

Pass area plat decision delayed

Testimony ends but the qual

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Staff Writer

Public testimony was ended on the issue of a request to vacate Starwater Plat in the Snoqualmie Pass area Tuesday at the regular meeting of the Kittitas County Board of Commissioners.

While the public hearing was closed by Board of Commissioners Chairperson Elizabeth McCune, a decision was made not to make a decision on the plat vacation until the commissioners have had time to sift through the mounds of written testimony and to review the material with County Prosecutor Joe Panattoni.

Mark Elgot, attorney for Starwater property owner Richard Toohey, reiterated his client's case for the vacation, and clarified the actions Toohey has taken in order to alleviate some of the concerns of adjacent property owners.

The proper thing for the commissioners to do at this time, said Elgot, is to proceed with the vacation. Any legal complications ensuing from the vacation would have to be settled in the courts — "where the issue properly belongs," he said.

Lyman Hull, attorney representing residents of Ski Tur Valley to the north of Starwater, said it is impossible to separate the proposed vacation from future development. He said to vacate the

plat now, without sufficient safeguards to adjacent property owners in the form of legal covenants, would be "chaotic."

Edward Mueller, representing owners of lots 7, 8, and 9 in the Starwater Plat, also reiterated his clients' objections to the vacation. Bearing in mind Elgot had filed documents terminating the old covenants set on the plat, Mueller said he didn't think there was any intention of giving any benefits to

the owners of the three lots he represented.

Mueller said he felt Starwater could "easily be developed" the way it is currently platted.

Dorothy Kern, of Yakima, representing the Mountaineers, a conservationist group, expressed her group's opposition to the possible increase in the potential density allowed by the proposed vacation.



HONORED — Pictured left to right, Larry Allen, Dave Dixon, Ben Evans, Dan Papineau, Jan Tweedie, George Williams and Dan Wilson received awards for special assistance to Kittitas

County from the Board of Commissioners Tuesday. Not pictured is Rick Hawley, who was unable to attend the ceremony because of illness. (Record photo)

"We feel the development would be incompatible with the natural beauty of the area," Ms. Kern said.

Honors Ceremony

In an awards ceremony which constituted the first formal use of the new commissioners meeting room, eight Sheriff's Department employees were given awards for special assistance to Kittitas County.

Rick Hawley, Larry Allen, Dan Wilson, George Williams, Dan Papineau, Ben Evans, Jan Tweedie and Dave Dixon were all awarded the certificates during the ceremony. Hawley was ill and unable to attend.

Mrs. McCune expressed pleasure with the job the group had done in protecting Kittitas County at the time of an invasion of the county jail by an armed man on April 12-13 of this year.

Commissioner Roy Lumaco added it was a "privilege" for him to help in honoring the sheriff's personnel, and said he thought it was fitting the presentation was made in the new auditorium.

Commissioner Rich Hactor echoed the comments of Lumaco and Mrs. McCune, adding that he thought the persons honored were setting an outstanding example for the children of Kittitas County.

Skiers get