

**Klickitat County
Board of Commissioners
Minutes – Meeting of Tuesday, September 14, 2021**

Agenda Item - Comment/Disposition

Call to Order/Roll Call

Chairman David M. Sauter called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Commissioners present: David M. Sauter, Jacob L. Anderson, and Dan Christopher.

Workshop Session Agenda

10:00 AM – Public Works Department Update

Attendance: Public Works Director Gordon Kelsey, Public Works Deputy Director Jeff Hunter, Department of Emergency Management Director Jeff King in the Chambers, various county employees and residents via Zoom.

Public Works Director Gordon Kelsey reported on the Consent Agenda and pay estimates on this afternoon's agenda.

Director Kelsey reported on the Old Mountain Road reconstruction; the Grant Funded Signs and Guideposts, noting the project is still delayed due to material shortages; the West Darland, and the Roosevelt Grade Road Paving Projects.

A report was given on the Courtney Road Safety Project, stating it will be advertised in November with a 2022, construction date; followed by an update on the Klickitat Path and the Courthouse Parking Lot construction.

Director Kelsey reported the east and west end crews are grading roads, spot graveling, repairing the pavement on Pipeline Road, and constructing a turnaround on Carr Road.

Director Kelsey stated the crews are paving on Court Street and in the alley, this week and the contractor has started demolition work in the main Courthouse parking lot; the carpet and vinyl flooring is being installed in the department's offices as well as the hallways; the electrical sub continues to install equipment and connect low voltage wires. Director Kelsey noted that he will be meeting with all the departments and offices to discuss moving into the new building in November.

Director Kelsey stated they are soliciting bids to replace four (4) HVAC units in the Pioneer Center and will be advertising a project to replace four (4) HVAC units in the Courthouse next week, followed by a brief update from Public Works Deputy Director Jeff Hunter on the radio sites.

Commissioner Christopher inquired and received clarification regarding road maintenance caused by damage from solar farm trucks.

10:30 AM - Emergency Management Department Update

Attendance: Department of Emergency Management (DEM) Director Jeff King, Human Resources/Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave, in the Chambers, various county employees and residents via Zoom.

Department of Emergency Management (DEM) Director Jeff King reported on the performance and functionality of the public radio system, the maintenance; radio site lease agreements, and the new Satus Pass Radio site.

Director King reported on the emergency staff condition that he declared today, followed by a training and operations update.

Director King stated the Mass Casualty Incident Plan is still pending release and approval, followed by a report on the renewal of all of the Klickitat County Fire Department Radio System Use and 9-1-1 Dispatch Service Agreements.

Director King stated the Emergency Operations Center has been returned to Level – 3, Monitoring, noting he continues to receive and fulfill requests for personal protective equipment.

A wildfire Season Report was provided, followed by an update on the extension of the County Burn Ban from September 15th to October 31st.

Director King reported on the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System; Emergency Management Program Grants; Williams meter and valve rebuild and upgrade project; the Rural City and Town Wildfire Evacuation Vulnerability Study and Analysis and an update on the new Emergency Management Program Coordinator.

Commissioner Anderson reported the Department of Ecology advised a report was filed and an investigation begun on the White Salmon and Klickitat Rivers. The Board discussed contacting Gary and Judy Gottschalk regarding the bare riverbank in the front of their property.

The Board recessed for lunch at 11:16 AM.

Call to Order/Roll Call:

Chairman Sauter reconvened the meeting at 1:00 PM. Opening with the Pledge of Allegiance. All three (3) Commissioners were present.

Before approval of the agenda, Chairman Sauter advised approximately 30 + people, most of whom were not wearing a mask, that they would need to put on a mask or leave the Chambers as required per Governor Inslee's mask mandate. Due to the unruly crowd's reaction and comments it was apparent the crowd was not willing to comply with the rules of the meeting and were preventing the meeting from continuing in an orderly manner.

The crowd was demanding that the Commissioners pass the resolutions that were included in the petition submitted by Goldendale resident Ashley Cooper on September 7, 2021, requesting that the Commissioners support and pass the submitted resolutions supporting medical choice and freedom. The resolutions also stated that the Commissioners will not require mandatory vaccinations for employees or citizens and that any businesses that does will be excluded from any County funding.

Due to the unruly crowd, Chairman Sauter attempted to recess the meeting at 1:13 PM, advising that the Commissioners would be reconvening the meeting via Zoom from their offices, Zoom was shut down and Chairman Sauter and staff left the room. Commissioners Anderson and Christopher remained in the room and talked with the crowd for approximately two (2) hours. Since there was no second on the motion to recess and two commissioners remained, without staff present, it is being considered an informal town hall. Note: the two (2) hour discussion was not part of the regular meeting and no minutes or actions were taken.

At 2:54 PM, Chairman Sauter and staff returned to the room, and Chairman Sauter resumed the regular meeting agenda.

Public Meetings/Public Hearings/Bid Openings:

Chairman Sauter opened the public hearing to consider a supplemental budget and amendments for 2021, budget.

Approved (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously): Motion to continue the public hearing to next Tuesday, September 21st at 1:30 PM.

Unfinished Business:

Department of Emergency Management Director Jeff King: Department Structure Review Panel Update.

Attendance: Department of Emergency Management (DEM) Director Jeff King, Chief Jail Deputy Carmen Knopes, Communications Officer Hannah Walter, Treasurer Greg Gallagher, Human Resource Manager KC Sheridan, various county employees and residents via Zoom.

Department of Emergency Management Director Jeff King reported on the Department of Emergency Management Structure Review Panel members, followed by the information gathered and the approach to the department's structure and staffing changes to set the department up for long term success in the departments' mission to provide services to all of the county residents and visitors, local and state law enforcement, emergency medical services, fire districts, and departments and other users across the county to provide for public safety.

DEM Director King stated the Review Panel recommends a hybrid of the original "New Department of Emergency Management Structure" recommendation. The budget estimates indicated that this new structure and staffing recommendation will be partially offset by savings in overtime due to less extra shift coverage for vacations, and other leave, training of new hires, and cost of the hiring process.

Chief Jail Deputy Carmen Knopes stated her support for the department restructuring and emphasized her appreciation for the 9-1-1 Dispatchers.

DEM Director King requested the addition of 3 new FTE's to the 9-1-1 Dispatchers. Commissioner Christopher expressed his support, Commissioner Anderson requested two (2) years of actual overtime data before he can support the addition, noting if three (3) new hires come on there will need to be three (3) lay-offs in another department.

Chairman Sauter stated he is in support of continuing the discussion and would like to have the past numbers review, noting the changes will need to take place after the budget process is over and has been adopted.

A discussion followed regarding training timelines, and staffing levels.

Agenda: Business Agenda

Approved (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously): the Business Agenda as presented.

Approval of Commissioner Meeting Minutes

Approved (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously): the Klickitat County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes for August 24, 2021, and August 31, 2021, as presented.

Consent Agenda:

Approved (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously): the Consent Agenda with five (5) items.

- 1) Contract Amendment No. 2 (C17521) between Klickitat County (Senior Services Department) and Area Agency on Aging & Disabilities of Southwest Washington (AAADSW) to increase the allocation by \$22,655.00 for Senior Nutrition Services; for a total of \$164,882.00; all other aspects of the Agreement to which this is an amendment shall remain in full force and effect.
- 2) Personnel Authorization to advertise for a full-time Communications Officer position at Union Grade, Steps 1-3 (\$18.58-\$21.69 per hour), depending on qualifications within the Department of Emergency Management.
- 3) Personnel Authorization to advertise for a full-time Legal Administrative Assistant I, II, or III / Victim Witness Assistant position at Grades 35, 36, or 37, Steps 1-3 (\$17.47-\$20.81 per hour), depending on qualifications within the Prosecuting Attorney's Office.
- 4) Small Works Contract (C17621) between Mission Construction and Klickitat County (Public Works Department) for the Klickitat County Fair Board Office Foundation Project 2021, in the amount of \$48,004.48; and authorize the Public Works Director to execute any change orders for this project due to unforeseen conditions (not for changes in scope) up to 10% of the contract (\$4,800.45) for an aggregate of \$52,804.93.
- 5) Memorandum from the Planning Department scheduling a public meeting to be held Tuesday, September 21, 2021, at 1:30 PM, to consider approval of Short Plat SPL 2021-13, Parcel No. 03-15-1000-0001/00 within the Centerville vicinity. Applicants: Daniel and Nadine Rhoades.

Payment Approvals:

Approved (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously): Pay estimate No. 17 to Kirby Nagelhout Construction Company in the amount of \$1,137,492.43 which excludes retainage in the amount of \$55,925.84 and includes sales tax, for a total payment amount of \$1,166,878.53, for the County Services Building Project, Contract No. C03120.

Approved (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously): Final Pay Estimate to Stripe Rite, Inc. in the amount of \$35,453.03; excluding \$1,772.65 in retainage, for a total payment amount of \$33,680.38 for 2021, Annual Striping Program.

Approved (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously): Final Pay Estimate to Hicks Striping in the amount of \$88,006.40, for the Countywide Edge Lines.

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

Accounts Payable: (#308553 - 308643) \$1,419,762.95.

Combined Payroll: (#222750 – 223034, County Benefit Warrants #308543 - 308552, Electronic Transfer #938) \$820,163.06.

For a combined total of \$2,239,926.01 for the date ending September 13, 2021.

Board Pending:

The Board held a discussion regarding a draft letter by Representative Tom Dent (13th Legislative District) written with the help of Representative Schmick and Senator Warnick regarding the continuation of the pandemic lockdowns and requesting Governor Inslee to come and discuss his mandates and the issues the County's are facing in conjunction with them; the Board stated the will continue the discussion after the Elected Official's updates.

The Board recessed for 5 minutes at 4:04 PM.

Elected Official Report/Update – Treasurer’s Financial and Office Report

Attendance: Treasurer Greg Gallagher in the Chambers, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Treasurer Greg Gallagher reported on the Treasurer’s Office staff and hours, followed by an update on the Finance Committee meeting, noting the Rescue America Plan was the main topic of the meeting.

Treasurer Gallagher reported when the next Finance Committee will be held, followed by a Treasurer’s Office current task report, noting the real estate excises payments that are keeping the office busy.

Board Pending:

Commissioner Christopher reported he has reached out and received a response from The Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC) regarding the Sheriff’s Office’s bulletproof vests surplus requirements. Commissioner Christopher stated he was advised that there were no laws or restrictions on the sale of bulletproof vests to be sold in a county surplus Auction.

The Board stated they would like to get a Prosecuting Attorney’s Option Request before proceeding.

Commissioner Christopher shared his research about placement permits for mobile home trailers in the Centerville area on Finn Ridge Road.

(M/Christopher, S/Anderson): to place a moratorium not allowing any mobile homes to be placed in Klickitat County over ten (10) years old until the permit process can be reviewed.

A discussion followed regarding the lack of permits being acquired for the number of trailers that are being brought into the County.

Chairman Sauter inquired and received clarification regarding the process of a placement permit for a trailer home from Building Director Lynn Ward. Building Director Lynn Ward stated there is a process through the Labor and Industries Department to decommission the home before it can be registered for another use.

Commissioner Christopher withdrew his motion until a review can be done at a later date.

Clarification was requested and received about the upcoming radio interview for the Commissioner’s this week.

Commissioner Christopher requested and received support on the proposal to reach out to Representative Gina Mosbrucker about the state taxing and depreciation rates for green energy projects.

HR Manager KC Sheridan requested and received verbal approval to proceed with the advertisement of an Environmental Health Technician position at grade 37, steps 1 through, in the Public Health Department.

Citizen Comment: Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes per individual

No citizens provided comments.

The Board held a discussion about the draft letter to Governor Jay Inslee regarding the dismay and concern with the Governors’ mandated vaccination orders and the lack of respect for local involvement when it comes to

decisions affecting our communities. The Board agreed to sign a letter that omitted some of the contentious sentences.

Commissioner Anderson stated some citizens were present during citizen comment who were not following the mask mandate and in the concern of public safety Commissioner Anderson chose to not remove himself from the room. He stated his goal was to defuse the situation. Commissioner Christopher stated he did not remove himself because when he started to do so, the crowd became very unruly and it caused him concerns for the public safety of the citizens and staff in the room and the hallway if he was to leave.

A discussion followed regarding the rules regulating the Open Public Meeting Act.

*Letter noted for the record address to Governor Jay Inslee.

Approved (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously): There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:54 PM. * Reference Document on File. Please Note: A digital recording is on file as part of the official record and available online, 9.14.2021 Board of County Commissioner's Meeting.



Approved: David M. Sauter
Chairman of the Board



10.05.2021

Date