Public Hearing October 13, 1986 at 2:00 p.m.
Ordinance #PD-86-35, In the Matter of a Moratorium on Shoreline Permits for Aquaculture in District 1A, 1B and 1C

Public Hearing October 20, 1986, at 2:00 p.m.
Ordinance #PD-86-32, In the Matter of Adopting Amendments to Chapter 17.02.060(c) ICC [duplexes and triplexes).

Miscellaneous Planning Items of Interest

Oscar Granger, Island County Planning Director, reported receipt of a draft copy of the 1987 Puget Sound Water Quality Management EIS. A Public Hearing in Island County will be held at the Courthouse Annex on Tuesday, October 7, 1986. Mr. Granger will discuss the matter with the Board and put together comments on behalf of the County.

Mr. Granger will be participating with Keith Dearborn and another attorney, on a University of Washington panel regarding landuse - large lot zoning and resource preservation, October 17 and 18 at the Seattle Center.

HEARING HELD: CONTINUED FROM SEPTEMBER 2, 1986, USE APPROVAL 02/86, OAK HARBOR POLICE DEPARTMENT - SMALL ARMS FIRING RANGE

A Public Hearing was held at 2:00 p.m., continued from 2 September 1986, on the matter of Use Approval Application Number UA 02/86 by the Oak Harbor Police Department for a small arms firing range.

Oscar Granger, Island County Planning Director, confirmed that subsequent to the last Board hearing on the matter, a committee composed of Roy Allen, Island County Engineer; Richard Medina, Island County Sheriff; Stan Eelkema, Undersheriff; Chief Orr, OHPD; Lt. Tony Barge, OHPD; met twice, most recently Monday, September 8. Posted for review were aerial photos, one involving the 40 acre site owned by the City of Oak Harbor showing the specific 2½ acre site proposed, the adjacent North Whidbey Sportsman range the City currently uses; other photos represented other ranges around the county such as Green's Gun Range; South Whidbey Range; NAS Range; Central Whidbey Range currently in use by the Sheriff's Department in the area of OLF NAS Field. Other information posted, supplied by the City of Oak Harbor, related to the 40 acre site - a larger scale drawing of how the range would be situated on the site.

Mr. Granger discussed a September 19, 1986 report to the Board from the Firing Range Evaluation Committee. Noise, safety, accessibility, availability and economic considerations were discussed in an attempt to identify mitigating opportunities that would make the OHPD proposal acceptable to the community. Alternative locations were sought and discussed in light of both the City's immediate needs and the County's desire for a regional training center. The committee recommended the site as proposed by the City of Oak Harbor for the reasons enumerated in the report. The report has been made available for review to those interested.

It was noted by Mr. Granger that the Sheriff Medina indicated an interest in establishing a regional training center; the committee discussed the concept to some degree, and decided the concept would be one that would receive the support of all the agencies (federal, state, county and city) but determined this an item that cannot be dealt with in the timeframe for the OHPD request. They agreed to work together to try to arrive at a plan at some point in the future.

For those in the audience, Mr. Granger was able to use the aerial photo posted for the 40 acre site to indicate the distance from the site to: the nearest residence 1150'; the nearest point of the mobile home park 1300'; nearest residence to the East 1300'; 600' from the closest point of nearest residence behind the site; to the mobile home park to the South 1400'. Note ridge/topographic difference in elevation of about 50' to the top of the ridge. Between the excavation that would be necessary for the site, the build up of the berms around the site, the ridge top and trees, Mr. Granger believes there would be more than adequate protection for any stray rounds.

Mike Cray, National Rifle Association, representing the Law Enforcement

and Range Development Division, spoke on the specialized training required for law enforcement versus recreational shooting in general, noting specifically some of the tactical situations encountered by law enforcement officers which calls for a special range:

(1) Barricade-type shooting

Permanent barricades need to be placed so an officer can simulate shooting from behind a wall, barricade of any kind, either right or left handed - simulate "on-the-street" situations.

(2) Available cover situation

Mailboxes, fire hydrants, automobiles, i.e. a case wherein an officer may be caught in a situation and must find any available cover - a range being used by a sportsman group is hard to use and place these types of obstructions permanently into use.

(3) NRA encourages law enforcement agencies to train on their own ranges; many times law enforcement training is not compatible with recreational shooting.

(4) Law enforcement agencies face liability in training.

-Critical to show that law enforcement agents have been trained trained in every category

-Not adequate that officers only qualify for 25 yards 4 times a year from standing position at a target

°Supplement from "Law Enforcement Training Handbook" cites numerous liability cases in court and rulings against cities, counties and states, as well as the police officer himself.

As for the specific site under consideration, Mr. Cray feels that it appears it can be compatible with the countryside, surrounding hillsides lending adequate protection for back-stopping projectiles. It is recommended that ricochet baffles be placed in segments through the range to stop any ricochet hazard. He sees the potential of the site for a well regulated uninterrupted training schedule to fit the OHPD.

Commissioner Cole's impression was that the proposed range would be a known distance (KD) range and did not understand this to be a "bobbing target - FBI type" range, and asked confirmation of what is proposed.

Mr. Cray stated there would be no bobbing targets, confirming it would be a KD range, with barricades placed at 7 - 10 - 15 - 20 -25 yards; automatic weapons would be from a standing position basically from a shooting point to a shooting point. Mr. Cray commented, however, that NRA would like to see training done on moving targets - looking at the best possible training for the officers. NFA never promotes that the officer moves; the officer would be placed in a position and will fire from that position. The officer does not move with the firearm drawn.

Commissioner Dunlop continued on points of clarification --the original application indicating this to be a small arms range and no automatic weapons noted or rifle fire mentioned. If there is rifle fire, the NRA rules require 3.1 miles beyond the backstop for rifle fire, with a backstop and side berms around 30'. Mr. Cray confirmed this to be correct for an unbaffled range; small arms designation can include the machine gun.

Lt. Tony Barge confirmed the application for small arms range with rifles and automatic weapons they use considered to be a small arm -- 50 caliber before getting up into the larger arm limits. OHPD has no intention to use that type of weaponry. Other points of interest and clarification touched on by Lt. Barge included:

-need to enhance OHPD training because of liability responsibility and "absorb the training and bring it home and put it to use - implement it"

-range is needed to accommodate training in the manner that law enforcement groups accomplish training rather than borrowing a facility