

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2019**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, 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 8:30 a.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chair Janicki 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 Dan Berentson and Engineering Division Manager Keith Elefson introduced the agenda item.

1. Update - Engineering Division

Mr. Elefson noted that the Engineering Division worked under the direction and supervision of the County Engineer and were responsible for ensuring that the County road system functioned safely and effectively. It was noted that they also were responsible for managing the engineering, design, construction, construction oversight, and construction administration of County road projects. Mr. Elefson went on to provide an overview of the 2018 and 2019 budget for the Engineering Division.

Transportation Division Manager Forrest Jones introduced staff that were present in the audience and noted that the Transportation Programs Section were responsible for providing the County Road Administration Board (CRAB) and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) with statutory annual reports. He indicated that they were also responsible for inspecting the 110 bridges in Skagit County.

Mr. Jones noted that the Transportation Programs Section were also responsible for Franchise and Interlocal Agreements for pipelines and utilities. In addition to their other duties, they responded to service requests for traffic safety, traffic investigations, traffic studies, right-of-way vacations, right-of-way acquisitions, traffic coordination, crash documentation and general inquiries. He went on to report on the Divisions various applications for grant funding.

Mr. Elefson introduced Administrative Assistants - Contracts and Grants Kelley Marriott and Brenda Olson and outlined their duties which included working on grants, managing and auditing project files, representing the Division in state and federal audits and providing miscellaneous contract support throughout the County.

Project Manager David Walde introduced Project Manager Jennifer Swanson. Mr. Walde outlined a few of the responsibilities of the Project Management Division which included management of road, bridge, building, and other projects; assist, prepare, and review plans, specifications and estimates, environmental permitting, management of federal and state grants.

Information about projects was provided.

2019 Construction Projects:

Colony Mountain Drive
2019 HMA Overlay
Samish River Bridge
Friday Creek Bridge
2019 Guardrail
Active Warning Signs
Ferry Winch Replacement
Veteran's Memorial Park
Prevedal Road Slide Repair

Construction Projects Planned for 2020:

Francis Road, Section 1
Josh Wilson Road, Section 1
2020 Overlay Project
North Shore (Lake Cavanaugh)
Tyee Road Culvert Replacement
Bow Hill Road Reconstruction

Other Projects in Design:

Concrete/Sauk Valley Road Bank Stabilization
Francis Road Section 3
March's Point Road Bank Stabilization
Little Mountain Road Drainage Improvements
Upper Finney Creek Bridge
Minkler Road Bridge (Hansen Creek)
Bayview-Edison Joe Leary Slough Bridge Deck
Bulson Creek Culvert
Burpee Hill Road Culvert
Garden of Eden Road Culvert
Carey's Slough

Other Public Works Division Projects:

Ferry Replacement Project (Electric)
Guemes Ferry Dock Maintenance
Guemes Ferry Dock Girder Replacement
Centennial Trail (in coordination with Parks, Recreation and Fair)
Guemes Island Trail (in coordination with Parks, Recreation and Fair)
Veterans Memorial (Phase II) (in coordination with Parks, Recreation and Fair)

Mr. Elefson introduced Engineering and Construction Inspection staff Sonny Andrew, Matthew Dudgeon and Joe Amaro and he outlined their responsibilities.

Lead Survey Technician Bob Prater introduced survey crew staff Joel Shroyer and Alyssa Wahlgren and outlined their responsibilities.

Engineering Technician Shane Whitney introduced Engineering Technician Paul Erickson and outlined the Development Review staffs' responsibilities which included development review, right-of-way/utility permits, access permit review and inspections.

Link to PowerPoint Presentation:

<ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/05202019/>

The Commissioners thanked the Engineering Division for their hard work and professionalism.

Chair Janicki recessed the proceedings at 9:27 a.m.

b) 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Board of Health

Chair Janicki convened the Board of Health at 10:00 a.m.

Public Health Director Jennifer Johnson introduced the agenda items.

1. HOME Rent Study Results

Housing Resource Coordinator Shelley Kjos provided a PowerPoint presentation and presented the results of the HOME Rent Study. Ms. Kjos provided an overview of the HOME Investment Partnerships Program and noted that the Tri-County Consortium was formed in 2015 and included Skagit, Island and Whatcom Counties and that Skagit County was the lead agency for the Tri-County Consortium.

Ms. Kjos said that the study was motivated by the need to set accurate rent standards and outlined the methodology that was used to conduct the rent study in Island, Skagit and Whatcom Counties. She reported that the study showed that median rents in all three counties exceeded the current the Fair Market Rent and Income Limits published by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Ms. Kjos indicated that the results of the study would be used to assist in setting more accurate rent standards.

It was reported that annual funding allocations that the HOME Investments Partnerships Program received from HUD could be used to fund building, acquiring, rehabilitation of affordable housing and Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) to low-income households. Ms. Kjos noted that since its inception in 2015, the HOME Program had received \$2,884,558 in funding which had been allocated to the Tri-County Consortium. She went on to discuss the need for continued investment in rental assistance programs to address the affordability gap.

A discussion ensued about the new affordable housing units being developed in the community, the development subsidy gap, the need to increase the supply of affordable multi-family housing units, the decision to shift HOME funds from TBRA to assist with funding the construction of affordable housing, working with municipalities to allow more affordable housing to be built, the cost of projects that were funded with federal and public funds and meeting the development subsidy gap.

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation:](ftp://ftp.skagitcounty.net/countycommissioners/documents/agendapackets/05202019/)

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2. School Based Health

Public Health Analyst Julie de Losada and University of Washington, School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, School Mental Assessment Research and Training (SMART) Center Professor Dr. Eric Bruns provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the School-Based Services project. Information about the history of the 2010 through 2016 school behavioral health model was provided: the challenges included clinicians had separate scopes of work, separate fiscal requirements; separate contracts, were not coordinated with school leadership, workforce was not co-trained and there were no shared outcomes.

Ms. de Losada noted that after several meetings with Skagit County School Districts, an executive team was created to determine how to best utilize existing funding to meet the needs of students to create a culture of collaboration between the County and the School Districts. Information about the recommendations from the core team was provided. It was suggested that a county-wide structure that provided shared oversight, governance, and accountability using the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS), a three-tiered pyramid to support and provide students with access to a variety of school and community providers, would create the best outcome to help provide students with access to school and community support.

Dr. Bruns discussed the data collected to help determine how best to leverage funding to help address the needs of the schools, what types of behavioral health staff were needed and challenges of integrating new school staff and the need to invest in the MTSS framework.

Ms. de Losada discussed the decision to shift funding from the behavioral health providers to the seven Skagit County school districts which would allow the school districts to employ a social worker, a contracted licensed mental health counselor and the 2018 - 2019 work plan.

There was a brief discussion regarding the upcoming changes to Medicare, funding for social workers in schools, helping youth avoid social isolation and how to provide mental health education to youth.

Ms. de Losada provided a video about school-based health centers which was described as an independently operated licensed health care facility, staffed by licensed health care professionals and co-located on school property. She announced that on August 15, 2019, a school-based health center would open in the Sedro-Woolley School District. The goal of the school-based health center would be to increase health and well-being of students and help coordinate access to behavioral health, reproductive health, primary care, urgent care, coordination with community specialty care and health education. It was explained that the County's role in the school-based health center would be to act as the Chief Health Strategist; work with Peace Health and the Sedro-Woolley School District to ensure that policies incorporated best practices, helping to problem solve, ensure access to data and making sure that students obtained the appropriate health care that fit their needs.

Link to PowerPoint Presentation:

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3. Miscellaneous Items

There were no miscellaneous items discussed and Chair Janicki recessed the proceedings at 11:28 a.m.

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

Chair Janicki reconvened the proceedings at 11:31 a.m.

1. County and Individual Success Stories

There were no County and Individual Success Stories provided.

2. Public Comment Period

Brent Haines of Rockport commented on Washington State constitutional laws and procedures of Skagit County.

3. Miscellaneous Announcements

Commissioner Dahlstedt reminded the community to be safe around farming equipment that traveled on Skagit County roads.

Commissioner Wesen discussed the community celebration and ribbon cutting at the Skagit Valley Family YMCA that he and Commissioner Dahlstedt attend on Saturday, May 18, 2019.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Janicki adjourned the proceedings at 11:37 a.m.

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

Lisa Janicki, Chair

Ron Wesen, Commissioner

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board