SKAGIT TRANSIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wednesday, July 28, 2025

The Skagit Transit Board of Directors met in a virtual special meeting conducted via Microsoft Teams. Commissioner Peter Browning, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m., followed by roll call.

Members Present

Members Present via Teleconference

Peter Browning, Skagit County Commissioner (Chair)
Lisa Janicki, Skagit County Commissioner (Vice Chair)
Ron Wesen, Skagit County Commissioner
Peter Donovan, City of Mount Vernon, Mayor
Julia Johnson, City of Sedro Woolley, Mayor
Matt Miller, City of Anacortes, Mayor
Bill Aslett, City of Burlington, Mayor
Joe Burns, City of Sedro-Woolley, Councilmember
Carolyn Moulton, City of Anacortes, Councilmember
Judy Jones, Community Advisory Committee (Chair, non-voting member)

Members Absent:

Tracy Cook, Labor Representative (non-voting member)

Providing Legal Counsel:

Cedric Adams, WSTIP Suzane Michael, Fisher & Phillips LLP

Staff Present

Joe Stewart, Director of Finance Chris Arkle, Manager of Finance and Accounting Nate Burns, Procurement and Contracts Coordinator Maleah Kuzminsky, Planning and Outreach Manager Eric Gambill, Security Supervisor

Staff Present via Teleconference:

Larissa Farrell, Clerk of the Board Crystle Stidham, Chief Executive Officer Jennifer Davidson, Director of HR and Risk Management Kelly Myiow, Payroll and Leave Administrator Ryan Long, Maintenance Parts Technician Jason Kelley, NW Technology

Members of Public Present

Members of the Public Present via Teleconference:

Colleen; Mike Kerr; Dodo; Ralph Kramden; Resident; Resident; Andrea M; 123; Bell Lugosi; 1-425-319-2078

1 Executive Session - RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)

The board met in executive session to review potential litigation. Mr. Browning stated that the Board would meet for 30 minutes from 12:05 p.m. to 12:35 p.m. At 12:35 p.m., Mr. Browning reentered the room and announced they would need a 5-minute extension. At 12:41 p.m., Mr. Browning again re-entered the room and announced another 5-minute extension. The board reentered the room and resumed the regular meeting at 12:48 p.m.

2 Full Discussion/Action Items:

a) Approve Communication Related to Potential Litigation

Ms. Janicki clarified that the communication (letter) referenced here (and attached to these minutes) is a letter to Skagit Transit staff and would be distributed by the Human Resources department to employees.

Mr. Wesen moved to approve the communication related to potential litigation. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b) Approve Legal Expenses

Ms. Janicki moved to table this action item. Mr. Aslett seconded to table this action item.

Peter Browning adjourned the meeting at 12:51 p.m.

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lisa Janicki
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Lisa Janicki, Vice Chair, Skagit Transit Board of Directors

Signed by:

Larissa Farrell

Larissa Farrell, Clerk of Skagit Transit Board



Memo 00.2025.13

To: All Employees

From: Commissioner Peter Browning, Chair of the Skagit Transit Board of Directors, on behalf of the Skagit Transit Board of Directors

Date: July 28, 2025

Subject: Media Inquiries

As many of you are aware, a former disgruntled employee who was terminated in 2023 has been publicly making a number of false or grossly exaggerated claims and has filed a lawsuit against Crystle Stidham and Skagit Transit. These actions have understandably raised questions and concerns among employees. The Board is aware of the allegations, claims, and lawsuit, has heard from both sides on the matter, and supports Crystle in her defense against the claims. In fact, both the State Auditor and an independent workplace investigator reviewed these accusations prior to the lawsuit being filed and found no evidence of malfeasance.

Due to anticipated legal action and media attention, we do not expect to make further public comments at this time. However, we want to reassure you that we recognize the impact these claims may have and the uncertainty they can create. The Skagit Transit Board remains confident in Crystle's leadership and the organization's continued ability to fulfill its mission with professionalism and the highest integrity.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we navigate this lengthy legal process.

Regards,

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Commissioner Peter Browning
Chair of the Skagit Transit Board of Directors