

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2018**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, June 12, 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 - Paul Randall-Grutter, County Engineer:

County Engineer Paul Randall-Grutter introduced the agenda items.

1. Update - Burlington Northern Overpass Project

Project Manager Jennifer Swanson provided an update of the Burlington Northern Overpass project. She reported that the contractors were working on securing, bending and placing the many miles of rebar; they would pour the bridge decks within the next two weeks and the final concrete panels, at the north approach, were in place. Ms. Swanson reported that the first change order for the project had been submitted for approximately \$3,000. She said that the project was currently behind schedule by about three weeks and estimated that it should be completed by mid-September.

2. Update - Guemes Island Ferry

Ferry Division Manager Rachel Rowe provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the proposed vessel replacement surcharge. She outlined the following options for the Commissioners' consideration and noted that Public Works would be requesting a motion from the Commissioners at 11:00 a.m. on July 3, 2018.

Option A: \$245,933 per year (this option had a set dollar amount surcharge on all fares) which would be an average increase of 21% per ticket; or

Option B: \$264,362 per year (this option had a set dollar amount on vehicles only) which would be an average increase of 23% per ticket; or

Option C: \$250,551 per year (this option had a set percentage-based surcharge) which would be an average increase of 20% per ticket.

Ms. Rowe reported on the approximately 60 public comments and suggestions that were received at the public hearing and public

forum. She proposed that if the Board approved the surcharge, that it should be implemented on October 1, 2018.

The Commissioners deliberated about making the decision on the options earlier than July 3. The Clerk was instructed to schedule the decision about the surcharge for Monday, June 18, 2018, at 10:30 a.m. in the Skagit County Commissioners' Hearing Room. The Commissioners discussed the options and indicated that they preferred Option C. They debated about when to implement the surcharge and it was decided that if the surcharge were approved on June 18, it would become effective on August 1, 2018.

Link to PowerPoint Presentation: <ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/06112018/>

3. Public Hearing to Consider Testimony Regarding an Ordinance to Amend Skagit County Code 6.68 "Clean Water (Shellfish Protection) District", to allow for Property Tax Exemptions for Qualifying Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons enrolled in the Senior Citizen and Disabled Persons Exemption Program Administered by the Skagit County Assessor's Office

Water Resources Section Manager Michael See provided a brief history of the Clean Water Program (CWP) which was developed from the Shellfish Protection District and it was created in 2005 by Ordinance No. O20050014. Mr. See noted that Skagit County offered a Senior and Disabled Persons exemption for qualifying individuals per Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 84.36.381. The Clean Water Program Special Assessment did not currently qualify for the exemption program. He explained that in some cases, low-income seniors or disabled persons had faced the threat of foreclosure due to the CWP assessment. In order to qualify for the exemption program, Skagit County Code 6.68 would need to be amended. If the exemption were applied to CWP, revenue to CWP would be reduced by \$31,664.25 for 2019.

Chair Dahlstedt opened the public hearing at 9:19 a.m.

Clyde Williams from the Treasurer's office noted that there was approximately 1,400 properties that would be affected by the exemption.

Seeing no further public testimony forthcoming, Commissioner Wesen made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:22 a.m. Commissioner Janicki seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

4. Possible Action - Approve an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 6.68 of Skagit County Code to Allow for the Senior Citizen and Disabled Persons Exemptions to apply to the Clean Water (Shellfish Protection) Program Special Assessment

A motion was made by Commissioner Janicki to approve an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 6.68 of Skagit County Code to Allow for the Senior Citizen and Disabled Persons Exemptions to apply to the Clean Water (Shellfish Protection) Program Special Assessment. **(Ordinance No. O20180007)** Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

Chair Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 9:24 a.m.

- b) 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Certificate of Commendation for Public Works Administrative Assistant, Contracts/Grants Samantha Clark

Chair Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 9:30 a.m.

Water Resources Section Manager Michael See provided information about Samantha Clark's career with the U.S. Navy and Skagit County.

Administrative Assistant Contracts/Grants Meghan MacMullen; Environmental Health Specialist Alison Mohns; Deputy Fire Marshal Mark Anderson; Pollution Identification Coordinator Karen Dubose and Waste Reduction Education Specialist Callie Martin shared stories about working with Ms. Clark and wished her well in her new career.

Ms. Clark thanked everyone for the words of encouragement.

The Commissioners thanked Ms. Clark for her years of service to the County and wished her well with the new chapter in her career.

Commissioner Janicki read the Certificate of Commendation while employed with Skagit County from October 16, 2007 through June 15, 2018.

Chair Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 9:48 a.m.

c) 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Washington State University (WSU) Skagit County Extension Program Update - Don McMoran, Director

Chair Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 10:31 a.m. and excused Commissioner Janicki's absence.

Director Don McMoran provided an update of the Agricultural and Natural Resources program. He announced that the Skagit Ag Summit was tentatively scheduled for Friday, February 8, 2019, from 9:00 a.m. to midnight.

WSU Program Coordinator Dorothy Elsner provided an update of the 4-H program.

Food Access Specialist Diane Smith provided an update of the Family and Consumer program.

Program Coordinator Kate Forster provided an update of the Strengthening Families program.

Forestry Program Coordinator Brendan Whyte provided an update of the program.

Chair Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 11:25 a.m.

Link to PowerPoint Presentation: <ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/06112018/>

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

Commissioner Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 11:30 a.m. and excused Chair Dahlstedt and Commissioner Janicki's absence.

1. County and Individual Success Stories

There were no County and Individual Success Stories provided.

2. Public Comment Period

Steve Orsini of Guemes Island spoke in opposition to building a 32 car ferry. He said that the 28-car ferry would be preferable because it would cost less to construct and operate. He went on to comment on the need to include a ten-year maintenance plan in the marine survey.

3. Miscellaneous Announcements

Commissioner Wesen spoke about the joint meeting between the Port of Anacortes and the City of Anacortes that he attended last night.

- e) *2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Emergency Medical Services Budget and Strategic Planning Meeting (Emergency Medical Services, 2911 East College Way, Mount Vernon)

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Wesen adjourned the proceedings at 11:39 a.m.

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

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Chair

Lisa Janicki, Commissioner

Ron Wesen, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board