

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, December 9, 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. - 10:00 a.m. Public Works - Michael See, Director:

1. Presentation/Possible Action: 14-Year Ferry Capital Improvement Plan

Ferry Operations Division Manager Rachel Rowe presented a PowerPoint presentation outlining the Guemes Island Fourteen-Year Capital Facilities Plan (2026–2039), which served as a general guide for the effective, efficient, and continuous operation of the Skagit County ferry system. She emphasized that projects must be included in both the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Fourteen-Year Plan to qualify for grant funding. The Plan supported the County Engineer and Ferry Division in planning capital projects related to ferry system replacement and improvement.

Ms. Rowe described the Plan as a flexible planning tool, noting that final decisions rest with the Board of County Commissioners and the County Engineer.

She also provided historical context, highlighting that the M/V Guemes was launched in 1979 with a capacity of 21 cars and 99 passengers. Additionally, she reviewed the legal framework governing ferry operations, referencing RCW 36.54.015, RCW 36.81.121, RCW 47.56.725(4), and WAC 136-400. Information on system values, projected expenditures, and anticipated revenue was also shared.

Capital Projects Overview:

- **2026**
 - Value Engineering – \$549,000
 - Anacortes Parking Lot – \$426,000
- **2027**
 - Shoreside Facilities Design – \$1,000,000
- **2028**
 - Ferry Replacement Project Construction – \$18,300,000
- **2029**
 - Ferry Replacement Project – \$13,200,000
 - Guemes Island Parking Lot – \$1,900,000
 - Bridge Coatings, Aprons, Electrical & Hydraulic Equipment – \$5,800,000

A discussion followed regarding grant funding matches, ferry replacement, the potential for an electric ferry, new engine operations, and the role of the Temporary Technical Advisory Group.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wesen to approve the Guemes Island Ferry Fourteen-Year Ferry Capital Improvement Plan 2026-2039. **(Resolution No. R20250302)** Commissioner Browning seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

Link to meeting materials:

<https://www.skagitcounty.net/CountyCommissioners/Documents/AgendaPackets/12082025.zip>

2. Miscellaneous

None provided.

Chair Janicki recessed the proceedings at 9:29 a.m.

c) *10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Board of Health Meeting

The Board of Health met at 10:00 a.m. Record of the Proceedings for this meeting can be found at: www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/BoardOfHealth.

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

Chair Janicki reconvened the proceedings at 11:30 a.m.

1. [Public Comment Period](#)

Elke Macartney of Anacortes shared comments regarding battery energy storage systems, natural resources, and forest lands.

Ingrid Hinton of Skagit County shared comments regarding battery energy storage systems and due process.

Rebecca Peck of Bow shared comments regarding deportation and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity.

Larita Humble of Lake Cavanaugh shared comments regarding the North Shore Drive Road closure.

2. County and Individual Success Stories

No success stories were shared.

3. [Miscellaneous \(announcements, letters, etc.\)](#)

The Commissioners discussed several topics, including the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) process related to battery energy storage systems, a potential flooding event, the Population Health Trust Advisory Committee, the Washington State Board of Health, and food bank donations.

Chair Janicki recessed the proceedings at 11:53 a.m.

e) *12:45 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. Presentation: State of the County

Chair Janicki reconvened the proceedings at 12:47 p.m.

Deputy County Administrator Jennifer Johnson provided a PowerPoint presentation on the state of Skagit County for 2025. She referenced the Skagit County 2022–2032 Strategic Plan, adopted on June 28, 2022.

Key accomplishments and topics discussed included:

- Strategic Plan Transparency: Development of a public-facing website using Clearpoint Software, enabling residents to view Strategic Plan measures, data, and progress goals.
- 2026 Commissioner Budget Objectives:
 - Long-term financial stability
 - Healthy reserves
 - Sustainability
 - Strategic Plan investments
 - Full cost reimbursement for services
 - Current budget overview
- 2026 Budget Reductions:
 - Transition of the Senior Meal Program
 - Workforce reduction
 - Hiring freeze and implementation of furlough days
- Public Safety Tax: HB 2015 was adopted on November 10, with collections beginning April 1, 2026.
- Budget Transparency: Launch of Questica OpenBook software to allow public access to proposed budgets, real-time revenue and expenses, and fund-specific expenditures.
- North Star Initiatives:

- Collaboration with cities to pool opioid settlement funds for the STAR Center and transitional housing
- Hosting of the inaugural symposium
- Launch of STAR Radio for first responders to track behavioral health and homelessness-related calls
- Establishment of the North Star Interlocal Agreement
- Skagit STAR Center: Scheduled to open in early winter 2026 in partnership with Pioneer Human Services.
- Recognition: The Washington State Association of Counties honored the North Star Project with an Impact Award.
- Crisis Response Team: Formed to provide specialized training for deputies in crisis response and de-escalation.
- Veteran Services: Contracted with NineLine Veteran Services to support staffing at the Skagit Vets Connect Center.
- Haller Farm Purchase Agreement: Approved on April 22, 2025, placing approximately 180 acres under a Skagit County Farmland Legacy easement.
- Comprehensive Plan Update: Adopted on June 23, 2025.
- Permit Software: Tyler Technologies online permit system implemented in November 2024.
- Agritourism Proposal: Under review by the Skagit County Planning Commission.
- Climate Impact Advisory Committee: Established to guide climate change risk reduction and adaptation strategies.
- Public Works Projects: Included Marblemount Bridge, Asphalt Overlay, and Cedardale Culvert improvements.
- Guemes Island Ferry Replacement: Ongoing meetings with the Temporary Technical Advisory Group.
- Downtown Campus Proposal: Commissioners plan to hire a consultant team to market a financing proposal.
- 2025 Law and Justice Capital Projects.
- Security Enhancements: A Security Manager was hired to assess campus security.
- Public Defense Standards: Adopted in March 2024 by the Washington State Bar Association Council, reducing public defender caseloads by approximately two-thirds.
- PulsePoint Connectivity: Skagit County became a PulsePoint Connected community.
- Emergency Management Feasibility Study: Evaluating a potential regional public safety campus to consolidate training, collaboration, and technology for emergency services. The proposed facility would house the Sheriff's Office, Emergency Management, and Skagit 911.
- Parks, Recreation, and Fair: Celebrated its 60th anniversary in September 2024. Three new parks are in development: Studley Community Park, Cascadian Falls Park, and Big Rock Yudwasta Park. A Washington State RCO grant was awarded for a 60-acre acquisition project at Big Rock Yudwasta Park, expected to reopen in early 2026.

Discussion followed regarding the County's 2025 accomplishments, its clear vision, and ongoing collaboration with cities.

Chair Janicki recessed the proceedings at 1:37 p.m.

f) 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Work Session with Risk Management

Chair Janicki reconvened the proceedings at 2:20 p.m.

The purpose of the work session was for Risk Management to provide an update on the Centralized Security System.

Attendees:

Chair Lisa Janicki
Commissioner Ron Wesen
Commissioner Peter Browning
County Administrator Trisha Logue
Deputy County Administrator Jennifer Johnson
Human Resources/Risk Management Director Bonnie Beddall
Human Resources/Risk Management Security Manager Michael Krick

Central Services Director Russell Walker
Facilities Management Director Ken Hansen
Information Services Project Manager Jessica Boffey
Systems Administrator Brennan Wright

III. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Janicki adjourned the proceedings at 2:45 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

Ron Wesen, Commissioner

Peter Browning, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board