

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, January 5, 2026, with Chair Ron Wesen, and Commissioner Peter Browning present.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Wesen called the proceedings to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. AGENDA:

a) 10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Work Session - Risk Management

The purpose of the work session was for Risk Management to provide an annual review of Skagit County's Accident Prevention Plan.

Attendees:

Chair Ron Wesen  
Commissioner Peter Browning  
County Administrator Trisha Logue  
Deputy County Administrator Jennifer Johnson  
Human Resources/Risk Management Director Bonnie Beddall  
Risk and Safety Manager Mary Houben  
Chief Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Erik Pedersen  
Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Frederick Haist  
Safety Technician Brian Masonholder  
Member of the public Patrick Donnelly

Chair Wesen recessed the proceedings at 10:23 a.m.

Link to work session documents:

<https://www.skagitcounty.net/CountyCommissioners/Documents/AgendaPackets/01052026.zip>

b) \*11:00 a.m. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 11:00 a.m. and led the attendees in the salute to the flag.

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

1. Public Comment (Specifically related to agenda item)

None provided.

2. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:

The Commissioners discussed Consent Agenda items 4 and 5.

3. CONSENT AGENDA FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2026 (items 1 through 5):

A motion was made by Commissioner Browning to approve Consent Agenda items 1 through 5, including all items requiring ratification, vouchers and warrants for Monday, January 5, 2026. Chair Wesen seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

a) COMMISSIONERS:

1. Record of the Proceedings for Monday, December 29, 2025. **(Approved)**

2. Record of the Proceedings for Tuesday, December 30, 2025. **(Approved)**

3. Record of the Proceedings for Wednesday, December 31, 2025. **(Approved)**

b) FACILITIES MANAGEMENT:

4. Resolution to call for a public hearing to consider testimony regarding an intent to lease approximately 1,578 square feet of a County-owned building identified as 508 South 2nd Street, Suite 101 in Mount Vernon, commonly known as the GTE Telephone Building. The public hearing is scheduled to take place on Monday, January 26, 2026, at 1:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as possible in the Skagit County Commissioners Hearing Room located at 1800 Continental in Mount Vernon. Attendance will be in-person or remote by phone: 1 (253) 215-8782 Meeting ID: 871 8000 1980 or by computer, tablet, or smartphone through this link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87180001980?pwd=eEVGUGkxZ3NkQkhYSnhBMEo2RTQrdz09>. **(Resolution No. R20260001)**

c) INFORMATION SERVICES:

5. Amendment No. 2 to Astound Business Solutions (fka Wave Business Solutions) Agreement No. C20150255 to provide high-speed fiber connection to Skagit County for wireless connectivity. This Amendment provides for a one-time, non-recurring installation of dark fiber strand at Skagit Vets Connect Veterans Center, located at 160 Cascade Place in Burlington. Compensation is based on a monthly service fee of \$500. The Amendment shall commence on the date of execution, continue for an initial term of 24 months, and automatically renew thereafter. All other terms and conditions of the original Agreement and prior Amendment shall remain in effect. **(Amendment No. A20260001)**

4. 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 HMA from Clearing Fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$503,560.08 (Transmittal No. C-288-25); and
  - b) ACH Transfer Request Form and Certification to HMA from Clearing Fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$140,887.20 (Transmittal No. C-289-25); and
  - c) Warrants numbered 611234 through 611469 from Clearing Fund 696 in the total dollar amount of \$2,873,884.11 (Transmittal No. C-1-26).

Chair Wesen recessed the proceedings at 11:04 a.m.

d) [\\*1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Interview Candidates for Skagit County Commissioner Vacancy - District 3](#)

Chair Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 1:00 p.m. and announced that Commissioner Lisa Janicki, elected as Commissioner for District 3 and affiliated with the Democratic Party, had resigned from office. Her last day of service was January 2, 2026, creating a vacancy in the office of Skagit County Commissioner, District No. 3, effective January 3, 2026.

Chair Wesen explained that under Washington State law, if a county commissioner vacates their position before the end of their term, the county central committee of the commissioner's political party must submit three nominees to the Board of County Commissioners for consideration. The office of County Commissioner is a partisan elective position, the Washington State Constitution requires that vacancies in partisan county offices be filled by appointment within 60 days by the remaining members of the county legislative authority. The appointee must be from the same political party as the commissioner who vacated the office and must be selected from the list of three nominees provided by that party's county central committee. If the Board does not agree on an appointment within 60 days, the governor will appoint from the same list within 30 days. The person appointed will serve until a successor is elected at the next general election and assumes office.

The Commissioners proceeded to randomly draw the candidates' names in the following order for interviews:

1. Amy Wood
2. Jeremy Harrison-Smith

3. Joseph (Joe) John Burns

Human Resources/Risk Management Director Bonnie Beddall along with the Commissioners, evaluated candidates on key areas including qualifications, leadership ability, policy decision-making, criteria for measuring successful policy decisions, strategic vision for Skagit County, fiscal budget management, vision for Skagit County, values, approach to public service, dedication to non-partisan governance, strategies for preserving agriculture and natural resources, and their reasons for pursuing the position.

Discussion ensued about working together as a community, inclusivity, fostering collaboration, and defining how the County Commissioners could contribute to these initiatives.

e) [3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Executive Session \(Appointment Qualification - RCW 42.30.110\(1\)\(h\)\)](#)

1. [Call Public Meeting to Order](#)

Chair Wesen announced a change to the schedule. The executive session would now start at 2:23 p.m., rather than 3:00 p.m., and would conclude at 2:45 p.m., instead of 3:30 p.m.

Chair Wesen recessed the proceedings at 2:23 p.m.

2. Executive Session

Chair Ron Wesen, Commissioner Peter Browning, County Administrator Trisha Logue, Deputy County Administrator Jennifer Johnson, Communications Manager Jenn Rogers, and Chief Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Erik Pedersen attended the executive session.

The executive session began at 2:23 p.m. and ended at 2:45 p.m.

3. [Reconvene Public Meeting](#)

Chair Wesen reconvened the proceedings at 2:47 p.m., announced that no action had taken place, and noted that the executed session adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

f) [\\*3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Discussion/Possible Action: Appoint Candidate to fill the Vacancy in Skagit County Commissioner - District 3](#)

The Commissioners thanked the candidates for offering their time and being committed to serving the residents of Skagit County.

A motion was made by Commissioner Browning to approve the nomination of Joseph (Joe) Burns to fill the vacancy in Skagit County Commissioner - District 3. **(Resolution No. R20260002)** Chair Wesen seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

Chair Wesen announced that although the nomination for the District 3 seat had been approved, the oath of office would not be administered today. Under Washington State law, candidates must post a bond before assuming office. Once the bond was filed, a date would be scheduled to administer the oath. Details would be shared in a press release published on the County's website and social media channels.

g) 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Executive Session (None Scheduled as of the Date of this Notice)

None scheduled.

h) 6:00 p.m. Social Event - Housing Authority of Skagit County Executive Director Finalist Meet and Greet (Skagit Station Meeting Room, 105 East Kincaid Street, Mount Vernon)

III. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Wesen adjourned the proceedings at 2:52 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**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ron Wesen, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Peter Browning, Commissioner

(Not yet qualified)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Burns, Commissioner

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Board