There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

The Board will meet next in Special Session on September 13, 1994, beginning at 1:30 p.m., at the Camano Multipurpose Center, Camano Island, regarding a public hearing in connection with creating a Camano Island Community Council.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ISLAND COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Mike Shelton, Chairman

Dwain Colby, Member

[absent] Wm. L. McDowell, Member

BD OF CO. COMMISSIONERS EST ISLAND COUNTY 1853 WASHINGTON

ATTEST:

Art Hyland, Auditor & Ex-Officio Clerk of the Board

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ISLAND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS - MINUTES OF MEETING
SPECIAL SESSION - SEPTEMBER 13, 1994

The Board of Island County Commissioners met in Special Session on September 13, 1994 at 1:30 p.m. at the Camano Multipurpose Center, located at 141 North East Camano Drive, Camano Island, WA. Chairman Shelton, Commissioners Colby and McDowell were present along with Auditor Art Hyland. Approximately 15 citizens were present.

The Special Session was called for the purpose of holding an additional Public Hearing on a proposed Resolution on the matter of forming a Community Council for Camano Island.

At Public Hearing held August 16, 1994, it was noted a deficiency existed regarding the public noticing requirement of Chapter 36.105 RCW wherein public notice was to be posted in at least five places within the proposed community. Resolution #C-60-94 was approved which approved a special election to create a Community Council for Camano Island, to be held on the General Election, November 8, 1994, as set forth in said Resolution, subject to verification of the adequacy of public noticing of the hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING HELD: TO RECEIVE PUBLIC INPUT ABOUT AND TO CALL FOR A SPECIAL ELECTION TO CREATE A COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR CAMANO ISLAND AS AUTHORIZED BY 36.105 RCW.

Chairman Shelton opened the Public Hearing on Resolution #C-67-94 to receive public input regarding creating a Community Council for Camano Island by calling for a special election. He explained in order to comply fully with RCW 36.105, five notices of this Public Hearing were posted at the following locations: Island County Camano Annex, Camano Island Multipurpose Center, Camano Plaza Market, Elger Bay Grocery, and Huntington's Corner Grocery. He stated testimony at the previous public hearing was a matter of record and they welcomed new public testimony that had not been previously heard.

Mr. Ralph Ferguson, 1350 E. Center Lane, Camano Island, stated after reviewing additional information asked if this legislation was requested by the Island County Board of Commissioners since it only applied to Island County.

Commissioner Colby did remember reviewing the legislation, and stated it was proposed state wide, but passed as Island County being the only participant.

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Phil Lewis, 979 S. Cavalero Road, Camano Island, Chair of the Citizens for Camano Island Community Council, a volunteer group, stated that 62 people who carried petitions found very few who did not sign in favor of a Community Council on Camano Island. He quoted Ray Reid as saying "change is inevitable and growth is an option." He felt a Community Council was an option for organized growth. In his opinion, a Community Council would benefit the Planning Commission by giving them a clearer picture of the needs of Camano Island. He indicated there was a 12-car pile-up earlier that day on SR 532 because of the high traffic on Camano, but felt the Planning Commission, which is dominated by people from Whidbey Island chose not to make any changes to SR 532, but are very interested in changing things for Deception Pass. There is a need for a local focus in his opinion and felt it would be a positive contribution to getting the will of the people operating on Camano Island. He stated there was a 9% increase in the Stanwood School District last year and the population continues to grow so future development on Camano must be planned.

Commissioner Colby stated it was unfortunate that the first Public Hearing was not properly noticed, but appreciated the comments and in his opinion the Community Council was an excellent opportunity to have some positive input on land use matters as it will affect them in the future. He anticipated that other communities will ask Legislature for the opportunity for a Community Council if it turns out to be viable as expected. He felt people were the most sensitive about land use issues and in his opinion, the closer people were to the issues that affect them, the better. He was also glad there was a safety valve that allowed the Community Council to be eliminated if it did not turn out as anticipated.

Commissioner McDowell stated the Board did not have an option whether to approve the formation of the Community Council except to set the boundary and ascertain enough signatures were collected on the petition. He was concerned if it was in the public's interest, not only for Camano, but for the rest of Island County. He felt this legislation caused the Board to give away not only some authority, but some of their responsibility as the Board. He felt variations of the County's Comprehensive Plan and ordinances could result, which would have to be enforced as if they had voted on them. The ordinances would be in conformance, but they may be a lot different than those already established. These groups do not have the responsibility or ability to pay for this enforcement, which must be paid for by the County. In his opinion, it is bad legislation because it allows different groups within the County to create ordinances that everyone has to pay for without an opportunity to vote on it. He felt it may be unconstitutional and as a County Commissioner responsible for the whole financial well being of the County felt there would be a problem creating an entity that had no financial responsibility or ability to pay.

Commissioner McDowell also had a concern regarding zoning which had been consistent throughout the County, and did not want to set a new precedent by allowing different zoning on Camano Island and Whidbey Island.

Chairman Shelton felt it was unfortunate that people felt Island County could not deal on a County-wide basis with the variety of problems on both Islands including different parts of Whidbey Island as well as Camano Island. He felt the fears shared by many people on Camano Island were shared by many on Whidbey Island as well. He expressed his concerns that there would be another layer of elected officials who would be responsible to the people who voted for them, but would still be a another layer of government to go through for permits, etc. He was also concerned about forming several Community Councils who would add their "twist" to the Comprehensive Plan which was formulated as a County wide plan. In spite of his reservations, the Chair stated the law was passed and the people have the right to vote and hopefully in four years everyone will feel it was a wonderful thing.

9/13/94