

**Klickitat County  
Board of Commissioners  
Minutes – Meeting of Tuesday, May 11, 2021**

Topic	Agenda Item - Comment/Disposition
Morning Workshop Session – Tuesday, May 11, 2021	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Call to Order/Roll Call</b></p> <p>Chairman David M. Sauter called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Commissioners present: David M. Sauter, Jacob L. Anderson, and Dan Christopher.</p>
Public Works/Road Department Update	<p><b>10:00 AM – Public Works Department Update</b></p> <p>Attendance: Public Works Deputy Director Jeff Hunter, Public Works Design Engineer Seth Scarola in the Chambers, various county employees and residents via zoom.</p> <p>Public Works Deputy Director Jeff Hunter reported on the Consent Agenda items on this afternoon’s agenda, noting the remaining settlement agreements for the Courtney Road Safety Project are on for approval, followed by a brief update from Public Works Design Engineer Seth Scarola regarding finalizing plans, details, specification and the time estimate, stating the project is 95% complete.</p> <p>Design Engineer Scarola stated the grade exceeds standards and a deviation has been requested from the Washington State Department of Transportation and it will be on the agenda next week for approval.</p> <p>Deputy Director Hunter stated the grant projects are moving forward and the strippers were able to get the paint and will begin as scheduled.</p> <p>Deputy Director Hunter stated the east and west end crews are crack sealing, grading, sweeping, placing the rock on Stats Road, mowing in Lyle, and will begin removing the grey house tomorrow to continue the construction of the parking area.</p> <p>A report was given on the status of the new Klickitat County Services Building, the glass is waiting to be installed, fix the remaining windows, the sheetrock has been stocked; the masonry brickwork is complete and the electrical subcontractor continues to install equipment, conduit, and pull wire in the second and third floor as well as starting work on the electrical rooms.</p> <p>A discussion was held about naming the four (4) conference rooms, the Board was in support of naming the rooms after the surrounding mountains and decorate accounting to the room name. The Board expressed their appreciation for all the employees who participated in naming the rooms.</p> <p>Deputy Director Hunter reported on the upcoming road rally, followed by the Super Load Haul on the Roosevelt Grade, noting it will be closed starting at 10 PM on May 12th to 6 AM on May 13th.</p> <p>A brief discussion was held regarding the Dallesport Community Center and the rental and cleaning schedule.</p>

<p>Auditor's Department Update</p>	<p><b>10:30 AM - Elected Official Report/Update</b></p> <p>Attendance: Auditor Brenda Sorensen, Chief Deputy Auditor Heather Jobe, Solid Waste Director Ruby Irving in the Chambers, various county employees, and residents via zoom.</p> <p>Auditor Brenda Sorensen reviewed past and upcoming elections, noting candidates filing is underway, filing can be done in-person or online and all filings that are mailed must be in the office by 5 PM on Friday, May 21st.</p> <p>A Finance Department report was provided and Auditor Sorensen stated her office continues to resolve outstanding items in preparation for 2020, Annual Report submittal.</p> <p>Auditor Sorensen reported vehicle licensing transactions have increased and the State has been having difficulty keeping their agents and subagents adequately supplied with inventory; recording transactions continue to be processed and the Veterans Service Officer workload is continually increasing, noting he continues to work remotely and in-person.</p> <p>A discussion followed regarding the Auditor's archival room in the basement, noting she would like to utilize the space available from the Commissioner's Office archival records being moved to the Klickitat County Services Building.</p> <p>A brief discussion was held regarding purchasing a Ballot Sorter, the Board was in support.</p>
<p>Solid Waste Department Update</p>	<p><b>Department Update/Report:</b></p> <p>Attendance: Solid Waste Director Ruby Irving, Human Resource &amp; Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave in the Chambers, various county employees, and residents via zoom.</p> <p>Solid Waste Director Ruby Irving reported on the Litter Crew Program, noting the litter pick-up by the district was provided and total pounds for all districts combined is 28,450.</p> <p>Director Irving stated the ReCollect Program is working through the different items to get updated; Apple will need to approve or deny the request made by the Prosecuting Attorney to modify language in the terms of service.</p> <p>Director Irving reported there is a change in the west side garbage/recycling routes with an additional route being scheduled. followed by an update regarding the tour Thurston County will be doing on May 17, 2021.</p> <p>Director Irving advised of a change in the job description for the Recycling Coordinator position to reflect the direction of the future programs; as legislation and climate action change the way waste programs and funding will continue to be more complicated and the skills to manage the programs and grants that are more specific.</p>

	A discussion was held about the availability of large trash containers and the increase in.
	<b>Miscellaneous Reports/Comments:</b>
Review of the three (3) submissions for 2021, Historic Preservation Grant	<p>Attendance: Deputy Clerk of the Board Ibbey Jane Coyne in the Chambers, various county employees, and residents via zoom.</p> <p>Deputy Clerk of the Board Ibbey Jane Coyne stated there were three (3) submissions for the 2021, Historic Preservation Grant; Alder Creek Pioneer Association, \$1,400; Twin Bridges Historical Museum, \$1,000 and the Mountain View Cemetery, \$5,000.</p> <p>Deputy Clerk Coyne stated \$5,000 has been allotted to the Historic Preservation Fund for 2021, and generally, the recording fees collected for the fund are average \$350-\$400 per month but with the increase in recording the fund is averaging \$1,000 per month. The board was in support of funding each project at the requested amount.</p> <p>Chairman Sauter reported on his attendance at the Washington Association of Counties Board of Directors meeting and Strategic Planning Retreat.</p> <p>Commissioner Christopher inquired about the trucked water proposal and requested if the full Board would like to discuss this further with Environmental Health Manager David Kavanagh, the Board would like to have a workshop to discuss implementing an ordinance.</p> <p>Commissioner Anderson reported he has held a discussion with resident Gabriel Gilbert regarding Senate Bill 5092, noting the Legislature set aside \$100,000 split equally between 2022 and 2023 for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to “assist local jurisdictions in responding to cougar-related public safety issues.”. Commissioner Anderson stated the bill is in response to Klickitat County Sheriff Bob Songer’s respond to problem cougars in the name of public safety.</p>
Lunch Recess	The Board recessed for lunch at 11:26 AM.
	<b>Call to Order/Roll Call:</b>
Regular Meeting for Tuesday, May 11, 2021	Chairman Sauter reconvened the meeting at 1:00 PM; Opening with the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners present: David M. Sauter, Jacob L. Anderson, and Dan Christopher.
	<b>Agenda:</b>
Business Agenda	<b>Approved (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously):</b> the Business Agenda as presented.
	<b>Approval of Commissioner Meeting Minutes</b>
Approval of Meeting Minutes	* <b>Approved (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously):</b> the Klickitat County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes for April 20, 2021, as presented
	<b>Citizen Comment:</b>
Comments will be limited to seven (7)	Greg Wagner, Fish Hatchery Road provided a map of proposed solar projects in the Bickleton area and expressed concerns with conflicting information he received. The first email said the Blue Bird Solar project would have 50 large buildings storing lithium

<p>minutes per individual</p>	<p>Ion batteries and the second email said there would not be any battery storage. Mr. Wagner comments that this is why we need a solar ordinance and this is something we need to look at.</p> <p>Gabrielle Gilbert, White Salmon, commented on a cougar bill that is on the Governor’s desk to be signed, noting that this bill was created specifically for Klickitat County. Ms. Gilbert stated that because of the Sheriff’s cougar policy the County is in the news and it does not reflect a good image for our County. Chairman Sauter noted that Commissioner Anderson did bring the matter before the Board and staff shared the link about the cougar legislation with all three (3) commissioners.</p> <p>Ms. Gilbert also commented that she has learned more about solar from the citizen comment than from the Commissioners.</p> <p>Sheri Bousquet, Husum, thanked citizens for coming out to comment on the solar moratorium and begged the Board to protect the people.</p> <p>White Salmon resident Lisa Evans commented on the proposed legislation from the Governor regarding critical race theory being required to be taught in schools. Ms. Evans stated that she is against this and encouraged the Board to support parents and let them choose how to raise their children.</p> <p>Oren Johnson, Lyle, stated that he agreed with Ms. Evans’ comments.</p> <p>Delmer Eldred, Old Mt. Road, Goldendale, stated that the federal and state constitutions are the law of the land, and he asked who has the authority to overrule state mandates and regulations. Chairman Sauter advised that counties are subsets of the state and only have the authority and powers that the State grants them.</p> <p>Mr. Johnson commented that counties comply with state mandates because they are afraid of retribution and having funding cut off.</p> <p>Ms. Bousquet asked that citizen comments from the solar moratorium public hearing be posted online for transparency. Commissioner’s staff advised that all comments are public records and part of the official record and will be available upon request.</p>
<p><b>Public Meetings/Public Hearings/Bid Openings:</b></p>	
<p>Public Meeting: To consider approval of Boundary Line Adjustment BLA2020-09; Applicants: Samantha Plante/Erin Forrest</p>	<p><b>Approved (M/Anderson, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously): Boundary Line Adjustment BLA2020-09</b>, which adjusts the common property line between Parcels No. 04-15-0500-0007/00 and No. 04-15-15-0550-0002/00 and grant final approval; Applicants: Samantha Plante and Erin Forrest.</p> <p>Assistant Planner Denice Lee reported that Boundary Line Adjustment BLA2020-09 is a proposal to adjust the common property line between Parcels No. 04-15-0500-0007/00 and No. 04-15-15-0550-0002/00 located in the Goldendale vicinity.</p> <p>Ms. Lee advised that an administrative review of the boundary line adjustment has been completed and all conditions attached to the preliminary approval have been met.</p>

<p>Public Meeting: To consider approval of Boundary Line Adjustment BLA2021-01; Applicants: Derek Goodwin/Janet Bixby</p>	<p><b>Approved (M/Anderson, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously): Boundary Line Adjustment BLA2020-01</b>, which adjusts the common property line between Parcels No. 04-11-3151-0001/00 and No. 04-11-3151-0002/00 and grant final approval; Applicants: Derek Goodwin/Janet Bixby.</p> <p>Assistant Planner Denice Lee reported that Board Line Adjustment BLA2020-01 is a proposal to adjust the common property line between Parcels No. 04-11-3151-0001/00 and No. 04-11-3151-0002/00 and noted that the parcels were located in the Husum area.</p> <p>Ms. Lee advised that an administrative review of the boundary line adjustment has been completed and all conditions attached to the preliminary approval have been met.</p>
	<p><b>Consent Agenda:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <b>Approved (M/Anderson, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):</b> the Consent Agenda with twelve (12) items.</li> <li>* 1) Cumulative Reserve Fund #125 project list change which is required to reflect approval of Budget Supplemental 2021-1, dated May 4, 2021.</li> <li>* 2) Purchase request from the Public Health Department for a new refrigerator for the water lab run by the Environmental Health Program at a cost of \$7,753.86 including sales tax</li> <li>* 3) Purchase request from the Public Health Department for incubators for the water lab run by the Environmental Health Program at a cost of \$4,657.65 including sales tax.</li> <li>* 4) Scheduling a public meeting to be held Tuesday, May 18, 2021, at 1:30 PM, to consider approval of a Short Plat Alteration, SPL 2020-20. Parcel numbers 03-10-2447-0004/00, in the White Salmon vicinity. Applicant: Claire Howe.</li> <li>* 5) Settlement Agreements between Klickitat County (Public Works Department) and Ben and Jennifer Strackany, 5.14-acre easement (<b>C08421</b>); J Duncan Davidson, 3.78 acres deeded (<b>C08521</b>), for right-of-way for the reconstruction on the Courtney Road Safety Project.</li> <li>* 6) <b>Resolution No. 05621</b> in the matter of establishing the County ban on outdoor burning within the unincorporated areas of Klickitat County as requested by Klickitat County Fire District #1, #3, #8, and #13. The requested County Burn Ban would be from June 1, 2021, through September 30, 2021, for Klickitat County Burn Ban Zone Three.</li> <li>* 7) 2022-2026 Control System Maintenance Agreement (<b>C08621</b>) between Klickitat County (Public Works Department) and Justice Systems Corp. for the "Control System Upgrade for the Klickitat County Jail" tending to the preventative maintenance including functionality testing, software updates, inspections, cleaning, and routine maintenance for the new control system at the Klickitat County Jail. The duration of the contract is from March 6, 2022, through March 5, 2026, at the total cost of \$38,700.00 including tax.</li> <li>* 8) Final Acceptance and Release of Retainage for the West Darland Bridge Rehabilitation CRP 360 for \$3,262.23, certifying all contract requirements have been met by Petersen Brothers, Inc. for the improvement of the West Darland Bridge.</li> <li>* 9) Notice to contractors and scheduling a bid opening to be held June 8, 2021, at 1:30 PM for the Roosevelt Grade Road Overlay, CRP 362, to provide for the improvement of 5.00 miles of Roosevelt Grade Road by planning bituminous pavement, installing an HMA pre-level, an HMA wearing course, pavement markings, signs, guardrail and</li> </ul>

	<p>other work, all in accordance with the Contract Provisions, and the Standard Specifications.</p> <p>* 10) Notice to contractors and scheduling a bid opening to be held June 8, 2021, at 1:30 PM for the Darland Drive Overlay, CRP 361, to provide for the improvement of 0.06 miles of West Darland Drive, 0.11 miles of Horseshoe Bend Road, 0.03 miles of Wing Road, 0.06 miles of Wing Road Wye by, planning bituminous pavement, removal of existing BST surface, preparation of road surface, installing an HMA pre-level, an HMA wearing course, pavement markings, signs and other work, all in accordance with the Contract Provisions, and the Standard Specifications.</p> <p>* 11) Contract (C08721) between Klickitat County (Human Resource &amp; Administrative Services Department) and Prothman for the purpose of advertising open positions in County Offices; the fee for each Sourcing an Outreach Recruitment is \$4,500 plus expenses, newspaper, trade journal, websites, and other advertising is \$800-\$1,400; direct mail announcements are \$1,600 - \$1,800.</p> <p>* 12) Personnel Authorization to begin the advertising process to hire a full-time Communications Officer, at Union Grade 36 or 48, within the Department of Emergency Management.</p>
	<p><b>Payment Approvals:</b></p>
<p>Voucher Certification and Approval</p>	<p>* <b>Approved Warrants (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously):</b></p> <p>Accounts Payable: (#305559 – #305652) \$214,087.44.</p> <p>Combined Payroll Warrants (#219661 – #219929), Co. Benefit Warrants (#305548 – #305556), and Co. Benefit Electronic Transfer (#926) \$733,409.62, for a combined total of \$947,497.06, for the date ending May 10, 2021. .</p>
<p>Pay Estimate</p>	<p><b>Approved (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously):</b> Pay Estimate No. 6 to Justice Systems Corp. in the amount of \$22,789.63, including sales tax at 7.5% (\$1,709.22) and excludes retainage in the amount of \$1,139.48, for a total payment amount of \$23,359.37 for the Klickitat County Jail Control System Upgrade 2020, C28420.</p>
	<p><b>Miscellaneous Reports/Comments:</b></p>
<p>Mid-Columbia Gorge/Columbia Gorge Housing Authority, Director Joel Madsen and Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator Karen Long</p>	<p><b>Approved (M/Anderson, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):</b> Request for grant match in the amount of \$10,000 for Mid-Columbia Gorge/Columbia Gorge Housing Authority’s Shelter Plus Care Program.</p> <p>Attendance: Mid-Columbia Gorge/Columbia Gorge Housing Authority, Director Joel Madsen, Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator Karen Long via Zoom, and Economic Development/Natural Resources Director Dave McClure.</p> <p>Director Joel Madsen provided an overview of Mid-Columbia Gorge/Columbia Gorge Housing Authority’s housing programs and activities.</p> <p>Ms. Long provided a report on the services available to low-income residents in Skamania and Klickitat Counties through the Shelter Plus Care Program. Ms. Long advised that this is her annual request for a grant match for the program that the County</p>

	<p>has been providing for several years, noting that Skamania County also contributes a \$10,000 grant match.</p> <p>Further discussion, questions, and answers preceded the Board’s confirmation of support for the \$10,000 grant match request.</p>
	<p><b>Board Pending:</b></p>
	<p>Commissioner Anderson provided an update on the tribal council meeting he and Prosecutor Quesnel attended last week, noting that it exceeded his expectations. The tribal council was kind and considerate. Natural Resources are high on their priority lists and they want to continue discussions. Commissioner Anderson stated that the tribal council would like the Boards’ support and help in encouraging the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers to dredge Region 6 of the Columbia River, which includes the mouths of the Klickitat and White Salmon Rivers to help juvenile salmon. Prosecutor Quesnel did not share any comments regarding the meeting at this time.</p>
	<p><b>Unfinished Business:</b></p>
<p>Public Hearing Continued/Closed to further public comment: Board deliberation regarding public testimony received (pursuant to RCW 36.70.795) on Ordinance O033021</p>	<p><b>Motion (M/Anderson, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):</b> Recommendation to continue the public hearing/closed to further public comment to Tuesday, May 18, 2021, for further deliberation and possible decisions on Ordinance O033021, a moratorium on commercial/industrial solar projects subject to a conditional use permit process</p> <p>Attendance: In-person: Greg and Debra Wagner, Russ and Amy Hanson, Dave Barta, Economic Development/Natural Resource Director Dave McClure, and Planning Director Mo-chi Lindblad. There were approximately 36 individuals on Zoom, which included elected officials, staff, and members of the public.</p> <p>Chairman Sauter opened the public hearing, noting that it is a continuation from the May 4<sup>th</sup> public hearing and called for Board discussion.</p> <p>Commissioner Christopher shared his thoughts first, indicating that he feels there is a lack of consistent policy for siting energy facilities and he would like to have written directives on decommissioning, setbacks, zoning, performance standards, and adequate mitigation to lessen impacts to citizens. Due to the lack of written directives, he feels that an emergency does exist and recommends that the County get to work to create a countywide solar siting ordinance and correct its zoning code. There should also be an amendment to the EOZ to cover solar siting requirements, decommissioning, and setbacks.</p> <p>Chairman Sauter stated that he approaches an issue by aiming at the matter at hand, while he appreciates comments that were received, he was disappointed that they were of a general nature and not focused on what the public hearing was about. Chairman Sauter noted that the number one (1) negative he sees for farmland is that farmers will subdivide for housing if they cannot lease their property to solar facilities to create income for the farm/family.</p> <p>Chairman Sauter advised that ordinances are law, there is a specific process, and it is very time-consuming. The County has lots of planning tools already in place but we need to memorialize them, there needs to be more guidance. He agrees in having</p>

decommissioning plans and with a guaranteed cleanup plan, the cumulative benefit outweighs negative impacts. The public process begins when a permit application is submitted, noting that he understands there is some public mistrust and a lot of misinformation around this issue. Chairman Sauter stated that he could support a moratorium extension until staff can develop guidelines, noting that he is not in favor of starting over.

Commissioner Anderson stated that the EOZ does consider other sources of renewable power such as the wood fire power plant in Bingen. Commissioner Anderson indicated that there were numerous misstatements in comments received. Washington State has the most restrictive environmental process in the U.S. In the planning process, citizens have the opportunity to comment during the scoping process, it is up to the project to address comments received. Commissioner Anderson noted that an emergency would exist if he did not believe in the process. He reminded the Board that if energy projects go through the state permitting process, all control is removed from the County.

Chairman Sauter stated that he is fine with creating a solar ordinance. Commissioner Anderson advised that developing a new ordinance could take two to three years and cost a million dollars.

Discussion followed regarding whether to hold workshops to further discuss size and scoping, fencing, setbacks economic impacts, decommissioning, and battery storage.

Commissioner Christopher stated that Planning needs to know what the Board's expectations are and the citizens need to know. Commissioner Christopher stated for the record that he is not against solar, adding that it sounds like the Board has 3 different opinions.

Following further discussion, the Board agreed they would like to know from the Prosecutor whether they could direct staff to prepare a guidance document and possibly adopt it via a resolution to provide written directives to the Planning Department, the Board of Adjustment, solar developers, and county residents on industrial solar permitting. The guidance document would address the Board's expectation on issues such as setbacks, fencing, fires, battery storage, mitigation, wildlife impacts, and decommissioning.

**Elected Official Report/Update:**

Prosecutor's Update

Prosecutor Quesnel provided a brief update on Superior Court trials that are scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup> and District Court trials, which follow in the coming month. Prosecutor Quesnel noted that there would be a lot of activity.

Prosecutor Quesnel commented on the Blake decision and the huge impact it is having on the judicial system. An update on the tribal council meeting followed. Prosecutor Quesnel advised the tribe's misperception that the County Commissioners have complete authority persists, half of the items that the tribe would like the County to change were items the Board has no authority or control over.



	<b>Board Pending:</b>
	* Board correspondence noted for the Record: Joint letter from the Mayors of White Salmon and Bingen and the County Commissioners to Senator King thanking him for his efforts to successfully secure a State Funding Allocation for the Hood River-White Salmon Interstate Bridge Replacement Project.
Adjournment	<b>Approved (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously):</b> There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 PM.
	* Reference Document on File  Please Note: The Board of Commissioners' minutes are action minutes. A digital recording is on file as part of the official record and available on file BOCC-Meeting 5-11-21.



Approved: David M. Sauter  
Chairman of the Board



05/25/2021

Date