

**BOARD OF ISLAND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MINUTES OF MEETING
NOVEMBER 27, 2007 – SPECIAL SESSION**

The Board of Island County Commissioners met in Special Session on November 27, 2007 beginning at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of attending a Town Hall meeting hosted by the State Department of Veterans' Affairs at the American Legion Post, 690 S.E. Barrington, Oak Harbor, Washington. Wm. L. McDowell, Chairman and John Dean, Member were present.

In Attendance

John Lee, Director of the State Department of Veterans' Affairs
Mike Gregoire, Washington First Gentleman
Senator Mary Margaret Haugen
State Representatives Chris Strow and Barbara Bailey
Patty Cohen, Oak Harbor Mayor
Jim Slowik, Oak Harbor Mayor-elect
Oak Harbor Councilwoman Sue Karahalios

Department Director John Lee facilitated a community discussion concerning veteran's issues in Washington State and how those issues may be better addressed by elected officials. Veteran Bob Fioritto sought support for legislation that would exclude disabled veterans' benefits from eligibility income thresholds for property tax exemptions.

Other topics presented by veterans included Federal health care policies; a new VA clinic coming to Mount Vernon in 2008; better publicity of benefits and programs available to veterans; improving subsidized transportation to Seattle veteran services; the need for a veterans walk-in service center, with space provided in Oak Harbor by Island County; and confirmation that tuition reduction is available for all veterans, as well as for spouses and children of those killed in service.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ISLAND COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Wm. L. McDowell, Chairman

John Dean, Member

ATTEST:

[Phillip Bakke, Member: Absent]

Elaine Marlow
Clerk of the Board