

**Klickitat County  
Board of Commissioners  
Minutes – Meeting of Tuesday, March 7, 2023**

**Morning Workshop Session**

Chairman Dan Christopher called the meeting to order at 9:45 AM. Commissioners present: Dan Christopher, Jacob Anderson and Lori Zoller.

**Workshop Session Agenda**

**Executive Session: Annual Performance Evaluation:**

At 9:45 AM Chairman Christopher announced that the Board would be convening into Executive Session in accordance with RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) to conduct an annual performance evaluation of a public employee. Chairman Christopher noted that the session would last fifteen (15) minutes.

The Board convened back into Regular Session at 10:00 AM. No action was taken.

**10:00 AM – Public Works/Road Department Update:**

Attendance: Emergency Management Director Jeff King, Interim Public Works Director Jeff Hunter, Interim Engineer Seth Scarola, and various County elected officials, employees, and members of the public present in person and via Zoom.

Director King commented on the Department of Emergency Management keeping up with radio site maintenance. Interim Director Hunter, Director King and the Board had a discussion in regards to maintaining the radio sites.

Director Hunter provided an update on the consent agenda items.

Engineer Scarola gave an update on the Construction Program and Road Designs.

Director Hunter gave an update on maintenance projects on the East End and West end of the county, Upcoming facilities work and events, the Courthouse elevator and window washing.

**10:20 AM – Human Resources and Administrative Services Department Update:**

Attendance: HR & Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave, HR Manager KC Sheridan, Chief Probation Officer Courtney Cooke, Fiscal Manager Jenn Neil, Community Engagement Program Coordinator MacKenzie Coleman and various County elected officials, employees, and members of the public present in person and via Zoom.

Chief Probation Officer Cooke made a verbal request to extend the hours of the Litter Supervisor from 35 hours to 40 hours a week starting April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Ms. Cooke commented on the job duties that have changed within the department and gave an overview on the Litter Crew and Community Service work sites. Commissioner Anderson requested that Ms. Cooke provide numbers of cases originating from the different cities going through the municipal court, so the cities may pay their share, which will help pay for either additional hours or an additional employee.

Director Van Cleave and HR Manager KC Sheridan provided an update on the salary threshold implementation schedule from Washington State Department of Labor and Industries.

Director Van Cleave and Manager Sheridan provided an update on NeoGov, LinkedIn recruiter, Risk Management Program and the vehicle/fleet policy.

Manager Sheridan requested and received verbal approval to advertise for a vacant Communication Officer position in the Emergency Management Department.

Director Van Cleave, Office Manager Lyn Zielinski and Chairman Christopher discussed the need for records to be scanned and discussed using an outside vendor. It was recommended that Director Van Cleave reach out to see which departments would need this type of service.

Fiscal Manager Jenn Neil provided an update for the 1<sup>st</sup> supplemental to the budget, grant appropriations policy, grants and annual or unique funding. Director Hunter provided clarification on how the grants for Public Works are done. Manager Neil provided a status update on goals, the budget book and quarterly reporting. A discussion followed in regards to the revenue collected from energy companies. Ms. Neil inquired about the goals of the County Commissioners for this budget year.

Randy Christianson provided an update on network redesign and implementation, training of IT Team, Cybersecurity Audit, annual PC and server replacements and Server Operating System upgrades.

Solid Waste Department Community Engagement Program Coordinator Coleman updated on maintaining grants, community cleanup and the water jam event.

Human Resource and Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave: Commissioner Christopher announced at 11:47 AM that they would be going into executive session for (10) minutes. Department update, some of which may qualify for “*executive session*” all in accordance with RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) to review the performance, discipline, and/or qualifications of a public employee. Issues of a “general” nature will be discussed in open session. At 11:57 AM it was announced that the executive session will be extended for ten (10) minutes. Executive Session ended at 12:07 PM. The Board convened back into regular session and then convened for lunch. Not action was taken.

**Motion (M/Anderson, S/Zoller. Passed unanimously).** To recess for lunch at 12:07 PM.

**Commissioner’s Business Meeting**

Chairman Dan Christopher reconvened the meeting at 1:00 PM, opening with the Pledge of Allegiance. All three (3) Commissioners were present.

**Agenda:**

**Approved (M/Anderson, S/Zoller. Passed unanimously):** Business Agenda with 1 add-on: Introduction to the Washington State Small Business Disaster Grant Program.

**Approval of Commissioner Meeting Minutes**

**Approved (M/Anderson, S/Zoller. Passed unanimously):** the Klickitat County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes for February 14, 2023 and February 21, 2023 as presented.

**Citizen Comment:**

Vern Harpool, representing Lyle Community Council, gave an update on the Klickitat River Delta and the Highway 14 study.

Greg Wagner with CEASE, commented about the Airport Board conflict of interest, Conditional Use Permit and code compliance.

Gabriel Gilbert, resident of Fruit Valley, commented on a County Commissioner, child care and the hiring of Loren Culp.

Sheri Bousquet, resident of Husum, commented on Environmental Studies done in Klickitat County.

Brian Walsh of Avangrid Renewable responded to Sheri Bouquets' comment.

Commissioner Zoller responded to Mr. Harpool's comment.

Delmar Eldred commented on signing a Constitutional County Resolution.

Lynn Mason, resident of White Salmon, commented on the hiring of Loren Culp, cougar killing, the pump storage project affecting the Native American Community and the Animal Shelter.

Chairman Christopher responded to Mr. Wagner's comments and Ms. Bousquet's comments

Commissioner Anderson responded to Mr. Wagner's comments on conflicts of interest, Mr. Eldred's comments, Ms. Gilbert's, Ms. Mason and Mr. Harpool's comments.

**Public Meetings/Public Hearings/Bid Openings:**

Bid Opening: For the purchase of Liquid Asphalt for the 2023 paving season. Total Estimated Project Cost Range \$800,000 - \$1,000,000.

Commissioner Anderson opened sealed bids from:

Idaho Asphalt Supply, Inc. for a total bid \$ 874,178.00

Ergon Asphalt & Emulsions from Pasco, WA for a total bid \$ 725,190.00

Albina Asphalt from Vancouver WA for a total bid \$ 727,000.87

**Motion (M/Anderson, S/Zoller. Passed unanimously):** to return the 3 bids to Public Works for review and recommendations.

**Public Hearing/Continued/Open to further public comment:**

Public Hearing: To consider granting a non-exclusive Franchise Agreement between Klickitat County and Bluebird Solar Power LLC for the construction, maintenance and operations of wires and other appurtenances, upon, under, along and across various Klickitat County Roads.

Director Hunter provided a staff report clarifying that a Franchise agreement protects the County taxpayers.

Chairman Christopher opened up the Public Hearing to public testimony.

Ken Nichols with Avangrid Renewables, Blue Birds Solar Power LLC commented on the Franchise agreement.

Sheri Bousquet of Husum commented on the Franchise Agreement and the Blue Bird Solar EIS.

Greg Wagner of Goldendale commented on the Blue Bird Solar Franchise Agreement.

Brian Walsh of Avangrid Renewables responded to comments received from Ms. Bousquet and Mr. Wagner letting them know that they have to enter into a Franchise Agreement with the County, they do not have a choice.

Chairman Christopher commented on educating the public. Commissioner Zoller commented on the facts and the findings and what is currently happening.

Chairman Christopher closed the Public Hearing to further public comment and called for Board discussion.

**Motion (M/Anderson, S/Zoller. Passed unanimously):** Approving the granting of a non-exclusive, County right-of-way Franchise Agreement (C05423) between Klickitat County (Public Works Department) and Bluebird Solar Power LLC for the construction, maintenance and operation of wires and other appurtenances, upon, under, along and across various Klickitat County Roads.

**Consent Agenda:**

**Approved (M/Zoller, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously):** Consent Agenda with 7 items. Pull agenda item #7 for further consideration and #4 for further discussion.

- 1) Notice of "Request for Proposals" from qualified entities to use Klickitat County Historic Preservation Funds of which \$5,000 of the accumulated amount will be made available for award in 2023.
- 2) (C05223) Opioid Settlement #2 Opt-in Agreement between the National Opioid Settlement Administration and Teva, Allergan, CVS, Walmart and Walgreen.
- 3) Memorandum from the Planning Department scheduling a public meeting to be held Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 1:30 PM to consider approval of a short plat, SPL 2022-25; parcel number 02-2707-1602/00 and 02-13-2707-1603/00 in the Dallesport vicinity. Applicant: James and Connie Gale.
- 4) (Pulled for further consideration) Memorandum from the Planning Department scheduling a public meeting to be held Tuesday March 14, 2023, at 1:30 PM to consider approval of a Shoreline Substantial Development Permit and Shoreline Conditional Use Permit No. SH2022-03 Pitt Site Trailhead. Applicant: WA State Parks (Brian Patnode/Chelsea Harris).
- 5) **Resolution No. 03323** in the matter of reappointing Will Bowdish to represent the Central Klickitat Conservation District on the Klickitat Citizens Review Committee for a term expiring February 18, 2026.
- 6) (C05323) Local Agency Supplemental Agreement #1 with Applied Archaeological Research, Inc (C20922) for on-call Archaeological Services to extend the completion date from February 28, 2023 to February 29, 2024.
- 7) (Pulled for further consideration) Letter concurring with the Klickitat County Emergency Medical Services District's nomination of Charles Virts to Director Position No. 1 to fill an unexpired three (3) term, expiring December 31, 2025.

**Voucher Certification and Payment Approvals:**

**Approved Warrants (M/Zoller, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously):**

Accounts Payable: (#320183-320296) for a total of \$216,174.08.

There were no Payroll warrants requiring approval

**2:05 PM Miscellaneous Report/Comments:**

**Add-on:** Washington State Small Business Disaster Grant Program.

Economic Development Director McClure provided information on the Washington State Small Business Disaster Grant Program and requested and received Board approval to partner with the Department of Commerce.

Richard Foster commented on the Dallesport Regional Airport in-kind services and the Board requested a yearly figure.

**Unfinished Business:** Consider acceptance of the Landfill Gas Improvement Fund Committee's decision and recommendation to approve and formalize commitments by the County to provide funding assistance and approval of the following Landfill Gas Improvement Funding Assistance Agreements between Klickitat County and Public Utility District No. 1 of Klickitat County.

The Agreements are contingent of the following conditions: The systems must be designated as a public water system, either governed by the Klickitat PUD or a Public Water District. There must be enough commitment financially through funding agencies and customers to fund the remainder of the project costs.

- \$500,000 for the Glenwood Wastewater Treatment Plant Lift Station Rebuild Project
- \$140,000 for the Rimrock Water System Well House Electrical System and Pump Replacement Project
- \$300,000 for the Ponderosa Park Water System Red Cedar Area Water Pipe Replacement Project

**Approved (M/Anderson, S/Zoller. Passed unanimously):** Landfill Gas Improvement Funding Assistance Agreement (**C05523**) between Klickitat County and Public Utility District No. 1 of Klickitat County to provide funding assistance in the amount of \$500,000 for the Glenwood Wastewater Treatment Plant Lift Station Rebuild Project, over a two year period included within the 2023/2024 budget years, effective March 7, 2023 and ending December 31, 2024.

**Approved (M/Anderson, S/Zoller. Passed unanimously):** Landfill Gas Improvement Funding Assistance Agreement (**C05623**) between Klickitat County and Public Utility District No. 1 of Klickitat County to provide funding assistance in the amount of \$140,000 for the Rimrock Water System Well House Electrical System and Pump Replacement Project which includes the following: Replacement of electrical equipment within the well house, replacement of pumping equipment and upgrade the single phase service to three phase to be included within the 2023 budget year, effective March 7, 2023 and ending December 31, 2023.

**Approved (M/Anderson, S/Zoller. Passed unanimously):** Landfill Gas Improvement Funding Assistance Agreement (**C05723**) between Klickitat County and Public Utility District No. 1 of Klickitat County to provide funding assistance in the amount of \$300,000 for the Ponderosa Park Water System, Red Cedar Area Water Pipe Replacement Project which includes replacement of old and failing water system piping, over a two year period included within the 2023/2024 budget years, 2023 and ending December 31, 2024.

**New Business:** Annual Meeting of the Klickitat County Public Corporation.

At 2:15 PM Chairman Christopher recessed the Board of County Commissioners Meeting to conduct the Annual Klickitat County Public Corporation Meeting.

Chairman Christopher reconvened the Board of County Commissioners meeting at 2:23 PM

**Board Pending:**

The Board discussed various issues which included:

Moving the Solar Moratorium Public Meeting continuation from March 14 to March 21, 2023 due to a scheduling conflict, recommending Valerie Faller for the Columbia River Gorge Commission and Rhine Village.

At 2:29 Commissioner Anderson left the meeting

The Board had a discussion about the Klickitat Mill Site.

At 2:35 Commissioner Anderson joined the meeting via zoom.

Commissioner Zoller commented on putting follow up or pending items on the agenda as bullet points under Old Business.

Chairman Christopher discussed the pending issue list.

Jenn Neil requested clarification on a Grant Writer position.

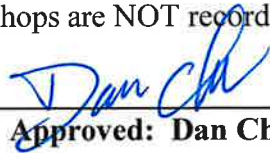
**\*Board Correspondence for the Record:**

Correspondence received from Rocel Dimmick opposing any and all permit applications that assist in any industrial scale solar projects in the county.

Correspondence received from Sheri Bousquet in regards to the Franchise agreement with Bluebird Solar LLC.

**Approved (M/Anderson , S/Zoller . Passed unanimously):** There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:49 PM. No workshops are scheduled for March 9, 2023.

\*Reference Document on File. The Board of Commissioners' minutes are action minutes. A digital recording is on file as part of the official record and available on file 03-07-2023 Board of County Commissioners Meeting. Please Note: All Commissioner meetings and workshops are open to the public to attend. Meetings are recorded, Workshops are NOT recorded.



Approved: Dan Christopher  
Chairman of the Board



3-28-2023  
Date