

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT TRANSIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Wednesday, August 19, 2015

The Skagit Transit Board of Directors met in regular session in Anacortes on Wednesday, August 19, 2015. Mayor Jill Boudreau called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, and Introductions.

**Members Present**

Jill Boudreau, City of Mount Vernon Mayor, Chair  
Lisa Janicki, Skagit County Commissioner  
Ron Wesen, Skagit County Commissioner  
Will Reichardt, Skagit County Sheriff  
Mike Anderson, City of Sedro Woolley, Mayor  
Lauri Gere, City of Anacortes, Mayor  
Steve Sexton, City of Burlington, Mayor, Vice Chair  
Marge Root, Labor Representative (non-voting member)

**Members Absent**

Rick DeGloria, City of Burlington, Council member  
Dale Ragan, City of Mount Vernon, Council member  
Kenneth Dahlstedt, Skagit County Commissioner

**Staff Present**

Dale O'Brien, Executive Director  
Motoko Pleasant, Finance Manager  
Troy Fair, Operations Manager  
Al Schaner, Maintenance Manager  
Carolyn Chase, Planner  
Mary Lozeau, Clerk of the Board

**Member of Public**

Andrew Arvidson, Anacortes  
Colette Arvidson, Anacortes  
Sally Hill, Anacortes  
Gayle Espen, Anacortes  
Flo Seaman, Anacortes  
Joanne Jones, Anacortes  
Eleanor Clardy, Anacortes  
Cecil Clardy, Anacortes  
Marilou Mallet, Anacortes  
Ellen Baunum, Mount Vernon  
Donna Pitcher-Oakland, Anacortes  
Alan Oakland, Anacortes  
John Lee  
Carol Ehlers, Anacortes  
Elizabeth McLean, Anacortes  
Vince Streans, Anacortes  
Carol Havens, Anacortes  
Susan Reynolds, Anacortes

**Providing Legal Counsel**

**I Public Comment:**

Ms. Ehlers of Anacortes asked if there is a public hearing today. Ms. Boudreau answered yes for the Six Year Transit Development Plan. Ms. Ehlers stated there was a public notice for this meeting published on July 13th with the Burlington City Council Chambers listed as the location. There was no other public notice published with a change of venue. Ms. Ehlers stated if you subscribe to the Anacortes American and happened to read the lengthy article you might have learned about the change of venue. Chair Boudreau asked staff to address the public notice after public comment.

Ms. Pitcher-Oakland of Dewey Beach shared a petition and a map and stated she is sight impaired and representing people who want Fixed Route and Paratransit service in the unserved area of Dewey Beach and Campbell Lake. Ms. Pitcher-Oakland noted their request is legitimate since they are paying for these services in their property taxes. Ms. Pitcher-Oakland stated in the 1980's this area was voted into the Public Transportation Benefit Area. Ms. Pitcher-Oakland stated after examining Skagit Transit's Six Year Transportation Development Plan enacting a Dewey Beach route would comply with WA State Transportation System goals and local comprehensive planning objectives. Ms. Pitcher-Oakland noted Dewey Beach residents do their shopping on the internet reducing revenue to local businesses and WA state sales taxes. Providing bus service to Dewey Beach would bring people to retail establishments versus Amazon and eBay. Ms. Pitcher-Oakland stated on an environmental level a Dewey Beach bus route would aid in promoting energy conservation by reducing the number of vehicles on Highway 20 and other streets in Skagit County.

This goes along with WA State Developmental Board of Transportations goal of reducing congestion on Highway 20 with 18,000 vehicles traveling this route daily. Ms. Pitcher-Oakland stated WA State will be spending \$16 billion dollars to reduce congestion by installing a roundabout at Sharps Corner. Ms. Pitcher-Oakland noted it would be much easier to send a bus to Dewey Beach. Decreasing the number of vehicles reduces toxic fuel emission and the use of fossil fuels. Reducing the number of vehicles can impact the number of auto accidents caused by impatient drivers as well as reduce the blood pressure of people in traffic.

Ms. Pitcher-Oakland stated in the area of safety and mobility Skagit Transit's mission statement indicates they will provide safe transportation however they provide no transportation to Dewey Beach and Campbell Lake. Currently the residents in this area are shut-ins and have three options for transportation. First, they can rely on family and friends to help with transportation for shopping and doctor appointments for medical attention. Ms. Pitcher-Oakland noted not everyone has family and friends to help and they are stuck at home which becomes a prison. Secondly, they can rely on taxi service. A one way trip to Anacortes is \$20.00. Ms. Pitcher-Oakland stated besides the monetary burden this places on people they are also uncertain about their safety with taxi services since recently a woman was killed in a local taxi. The third option for Dewey Beach transportation is to catch Island Transit 411 route that travels Highway 20 twelve times a day. Ms. Pitcher-Oakland noted that you must call Island Transit and request the ride as well as flag the driver to stop. The return trip involves crossing Highway 20.

Ms. Pitcher-Oakland reported stewardship would increase Skagit Transit's relationship with Island Transit who is working to improve their own transit system. Ms. Pitcher-Oakland stated Island Transit would like to transfer some Skagit patrons to their own bus system to give more service to their own County. Good stewardship would also involve serving people who have been unserved in favor of those who live closer to Anacortes center of town. Ms. Pitcher-Oakland noted residents of Dewey Beach have expressed animosity with Skagit Transit when they see empty fixed route transit buses in Anacortes however, they cannot get service in their area. Ms. Pitcher-Oakland stated Skagit Transit's Six Year Transit Development Plan has a goal to expand service to current unserved areas.

Ms. Pitcher-Oakland stated residents of Dewey Beach area would be happy with two day fixed route service along with scheduled paratransit. Ms. Pitcher-Oakland stated more service would be requested if ridership shows the future need. Ms. Pitcher-Oakland provided a map with three possible locations. Harold's Market, Deception Pass Tours, and her home which she is willing to negotiate a land use agreement with Skagit Transit. Ms. Pitcher-Oakland described a family that had to resort to hiring a special transport vehicle to take their wheelchair bound child to doctor appointments and shopping because a wheelchair cannot fit inside a car or taxi. Ms. Pitcher-Oakland noted a paratransit vehicle is equipped with a lift for wheelchairs. Ms. Pitcher-Oakland stated many residents in the Dewey Beach area are ADA eligible for paratransit service and are desperate to live an active lifestyle interacting with others and the world at large which they can only do with paratransit service. Ms. Pitcher-Oakland noted paratransit service is not available because they live more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile outside of fixed route service area. Ms. Pitcher-Oakland asked the Board members to consider their request for fixed route bus service in Dewey Beach.

Chair Boudreau asked the Board members if they would like to address this request as New Business today or add this topic to the September agenda with option items provided by staff for the Board to consider. Mr. Sexton stated he prefers adding this to the September agenda so staff can present some options.

Mr. O'Brien stated that a lot of items have been brought to us today and suggested a public meeting to address those topics with the residents of Dewey Beach. Mr. O'Brien stated Skagit Transit is funded with sales tax not with property taxes. Mr. O'Brien stated staff would like to address items brought forward today and collect more information from a public meeting and bring that information to the Board.

Ms. Gere recommended staff conduct the public meeting process with Dewey Beach and Campbell Lake residents and present information back to the Board members. Ms. Gere noted that she has received calls concerning service to Marchs Point. Mr. O'Brien stated Island Transit was awarded \$2.3 million to continue to operate the County Connector providing the same level of service between Oak Harbor and Marchs Point.

Carol Ehlers stated there are County wide policies mandated by Growth Management Act on transportation. Item 3.7 under transportation states senior citizens and handicapped shall be provided an adequate budget for those unable to provide transportation for themselves. Ms. Ehlers

noted the Affordable Care Act provides to medical care for everyone however, we do not have transportation to access the medical care. Ambulances can only take people to emergency rooms. The emergency cannot deal with mental issues or dental care. There is no way to get medical care and your friends and family get tired of providing transportation. Ms. Ehlers noted that we put people in prison when they have done something wrong. Mentally ill individuals are not put in homes anymore because that is incarceration unless they commit a crime. Ms. Ehlers stated if you are elderly and unable to drive you are supposed to live in a small box in an old folks home in the city. Ms. Ehlers noted in the United States there is no concept for transportation for young and old unable to drive.

Ms. Ehlers suggested a sub group public meeting for the Dewey Beach area which has already organized their needs and have a specific request. Ms. Ehlers stated the rest of Fidalgo Island need a public meeting too.

**II Consent / Action Items:**

- a) Approval of Minutes
- b) Approval of Claims and Payroll
  - July Payroll Direct Deposits and Checks # 15431 - # 15457 ..... \$ 555,646.07
  - July Direct federal withholding transfer ..... \$ 119,982.94
  - July Checks # 30909 - #31009 ..... \$ 246,782.30

**Mr. Sexton moved to approve all Consent / Action items. Ms. Janicki seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**III Full Discussion/Action Items:**

- a) Monthly Budget Update

Ms. Pleasant reported Skagit Transit received \$868,228 in sales tax revenue in the month of July. This compares with \$799,166 in July of 2014. This is an 8.6% or \$69,062 increase over last year with a year to date increase of 6.5% or \$344,195. Ms. Pleasant reported Skagit Transit received \$405,714 state and federal grant reimbursement.

Ms. Pleasant stated expenses included equipment lease for Skagit Station staining project. Capital expenses included transmission overhaul. Fuel is within budget and all other expenses were as expected.

**Ms. Janicki moved to approve the Monthly Budget Update. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

- b) Public Hearing for Six Year 2015-2020 Transit Development Plan

Ms. Boudreau asked staff for an explanation for the Legal Notice location. Ms. Chase stated Carol Ehlers informed her yesterday via phone there was an error in the Legal Notice in the Skagit Valley Herald stating this meeting was to be held in Burlington. Ms. Chase noted Skagit Valley Herald is one of the places staff publishes notice of public hearings as well as, our website, posted on all buses, and at transfer stops. Ms. Chase reported the Draft Transit Development Plan and our website had the correct location. The address was correct with the exception of the Skagit Valley Herald. Ms. Chase suggested as an alternative to conduct the public meeting for the Six Year 2015-2020 Transit Development Plan at the September 16<sup>th</sup> regularly scheduled Board meeting.

**Mr. Anderson made a motion to change the Public Hearing for the Transit Development Plan to September Board meeting. Mr. Sexton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Ms. Gere moved to table Resolution 2015-06 Approving the 2015-2020 Transportation Development Plan to the September meeting agenda. Mr. Sexton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

c) Report of Grant Projects and Awards

Mr. O'Brien reported Resolution 2010-09 authorized the Executive Director to sign grant agreements upon Board approval of the report detailing the project, amount of grant award and budget impact to the Agency. Mr. O'Brien stated Skagit Transit has been awarded Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funds. Funds will be transferred to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 for award and administration.

Bus Stop seating \$7,638 for purchase and installation of single/double seats attached to bus stop sign posts at highly used transit stops in the urban areas of Skagit Transit's service area.

Bike Shelter \$27,000 for purchase and installation of a bike shelter at March's Point Park and Ride. The project increases the number of bike rack spaces from 4 to up to 14 and provides shelter from the weather elements.

Mr. O'Brien noted Skagit Transit's budget impact and local match for the two projects is \$5,725.00.

**Mr. Sexton moved to approve Report of Grant Projects and Awards. Ms. Janicki seconded the motions. The motion passed unanimously.**

d) Resolution 2015-05 Authorize Disposal of Surplus Vehicles

Mr. Schaner stated four surplus vehicles are ready for disposal. Two Fixed Route coaches and two Vanpool vans that staff has declared excess; all having exceeded their useful lives and scheduled to be replaced with new vehicles.

Mr. Schaner stated staff requests disposal of these assets by sale through an open or sealed bid auction. Pursuant to RCW 46.70, the Auctioneer shall be a licensed and bonded Vehicle Dealer. The only such auction house in close proximity to Skagit Transit for transferring the vehicles is Berglund and Jones Auctioneers, Inc. in Bellingham. Auction dates to be arranged at a later date.

Mr. Wesen inquired about vehicle 877 with 65,522 miles being sent to auction. Mr. Schaner stated the vehicle has developed transmission issues and staff has determined it would be best to surplus this vehicle instead of continued repairs. Ms. Janicki asked how useful life of a vehicle is defined. Mr. Schaner answered years of service and condition.

**Mr. Anderson moved to authorize the Disposal of Surplus Vehicles via the auction process. Ms. Gere seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**IV Information Items:**

Mr. O'Brien reported the Chuckanut Park & Ride Port-a-Potty will be installed soon. Mr. O'Brien stated one million dollars has been awarded to Island Transit and Skagit Transit to share \$500,000 each for the Everett Express County Connector route between Oak Harbor and Skagit County. Mr. O'Brien noted Island Transit is fare free and have no fare boxes on their vehicles. In order for the money to be awarded there is a provision that Island Transit install fare boxes. Mr. O'Brien stated both agencies are working with Washington State Office of Financial Management to get the money awarded perhaps with fare boxes installed for that specific Island Transit express route. Ms. Gere inquired if more stops can be added between Skagit County and Oak Harbor. Mr. O'Brien stated the County Connector Express routes are designed to move people quickly between the two counties with fewer stops along the way.

**VI Unfinished Business:**

**VII New Business:**

**Chair Boudreau adjourned the meeting at 1:39 p.m.**

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Mayor Jill Boudreau, Chair  
Skagit Transit Board of Directors

Attest:

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Mary Lozeau,  
Clerk of Skagit Transit Board