

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2025**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, October 6, 2025, with Chair Lisa Janicki, Commissioner Ron Wesen, and Commissioner Peter Browning present.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Janicki called the proceedings to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. AGENDA:

a) *9:00 a.m. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Janicki led the attendees in the salute to the flag.

b) *9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Josh Pelonio, Director:

Chair Janicki introduced Emergency Medical Services Director Josh Pelonio.

Mr. Pelonio provided a PowerPoint presentation and background information on the proposal to update the ambulance fee schedule. Mr. Pelonio shared that the schedule had not been updated since 2021 for 2022-2024 and reviewed the potential impacts of the HR1 Bill, rates, service levels, rate comparisons, payer mixes, and collection averages.

Mr. Pelonio shared that based on the current payer mix and collection rates it was anticipated that the county-wide impact of the proposed rate increase was an estimated \$71,479.21 additional dollars of net patient revenue annually.

Discussion was held regarding ALS non-emergency rates, Medicare and Medicaid billing impacts, and appreciation for City partners.

1. Public Hearing: To Consider Testimony Regarding Proposed Revisions to Resolution No. R20170124 for the Ambulance Fee Schedule

Chair Janicki opened the public hearing at 9:18 a.m.

Chief Bryan Harris of Mount Vernon Fire Department shared his support for the proposed fee schedule and made comments regarding increased costs of services.

Chief Rob Toth of Burlington Fire shared his support for the proposed fee schedule and thanked Mr. Pelonio for his work.

Tony Smith of Aero Skagit Emergency Services shared his support for the proposed fee schedule and shared comments regarding Medicare billing.

Seeing no further public testimony forthcoming, Commissioner Browning made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:23 a.m. Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

Mr. Pelonio shared that next steps included approving a Resolution to update the fee schedule that would come forward on a future Consent Agenda.

Link to PowerPoint Presentation and Draft Proposed Fee Schedule:
<https://www.skagitcounty.net/CountyCommissioners/Documents/AgendaPackets/10062025.zip>

2. Miscellaneous

There were no miscellaneous items.

Chair Janicki recessed the proceedings at 9:28 a.m.

c) *9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. WSU Skagit County Extension Quarterly Update

Chair Janicki reconvened the proceedings at 9:47 a.m.

WSU Skagit County Extension Director Don McMoran provided a PowerPoint presentation and shared information regarding staffing updates, workshops and ongoing endeavors. Mr. McMoran also noted that the SNAP-Ed program had been cut at the federal level.

NWREC Acting Director Tatum Weed shared NWREC updates that included new staff, research highlights, and Plant Growth Facility Phase II project updates.

Entomology Coordinator Katy Hayes provided a 2025 Horticultural Pest Control Board season update. She also shared current pest board targets which included the Spotted Wing Drosophila, Apple Maggot, Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB), Codling Moth, Kudzu Bug, and Potato Psyllid.

Ms. Hayes also acknowledged active Pest Board members: Harley Soltes, Bryan Sakuma, Griffin Berger, Sam Bowhey, Ezra Ranz and Don McMoran.

4-H Program Coordinator Nicole Jones provided an update on 4-H events that had taken place, 4-H objectives, community outreach, the Skagit County Fair, and the Washington State Fair at Puyallup. Ms. Jones shared her appreciation for partnerships with Skagit Farmers Supply, Skagit County Farm Bureau, Skagit County Fairgrounds, Skagit Farm Circle, WA Ag in the Classroom, the Boys and Girls Club, Master Gardeners, Schools/FFA, Coastal Farm and Ranch, and Tractor Supply.

Ms. Jones shared that October 5-11, 2025 was National 4-H Week.

Further discussion was held regarding the benefits of youth in 4-H and the Commissioners shared their appreciation for the quarterly update.

Link to PowerPoint presentation:

<https://www.skagitcounty.net/CountyCommissioners/Documents/AgendaPackets/10062025.zip>

Chair Janicki recessed the proceedings at 10:47 a.m.

d) *11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Consent Agenda, Vouchers, Warrants and Miscellaneous Items:

Chair Janicki reconvened the proceedings at 11:00 a.m.

1. Public Comment (Specifically related to the agenda item)

The Commissioners discussed Consent Agenda items 5, 10, 12, 13, and 15.

2. CONSENT AGENDA FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2025 (items 1 through 17):

A motion was made by Commissioner Browning to approve Consent Agenda items 1 through 17, including all items requiring ratification, vouchers and warrants for Monday, October 6, 2025. Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

a) COMMISSIONERS:

1. Record of the Proceedings for Monday, September 29, 2025. **(Approved)**
2. Record of the Proceedings for Wednesday, October 1, 2025. **(Approved)**
3. Record of the Proceedings for Thursday, October 2, 2025. **(Approved)**

b) AUDITOR:

4. End User License Agreement with Electask LLC to purchase task management computer software to schedule, track election tasks, checklists and statutory requirements. Compensation shall be \$3,333 per year for the 3-year term of the Agreement. The Agreement shall commence on the date of execution and continue for three (3) years. **(Contract No. C20250485)**

c) INFORMATION SERVICES:

5. Agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc. to provide Axon Justice Premier software subscription services for 31 licenses with unlimited storage to include API access for use by the Prosecuting Attorney's Office with the Karpel Solutions Case Management System. Compensation is based on an annual subscription fee schedule and shall not exceed \$670,000 for the term of the Agreement. The Agreement shall commence on November 1, 2025 and continue for ten years. **(Contract No. C20250486)**

d) PROSECUTING ATTORNEY:

6. Resolution to provide legal defense to Skagit County employee Prosecuting Attorney Frederick Haist in a lawsuit identified by case number 25-2-01076-29, Schermerhorn v. Haist et al. **(Resolution No. R20250233)**

e) PUBLIC HEALTH:

7. Agreement with Skagit Habitat for Humanity for the purpose of protecting long-term affordability of certain real property improvements secured by long-term ground leases from Skagit Habitat for Humanity and financial assistance in the form of Down Payment Assistance from County through grant money from the Washington State Department of Commerce. There is no compensation associated with this Agreement. The Agreement shall commence on the date of execution and continue for five years. **(Contract No. C20250487)**
8. Resolution authorizing Public Health Interim Director Jennifer Johnson to sign the letter confirming payment for offsite care services for Skagit County Community Justice Center with dates of service occurring during the Agreement's (Skagit County Contract No. C20230007) term through August 31, 2025. **(Resolution No. R20250234)**
9. Facility Use Agreement with Welcome Home Skagit (WHS) for the use of Pallet units purchased by Skagit County to support isolation and quarantine needed during public health emergencies. Skagit County and WHS seek to serve Skagit County residents experiencing homelessness and Skagit County will make available five (5) Pallet PBA sleeper units to WHS for temporary housing of unsheltered individuals. There is no compensation associated with this Agreement. The Agreement shall commence on the date of execution and continue for five years. **(Contract No. C20250488)**
10. Interlocal Cooperative Agreement with Sedro-Woolley School District to fund a School Counselor, School Social Worker, or Licensed Mental Health Counselor in order to develop and support a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) practice and teams, increase capacity to implement or maintain programs and practices to prevent or reduce substance use and that target mental health promotion, prevention, and treatment, and to provide workforce development opportunities for district employees addressing behavioral, social and emotional determinants of health and learning. Compensation shall not exceed \$79,000. The Agreement is ratified to commence on August 1, 2025 and continue until July 31, 2026. **(Contract No. C20250489)**
11. Interlocal Agreement with Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), DCYF Contract No. 26-1144, to provide high quality home visiting services to vulnerable families for the purpose of

improving outcomes of participants and strengthening coordination of services. Compensation shall not exceed \$514,728.48. The Agreement is ratified to commence on July 1, 2025 and continue until July 31, 2026. **(Contract No. C20250490)**

f) PUBLIC WORKS:

12. Interlocal Cooperative Agreement with Skagit Conservation District to allow the County to work with the District on a reimbursable basis for assistance to be provided by the District to the County in meeting Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) enhancement goals through implementation of site-specific projects. The following District projects will be funded: Skagit River Maple 1 and Skagit River Maple 2. Compensation shall not exceed \$33,750. The Agreement is ratified to commence on July 1, 2025 and continue until June 30, 2027. **(Contract No. C20250490)**
13. Funding and Project Agreement with Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group to provide funding to complete design work for the replacement of the CR#26/188 Cascade Ridge Drive at Carpenter Creek Fish Passage Design Project. Compensation to Skagit County shall not exceed \$250,000. The Agreement is ratified to commence on January 1, 2025 and shall continue until November 1, 2026. **(Contract No. C20250492)**
14. Non-Exclusive Franchise Agreement with Cascade River Community Club to install, construct, operate, repair, relocate, maintain, and remove Facilities for purposes of a water utility system with transmission lines up to four inches (4”) or less in diameter, and other necessary appurtenances thereto (the “water utility system”), in upon, under, along, and across certain roads and rights-of-way in the defined Franchise Area within Skagit County. The Agreement shall commence upon the date of mutual execution and continue for 15 years. **(Contract No. C20250493)**

g) SHERIFF:

15. Amendment No. 1 to Professional Services Agreement No. C20250262 with Gladiator Forensics LLC to provide Software for Forensics intelligence including services and license for the Skagit County Interlocal Drug Enforcement Unit (SCIDEU). This Amendment increases compensation by \$321,250 plus applicable tax for additional services, licenses, and hardware and \$6,400.00 plus applicable tax for additional training. The term remains the same and shall continue until terminated. All other terms and conditions of the original Agreement shall remain in effect. **(Amendment No. A20250202)**
16. Resolution authorizing and ratifying the electronic signature of Skagit County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) for Traffic Safety Grant Project 2025-ST-5758-Skagit County Traffic Crash Response Team. The Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC) provides grant funding to assist local law enforcement in the promotion of traffic safety and the reduction of traffic-related incidents and fatalities. The Agreement was sent electronically and required to be accepted by the Skagit County Sheriff's Office on a short timeframe or else the grant would be lost, and Sheriff McDermott was able to timely accept the award on September 22, 2025. **(Resolution No. R20250235)**
17. Interagency Agreement with Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC) to provide grant funding for the 2025-ST-5758 Skagit County Traffic Crash Response Team Project to assist local law enforcement in the promotion of traffic safety and the reduction of traffic-related incidents and fatalities. Compensation to Skagit County shall not exceed \$34,000. The Agreement is ratified to commence on September 23, 2025 and continue until June 30, 2026. **(Contract No. C20250494)**

3. MISCELLANEOUS AGENDA ITEMS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:

Agricultural Lands Coordinator Sarah Stoner provided a PowerPoint presentation and additional information regarding Miscellaneous Agenda items 1 through 4.

Link to PowerPoint presentation:

<https://www.skagitcounty.net/CountyCommissioners/Documents/AgendaPackets/10062025.zip>

4. MISCELLANEOUS AGENDA (items 1 through 4):

A motion was made by Commissioner Wesen to approve Miscellaneous Agenda items 1 through 4. Commissioner Browning seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

a) PUBLIC WORKS:

1. Farmland Legacy Program Grant Deed of Conservation Easement with Northwest Territory, LLC to protect 32.87 acres of agricultural land on Parcel Numbers P22167 and P22164 for compensation in the amount of \$90,000. This Easement eliminates one (1) residential development right. The Conservation values include protection of agricultural productivity and the protection of prime and important agricultural soils. The Agreement commences on mutual execution and continues in perpetuity. **(Contract No. C20250495)**
2. Notice of Assignment that Northwest Territory LLC, as Grantor (“Seller”) under the Grant Deed of Conservation Easement to protect 32.87 acres of agricultural land, Skagit County Contract No. C20250495, has assigned its rights as Seller, but not its obligations, to First American Exchange of Skagit County, Exchange No. 25-09273 (Qualified Intermediary “QI”), for the purposes of completing a tax deferred exchange under Internal Revenue Code Section 1031. This is an assignment of rights only and Exchangor will deed the property directly to Skagit County (Grantee or Buyer). QI will reassign the rights in the Agreement to Exchangor after the property has been transferred to Grantee. There is no compensation associated with this Notice of Assignment. The Notice of Assignment shall commence on the date of execution. **(Contract No. C20250496)**
3. Farmland Legacy Program Grant Deed of Conservation Easement with Blue Widgeon LLC to protect 74.23 acres of agricultural land on Parcel Numbers P22190 and P120596 for compensation in the amount of \$120,000. This Easement eliminates one (1) residential development right. The Conservation Values include protection of agricultural productivity and the protection of prime and important agricultural soils. The Agreement commences on mutual execution and continues in perpetuity. **(Contract No. C20250497)**
4. Notice of Assignment that Blue Widgeon LLC, as Grantor (“Seller”) under the Grant Deed of Conservation Easement to protect 74.23 acres of agricultural land, Skagit County Contract No. C20250497, has assigned its rights as Seller, but not its obligations, to First American Exchange of Skagit County, Exchange No. 25-09274 (Qualified Intermediary “QI”), for the purposes of completing a deferred exchange under Internal Revenue Code Section 1031. This is an assignment of rights only and Exchangor will deed the property directly to Skagit County (Grantee or Buyer). QI will reassign the rights in the Agreement to Exchangor after the property has been transferred to Grantee. There is no compensation associated with this Notice of Assignment. The Notice of Assignment shall commence on the date of execution. **(Contract No. C20250498)**

5. VOUCHERS AND WARRANTS:

- a. Vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer as required by R.C.W. 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by R.C.W. 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing, which has been made available

to the Board. As of this date, the Board by majority vote, did approve for payment those vouchers included in the above-mentioned list and further described as follows:

- a) ACH Transfer Request Form and Certification to Delta Dental from Clearing Fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$16,753.83 (Transmittal No. C-215-25); and
- b) ACH Transfer Request Form and Certification to Health Equity from Clearing Fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$15,968.48 (Transmittal No. C-216-25); and
- c) Warrants numbered 606690 through 607009 from Clearing Fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$2,202,050.39 (Transmittal No. C-220-25).

Chair Janicki recessed the proceedings at 11:15 a.m.

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

Commissioner Browning reconvened the proceedings at 11:30 a.m. and excused Chair Janicki.

1. Public Comment Period

Jan Edelstein of Big Lake provided a PowerPoint presentation and shared comments regarding phosphorus conditions in Big Lake and Overlook Stormwater Detention Ponds.

Rebecca Peck of Bow shared comments regarding the amount of time allowed for public comment period, the selection process for Commissioner Janicki's replacement, and human rights.

Larita Humble of Lake Cavanaugh shared comments regarding curbside recycling services.

2. County and Individual Success Stories

No success stories were shared.

3. Miscellaneous (announcements, letters, etc.)

The Commissioners discussed the 2026 budget deficit, a Burlington Rotary Auction, the Veterans Standdown Event located at the Skagit County Fairgrounds, an Anacortes Chamber of Commerce event "Beer near the Pier", and a Population Health Trust Powerful Partnerships event.

Commissioner Browning recessed the proceedings at 11:44 a.m.

f) 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) Virtual Assembly hosted by WSAC

g) *1:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. Proclamation Recognizing National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Chair Janicki reconvened the proceedings at 1:00 p.m. and introduced Developmental Disabilities Program Coordinator Jess Nelson.

Ms. Nelson shared a PowerPoint presentation and noted that it was the 80th Anniversary of National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Ms. Nelson shared additional information about supported employment and noted that over 100 adults with developmental disabilities were employed by Skagit County businesses.

Ms. Nelson recognized 3 providers in Skagit County that included Chinook Enterprises, Sherwood, and Work Opportunities and shared her appreciation for the many businesses that supported employment. She also welcomed businesses interested in learning more to reach out for information at: skagitddprogram@co.skagit.wa.us or 360-416-1500.

Commissioner Browning read a Proclamation recognizing October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The Commissioners thanked Ms. Nelson for sharing information with the community.

Link to PowerPoint presentation and Proclamation:

<https://www.skagitcounty.net/CountyCommissioners/Documents/AgendaPackets/10062025.zip>

Chair Janicki recessed the proceedings at 1:12 p.m.

~~h) *1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Presentation of Certificate of Commendation to Marty Shepard~~ **(Cancelled)**

i) *3:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. Public Works - Michael See, Director:

Commissioner Browning reconvened the proceedings at 3:17 p.m., excused Chair Janicki and introduced County Engineer Tom Weller and Project Manager Devin Willard.

Mr. Willard provided a PowerPoint presentation and background information about the Marine Drive/Rosario Road/Marine Wye Drive Intersection Right-of-Way designation. He reviewed the project location, project funds, project schedule and road history. He noted that the County had received \$2,609,000 in federal funding and that the project costs were 100% covered by the grant. Mr. Willard said that the project funding conditions required the project be completed by December 31, 2029.

Mr. Willard reviewed the project timeline and noted that project design was expected to be completed in late 2026, followed by a call for bids, and that construction was expected to begin in Spring 2027.

Discussion was held regarding liability, construction staging, and stormwater management.

Link to PowerPoint presentation:

<https://www.skagitcounty.net/CountyCommissioners/Documents/AgendaPackets/10062025.zip>

1. Public Hearing: To Consider Testimony Regarding Designating Parcel Number P19107 as County Road Right-of-Way for Rosario Road #10310 to be known as the Rosario Roundabout #10315

Commissioner Browning opened the public hearing at 3:25 p.m.

Philip Madden shared that he had questions about the roundabout that he would hold for a future opportunity.

Heidi Fish of Anacortes shared her support for the roundabout project, and her appreciation for safety improvements.

Franky Parker had questions regarding roundabout design.

Seeing no further public testimony forthcoming, Commissioner Wesen made a motion to close the public hearing at 3:28 p.m. Commissioner Browning seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

2. Possible Action: Resolution to Approve County Property (P19107) be Designated, Established and Included as Part of the County Road Right-of-Way for Rosario Road #10310 to be known as the “Rosario Roundabout” #10315

A motion was made by Commissioner Wesen to approve a Resolution approving County Property (P19107) be designated, established, and included as part of the County's road right-of-way for Rosario Road. **(Resolution No. R20250236)** Commissioner Browning seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously. Chair Lisa Janicki's absence was excused

3. Miscellaneous

There were no miscellaneous items.

Commissioner Browning recessed the proceedings at 3:30 p.m.

j) *4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Proclamation Recognizing October 5-11, 2025 as 4-H Week

Commissioner Browning reconvened the proceedings at 4:00 p.m.

Ms. Jones provided a PowerPoint presentation and shared that 485 members had enrolled in the past program year and that enrollment for 2025 had increased to over 500 members. She shared her appreciation for the volunteers and leaders who support youth in 4-H.

Ms. Jones reviewed various events attended throughout the year and noted that 4-H members had over 4,000 entries at the Skagit County Fair, and over 100 Skagit County youth exhibited at the Washington State Fair in Puyallup.

Ms. Jones introduced Arthur Hendricks and Ray Lightner to lead the Pledge of Allegiance, the 4-H Pledge, and share personal stories about their experience in 4-H programs.

The Commissioners thanked the 4-H members, leaders, and families for their participation and work in the community and shared their own personal stories from 4-H.

Commissioner Browning read a proclamation recognizing October 5-11, 2025 as National 4-H Week.

Link to PowerPoint presentation and Proclamation:

<https://www.skagitcounty.net/CountyCommissioners/Documents/AgendaPackets/10062025.zip>

III. ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Browning adjourned the proceedings at 4:20 p.m.

*Note, to obtain an audio or video recording of this meeting; please contact the Skagit County Commissioners' office.

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

Lisa Janicki, Chair

Peter Browning, Commissioner

Ron Wesen, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board