

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, with Chair Peter Browning, and Commissioner Ron Wesen present. Commissioner Lisa Janicki excused.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Browning called the to order at 2:03 p.m.

II. AGENDA:

a) Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Commissioner Wesen to approve the Record of the Proceedings for October 24, 2022. Chair Browning seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously. Peter Browning, Commissioner's absence was excused

1. Board of Health Record of the Proceedings for October 24, 2022. **(Approved)**

b) Nomination and Election of 2023 Board of Health Chair

A motion was made by Commissioner Wesen to approve to appoint Peter Browning as the Board of Health Chair for 2023. Chair Browning seconded the motion.

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

c) Public Health Director Remarks

Public Health Director Keith Higman shared that he had started work as the Public Health Director one week ago and he commented on the friendly, helpful staff working as a team in the department. He said he was looking forward to working with the Board and working for the health of the community.

d) Environmental Health Fee Schedule Presentation and Request to Call for Public Hearing

Environmental Health Manager Britt Pfaff Dunton reviewed the proposed updated schedule of charges with the Board. Some of the fees had not been reviewed or updated since 2013. Public Health was recommending moderate increases across most programs since the fees were designed to help support program costs. Programs included retail food safety; pools, spas, and camps; liquid waste and on-site septic systems; and drinking water: quality and quantity.

If the Board agreed to call for a public hearing to consider testimony regarding updating the fee schedule, Public Health would be reaching out to permit holders to inform them of the upcoming changes, posting public information in the newspaper, and on social media in order to gather feedback. Public Health was recommending, if approved, the updated schedule of charges to take effect April 1, 2023.

The Board thanked Ms. Pfaff Dunton for the presentation, understood the need to adjust the fees, and suggested that future fee updates take place more regularly and gradual.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wesen to approve the Resolution calling for a public hearing to consider testimony regarding the adoption of a Schedule of Charges. **(Resolution No. R20230012)** Chair Browning seconded the motion.

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

Written comments to eh@co.skagit.wa.us were due on February 22, 2023. The Public Hearing would take place on February 23, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

e) Population Health Trust Update and New Staff Introduction

Community Health Analyst Kristen Ekstran provided an update on four projects being worked on by the Population Health Trust in childcare retention and expansion, perinatal behavioral health supports, Latinx mental health care, and food security. In addition, work was continuing on expanding the navigators and promotoras program for healthcare, telehealth, and the development of a robust workforce “pipeline” from school- to-career within the health sector.

Presentation:

<https://www.skagitcounty.net/CountyCommissioners/Documents/AgendaPackets/O1162023.zip>

f) New Staff Introductions

Community Health Manager Jennifer Sass-Walton introduced new staff in the department:

Elena Arndt, RD, Community Health Coordinator – Registered Dietitian

Isla Shouse, Community Health Coordinator, Access to Care

g) Health Officer Update

Health Officer Dr. Howard Leibrand provided an overview of diseases being monitored in the world-wide health community: an Ebola outbreak in Uganda that was having success in treatment and containment, successes with the Mpox vaccine program, Avian Influenza, RSV, Influenza, and COVID-19. He also discussed a recent law passed to help the opioid epidemic.

Discussion was held regarding local hospitals in the region. Dr. Leibrand stated that 8 of the 11 hospitals were full.

h) Public Comment

No one from the public provided comments. Dr. Leibrand stated he was happy to be working with the new Skagit County Public Health Director Keith Higman, who he had previously worked with in his former role.

III. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Browning adjourned the proceedings at 3:06 p.m. *Note, to obtain an audio or video recording of this meeting; please contact the Skagit County Commissioners' office.

**BOARD OF HEALTH
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Ron Wesen, Chair

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner

Lisa Janicki, Commissioner

Dr. Connie Davis, At Large Board Member

Dr. Aaron Katz, At Large Board Member

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board