ms. Schott-Bresler and some information forms regarding the CDBG Program can be found here: <ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/05142018/>

Chair Dahlstedt opened the public hearing at 11:13 a.m.

Paul Schissler was present to express his support for the application to the Department of Commerce, he talked about the need for affordable homeownership, and he liked that San Juan County had joined the regional consortium.

Jodi Monroe of Home Trust of Skagit was present to thank the Commissioners for their support of affordable housing. She talked about the families who had received funding through the current CDBG and said that the program was making a positive difference in the community.

Seeing no further public testimony forthcoming, Commissioner Wesen made a motion to close the public hearing at 11:17 a.m. which was seconded by Commissioner Janicki. The vote passed unanimously.

The Commissioners thanked Ms. Schott-Bresler for her work on housing and homeless projects in Skagit County and they supported submitting the application to the Department of Commerce.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wesen to approve the Resolution and all supporting documents for the application for a General Purpose Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for funding for affordable housing projects that principally

benefited low- and moderate-income persons (**Resolution No. R20180108**). Commissioner Janicki seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

Chair Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 11:23 a.m.

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

Chair Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 11:30 a.m.

1. County and Individual Success Stories

No one provided county or individual success stories.

2. Public Comment Period

Mike Newman of Sedro-Woolley provided comments regarding the elk herd in the Sedro-Woolley area. He informed the Commissioners that the Department of Fish and Wildlife had agreed to increase the number of elk harvest/hunting permits in order to begin to address the abundant population of the herd, however, when he compared the 2017 Hunting Regulations to the 2018 Hunting Regulations, the number of permits available had not increased, they decreased. He did not believe there was any official oversight of Fish and Wildlife and he encouraged the Commissioners to pay close attention to the matter. He was also concerned about the elk herd rapidly expanding due to mismanagement and the fact that the herd they had no predators other than hunters and motor vehicles.

Mr. Newman also requested that the Commissioners not take action on the proposed Agreement/MOU from the Department of Ecology (DOE) for the Big Lake Mitigation Plan for access to water. He shared that he was on an Irrigation District in Eastern Washington and they discovered a clause within a similar Agreement they had received in which all senior water rights would be signed over to the DOE. He could not understand how the Skagit River would have any restrictions due to the high volume of water that flowed daily into the Puget Sound. He also suggested that Skagit PUD be contacted after the November election to see if they would work with Skagit County towards a water usage solution.

3. Miscellaneous Announcements

The Commissioners provided comments on sharing the roads with farmers, property owners concerns about the elk herd, and attendance at various functions and events.

g) *1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Emergency Medical Services Budget and Strategic Planning Meeting 1 of 2 (Emergency Medical Services, 2911 East College Way, Mount Vernon)

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Dahlstedt adjourned the proceedings at 11:43 a.m.

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

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Chair

Lisa Janicki, Commissioner

Ron Wesen, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board