

Klickitat County
Board of Commissioners
Minutes – Meeting of Tuesday, September 28, 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 in the Chambers, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Public Works Director Gordon Kelsey reported on the public hearing; public meetings, consent agenda items, and the payment approvals on this afternoon's agenda.

Director Kelsey stated the contractor is finishing subgrade, placing crushed surfacing on the road, and addressing the temporary stormwater issue on Old Mountain Road, followed by an update on the West Darland Road and Roosevelt paving. Director Kelsey stated there are additional overweight fees that Public Works would like to use on the funds to add 2-inches of HMA on a section of the Roosevelt Road to extend the life of the roadway an additional five (5) years, noting it took 15 years to collect the \$1,150,000 in overweight fees to assist with paving this year.

Director Kelsey reported on the Courtney Road Safety Project, the Klickitat Path, the Courthouse parking lots, noting they continue to work with the city on the project.

An update was provided on the east and west end crews projects, followed by the work being done on the Klickitat County Services Building.

Public Works Deputy Director Jeff Hunter reported on the Courthouse Entry Project, stating this is the most closed down the entrances will be during this project.

Director Kelsey stated Public Works has done a grant submittal for the Fairgrounds, the main water line is deteriorating and needs to be replaced. A department of agriculture grant with a 50% match is available to replace the waterline, a discussion continues regarding the need for the repairs and the hookup replacements.

10:45 AM - Solid Waste Department Update/Report:

Attendance: Solid Waste Director Ruby Irving in the Chambers, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Solid Waste Director Ruby Irving reported on the Litter Crew Program, stating Amanda Derschon was hired for the Litter Crew Supervisor and she ran her first litter crew on Saturday, September 25th. The Solid Waste Department also participate in helping with the first annual river cleanup on Saturday, September 18th.

Director Irving reported on Republic Services, stating the Hauling Division is currently meeting the increased demand for services despite the occasional employee shortage. Director Irving stated however the mechanical and technical issues are still causing slowdowns.

A discussion was held regarding the most recent tonnage reports, followed by a discussion about Republic's staffing levels in Roosevelt and the upcoming contract negotiations.

Director Ruby Irving commended Commissioner Christopher for talking about his personal experiences and encouraged all men to discuss their stories.

10:30 AM – Auditor’s Elected Official Report/Update:

Attendance: Auditor Brenda Sorensen, Chief Deputy Auditor Heather Jobe in the Chambers, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Auditor Brenda Sorensen reported her office is in the middle of a logic and accuracy test on the election equipment for the general election, followed by a discussion about the recent recount for the Hospital District No. 1 proposition. The Board thanked Auditor Sorensen and her staff for their diligent work on the recount, Chairman Sauter stated he wanted to thank the staff for the level of expertise and professionalism.

Auditor Sorensen reported on the Finance Department, noting the State Auditor’s Office audit has not been completed, a six-month extension to the September 30th deadline for completion of the Federal Single Audit.

Auditor Sorensen stated the licenses plate inventory shortages continue, primarily due to lack of aluminum; the Department of Licensing notified counties hopefully the State will receive its first shipment of 100,000 plates by October 31st.

A brief discussion was held about shared offices in the Pioneer Center, followed by Auditor Sorensen reporting on the services provided by the Veteran’s Service Officer for Klickitat County residents.

Commissioner Anderson provided a Hood River Bridge Bi-State working group update.

HR Manager KC Sheridan inquired if the Board had any question regarding the Personnel Authorization on the Consent Agenda to advertise for an Office Manager in the Planning Department due to a promotion of an employee from within. HR Manager Sheridan requested and received verbal authorization to proceed with the internal advertisement of a Deputy Director of Finance and Administration in the Public Works Department.

Chairman Sauter stated he participated in a Rural Washington Caucus regarding gathering information on a position on the Renewal Energy Development in Rural Washington.

Commissioner Christopher inquired about Consent Agenda item number 1 and requested clarification; Commissioner Anderson stated there will be aprons constructed to allow for more construction of hangars.

Approved (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously): To recess for lunch at 11:13 AM.

Call to Order/Roll Call:

Chairman Sauter reconvened the Regular Meeting for Tuesday, September 28, 2021, at 1:00 PM. Opening with the Pledge of Allegiance. All three (3) Commissioners were present.

Business Agenda

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

Approval of Commissioner Meeting Minutes

No minutes for approval

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

Ivy Velarde from Goldendale read into the record an account of the September 14, 2021, citizen comment period, noting she was the only citizen in the Chambers until just after 1 PM until a mob of citizens came in. Ms.

Velarde stated she was fearful for her safety and her exposure to the COVID-19 Virus. Ms. Velarde stated her belief in the importance of vaccinations, masking, and social distancing.

Gabrielle Gilbert reported on Lynn Mason's character, stating Commissioner Christopher's attempt to intimidate women in the County will be met with women holding elected officials responsible for their actions. Ms. Gilbert reported on the actions Commissioner Christopher conducted during last Tuesday's Board of Health Meeting. Ms. Gilbert questioned language in a letter from Commissioner Christopher regarding the importance of young versus elders' lives.

Commissioner Christopher stated no person is more valuable than another person due to age.

Goldendale resident Ron Quensela inquired about the cost of the Klickitat County Services Building, Chairman Sauter advised of the exact cost and move-in date. Mr. Quensela inquired what is the revenue amount generated by the landfill to date, followed by inquiring if the Courthouse entrance project is covered by the Historic Preservation Grant, the Board stated it is a matching grant, it is not 100% covered. Mr. Quensela inquired if the Board has any comments about the Black Lives Matter movement, Commissioner Christopher stated that any group is entitled to an agenda, but can not condone the acts of violence or destruction.

Goldendale resident Ashley Cooper inquired about the resolution that was submitted on September 14, 2021, noting some citizens are concerned now that four counties have gone above Governor Inslee's mandates and are requiring vaccine passports. The Board stated they are not going to go above what Governor Inslee is mandating, followed by an inquiry into what four counties are requiring vaccine passports. Ms. Cooper inquired about the RCW that makes the meeting illegal if there is an unmasked person in the audience. Commissioner Anderson advised of the Governors orders he is following.

White Salmon resident Sasha Bentley thanked the Board for allowing Zoom; Ms. Bentley stated she does not feel safe as well as her daughter in Klickitat County and requested all citizens be vaccinated, as well as she does not feel safe with our current Sheriff. Ms. Bentley stated she would like the commissioners to provide leadership and encourage vaccines; Ms. Bentley requested the Commissioner's support the Washington Gorge Actions Programs, followed by stating she does not agree with the Boards decision to spend 100 thousand dollars pursuing the Tract D Decision in the United States Supreme Court, Ms. Bentley stated she would like the County to work with the Yakama Nation.

Commissioner Christopher reported on the proclamation Governor Inslee is following.

Goldendale resident reported on the unsafe use of a mask, followed by reporting on the citizens who do not feel safe being around people that have been vaccinated with a genetically mutated vaccine; Mr. Throop stated some don't feel safe because there are Black Lives Matter protests that take place not too far from our community. Mr. Throop stated Sheriff Bob Songer is a Constitutional Sheriff, stating all offices support and defend the Constitution of the United States, noting any mandate, guideline, or suggested regulation that infringes on that should be null and void.

White Salmon resident Lynn Mason stated she was flipped off by Commissioner Christopher last week and she take it personally; Ms. Mason stated she has had very negative comments made about her and addresses these actions because women are aware of these actions against them when they speak. Ms. Mason stated she encourages everyone to speak out, Ms. Mason would like to receive an apology and she will continue to call and speak.

Commissioner Christopher stated he agrees his actions were wrong but as a victim, he is allowed to speak.

Sheri Bousquet reported on the Carriage Solar project that will be placed off the Knight Road sub-station, inquiring if it will be required to go through a Conditional Use Permit. Ms. Bousquet inquired when the project will go through the Board of Adjustment process.

The Board advised no application for this project has been received by Klickitat County and there will be no action until an application is received.

Chairman Sauter expressed his appreciation for the citizen comments today and would like to emphasize the importance of civility and patience, as the Chairman maintaining order is very important and discussions can be held about very tough issues civilly, in a safe format, that people can express their opinion and does not arouse condemnation both verbal or potentially physically.

Commissioner Anderson apologized to Ms. Velarde for her exposure to the COVID-19 Virus as well as her safety.

***Public Hearings/Public Meetings/Bid Openings:** vacation of described right-of-way within a portion of O'Brien Road.

Attendance: Public Works Director Gordon Kelsey, Centerville resident Dave West, resident Ivy Velarde in the Chambers, two members of the public, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Chairman Sauter opened the public hearing and requested a staff review.

Public Works Director Gordon Kelsey reported in accordance with RCW 36.87.040 and the following Engineer's report regarding the requested vacation of Obrien Road. Obrien Road is a gravel/dirt road, classified as a primitive road and is 2.25 miles long; the road provides a connection between Dalles Mountain Road and Centerville Hwy; the portion of road proposed for vacation provides access to the two requestors' properties and is rarely used by the general public; approximately ½ of the road proposed for vacation is coincident with a large drainage course which makes it extremely difficult to maintain; in addition, the road is used as an off-road route. This creates large ruts making it difficult for drivers to navigate throughout the year.

The Centerville Fire department has expressed an interest in maintaining access on Obrien Road for fighting fires; this section of right of way sees minimal use by the general public and if the petitioners and fire department can resolve the emergency service access issue stated above then this portion of has no useful purpose for the county road system, Director Kelsey noted if the vacation is approved, the property owners would need to donate right of way to construct turn arounds at the dead-end legs of the vacated road.

Chairman Sauter opened the Public Meeting to citizen comments.

Centerville resident Dave West reported on the properties on either side of Obrien, noting he manages one of the landowners' properties, followed by a report on the type of gate or cattle guard that will be installed to allow access for the Centerville Fire Department to access the road.

George Sarsfield stated his father had been trying to get the road closed for fifty years; what has happened in the past is people have dumped garbage there. Mr. Sarsfield stated GPS Systems have also directed drivers to use the road and it is unsafe. Mr. Sarsfield was in support of allowing the fire departments access to the road.

One written comment from Sizemore Ranches in favor of the proposal was received.

Chairman Sauter closed the public hearing, opening it to Board discussion.

Commissioner Christopher stated he is in support, followed by inquiries about the construction of the turnarounds; Commissioner Anderson inquired about the streams and culverts in the area, followed by the closing of the public hearing and a motion.

***Approved (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously): Resolution No. 10121** in the matter of vacating a described right-of-way within a portion of O'Brien Road Beginning at milepost 0.21 being approximately 350 feet North of the South line of Section 35, Township 3 North, Range 14 East W.M. thence in a Northerly direction for approximately 1.16 miles to milepost 1.37.

New Business: West Klickitat Community Housing

Attendance: Assessor Crista Schroder, Treasurer Greg Gallagher, resident Ivy Velarde in the Chambers, Inner Pacific Advantage-Analyst Erin Pace, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Inner Pacific Advantage-Analyst Erin Pace stated she was advised the Commissioners could forgive a tax fee waiver beyond a three (3) year time frame for Income Qualified Housing -Afford HG Levy (Nonprofit organizations that provide rental housing or used space to qualifying households).

Treasurer Greg Gallagher advised on August 13, 2021, the Department of Revenue granted West Klickitat Community Housing exemption status pursuant to RCW 84.36.560 Income Qualified Housing -Afford HG Levy (Nonprofit organizations that provide rental housing or used space to qualifying households) for tax years 2018, 2019, 2020 & 2021. Pursuant to RCW 84.69.030(3) a county legislative authority may authorize a refund to be processed more than three years after the due date of the payment to be refunded if the refund arises from taxes paid as a result of a manifest error in a description of the property.

Treasurer Gallagher stated the taxes have been paid and the concern is the Junior Taxing Districts have received their funds and changing the past taxes affects the revenue they received.

Inner Pacific Advantage-Analyst Pace advised her company just started to oversee the property; Chairman Sauter advised he sits on the Board that oversees the management transfer that will take place for the Rhine Village Apartments.

A discussion was held regarding the funding for the Junior Taxing districts, noting there is no error, but the eligibility of a program was just brought to the attention of the management company.

The Board agreed to not disrupt the precedence and not grant a tax exemption beyond three (3) years.

Approved (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously): to deny the request for a refund beyond three (3) years but express their support for the refund for the years 2019, 2020, and 2021.

Unfinished Business: Continued Discussion regarding placement and permitting of older mobile homes.

Attendance: Building Department Director Lynn Ward, Assessor Crista Schroder, Code Compliance Officer Lem Pratt, Human Resources & Administration Services Director Robb Van Cleave, Department of Emergency Management Director Jeff King in the Chambers, various county employees and residents via Zoom.

A discussion was held regarding the age of mobile homes allowed to be permitted in the neighboring counties as compared to Klickitat County; as well as permitting mobile homes per Klickitat County's required snow load; the number of mobile homes brought into Klickitat County and by whom.

Commissioner Anderson inquired about the energy efficiency of older and newer mobile homes, followed by clarification of installation and placement permits.

Assessor Crista Schroder advised Labor and Industries do require an older mobile home to be brought up to standard before they will issue a permit, noting there are no teeth in place to defer these homes being moved around or moved into the county.

A discussion was held regarding the visual appearance versus the safety of mobile homes, unpermitted mobile homes are addressed in the current Title 16, there is nothing to address cleanliness.

Chairman Sauter stated the problem does not lie with the homes themselves, it's more the owners and not following the rules; Commissioner Anderson was in support of enforcing the current compliance codes.

Department of Emergency Management Director Jeff King presented information from the Zone One (1) Fire Chiefs regarding the extension date of the Burn Ban for Zone One (1), the Board is in support of extending the Zone One ban until October 15, 2021, a resolution was provided to replace the previous resolution submitted in this afternoon Consent Agenda Packet for approval.

Continued Discussion regarding changing County Insurance Carriers from Clear Risk, noting a notice needs to be given by November 30, 2021, for the one-year notice.

A discussion followed regarding our risk assessment.

The Board was in favor of

Consent Agenda:

***Approved (M/Anderson, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** The Consent Agenda with five (5) items, noting the change on the Public Works Resolution Item No. 3 for one piece of equipment as well as the date changes on Consent item No. 5.

1) Task Order No. 14 (C18121) (AIP Project No. 3-41-0059-018-2021) between the City of The Dalles, Oregon/Klickitat County (owners) and Precision Approach Engineering, Inc. (Consultant), for the purpose of providing Engineering Design Services for the South Apron Rehabilitation and New Taxilanes Project at the Columbia Gorge Regional/The Dalles Municipal Airport.

2) Personnel Authorization to advertise for a full-time Office Manager position at Grade 37, Steps 1-3 (\$19.61-\$20.81 per hour), depending on qualifications within the Planning Department.

3) **Resolution No.10221** in the matter of declaring one (1), Eq.1134 - 2009 Ford F-150, VIN #21FTRF14W09KB49715; one (1), Eq.1116 - 2004 Ford F-150, VIN # 2FTRF18W34CA47877, 1125 - 2007, Ford F-350, VIN # VIN#IFTWW30547EB23046, one (1), Eq.1127 - 2008 Chevrolet 1500, VIN#IGCEK19C58Z158909, one (1), Eq.1363 - 2003 Ford F-550, VIN#IFDAF57P43ED01408, as surplus to be removed from the Public Works Department's Equipment Rental and Revolving Fund #504 inventory to be disposed of through public sale or auction by the Klickitat County Treasurer.

And
One (1) - 1983 Chevrolet 5-Yard Dump truck, Vin#: 1GBL7D184EV113061, two (2) - Craftsman 20" self-propelled mowers, one (1) - 20" push mower (No name), one (1) - Toro 30"Turfmaster self-propelled Mower, one (1) - Husqvarna snowblower (walk behind), one (1) - Mitsubishi Satoh S-4 70 2x4 tractor and one (1) - Craftsman tow behind yard sweeper as surplus to be removed from the Public Works Department's Building and Grounds Fund #001 inventory to be disposed of through public sale or auction by the Klickitat County Treasurer.

4) Retainer agreement (C18221) between Latham & Watkins LLP. and Klickitat County (Prosecuting Attorney's Office) for the purpose of representing in connection with the Klickitat County's challenge to the Ninth Circuit's decision in Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation v. Klickitat County in the U.S. Supreme Court in the amount of \$100,000 plus costs.

5) **Resolution No. 10321** in the matter of extending the outdoor burning restrictions within the unincorporated areas of Klickitat County in zone one (1). The ban will now be extended from September 30, 2021, to October 15, 2021.

Payment Approvals:

***Approved (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously):** Pay Estimate No. 5 to Lee Contractors, LLC. in the amount of \$29,180.00; which excludes retainage in the amount of \$1,459.00 and includes sales tax in the amount of \$2,188.50 for a total payment amount of \$29,909.50 for the Klickitat County Courthouse Entrance Improvement Project, C06821.

***Approved (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously):** Change order to Avidex in the amount of \$24,253.00 including sales tax for the installation of a VTC solution for the 1st-floor large conference room.

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

Accounts Payable: (#308844 – 308951, \$220,290.70, DOR Electric Transfer #940), \$3,048.10.

Combined Payroll: (#223035 – 223315, County Benefit Warrants #308803 - 308811, Electronic Transfer #939) \$1,080,401.92.

For a combined total of \$1,303,740.72 for the date ending September 27, 2021.

Board Pending:

Commissioner Christopher reported on the Rural Economic Development Projects, noting most of the projects are in the City limits.

Elected Official Report/Update: Treasurer Financial update and Office report.

Attendance: Treasurer Greg Gallagher, Auditor Brenda Sorensen, Fiscal Manager Jenn Bartley in the Chambers, various county employees, and residents via telephone.

Treasurer Greg Gallagher reported on the Finance Meeting that was held this last Friday, noting there was a request from Clerk Renea Campbell and Superior Court Administrator Mary Jo Hanson to discuss payouts from the Blake Decisions. Treasurer Gallagher advised of how the paybacks will be addressed, noting this is a reimbursable payout.

Chairman Sauter stated Klickitat County has joined into a lawsuit against the State ensuring the State reimburses the fees, not the individual counties for the Blake Decisions reimbursements.

Treasurer Gallagher advised of the platform the County can utilize to administer a credit card for the fire districts, noting the necessity for a credit card to purchase anything online.

Approved (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously): At 3:22 PM to recess the meeting for five (5) minutes; at 3:27 PM the meeting resumed.

Treasurer Gallagher reported on the General Fund balances; followed by a discussion on the budget allocations for expenditures from the General Fund. The Finance Committees' recommendation is to use the Rescue America Funds to balance the General Fund.

Fiscal Manager Jenn Bartley reported on the close and roll procedures for Klickitat County, followed by a year-end update from Auditor Brenda Sorensen.

Treasurer Gallagher reported work continues to close out 2020, State Audit, noting he is working with Auditor Sorensen.

Treasurer Gallagher advised the Treasurer's Office is working on a foreclosure auction, followed by an update on the White Salmon property and Mill Site.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:54 PM. Until 9:00 AM on Thursday, September 30, 2021, for scheduled budget workshops.

Thursday, September 30, 2021 - Regular Meeting Extension: Workshop Extension.
Chairman Sauter called the workshop to order at 9:00 AM. All three (3) Commissioners were present.

2022 Budget Workshop Schedule

Attendance: Auditor Brenda Sorensen, Chief Deputy Auditor Heather Jobe, Human Resources & Administration Services Director Robb Van Cleave, and Fiscal Manager Jenn Bartley were present throughout the budget workshops.

The Board held a discussion concerning whether to continue to record workshops. The Board agreed to continue to use zoom to allow public access but not record workshops.

Commissioner Anderson asked for a moment of silence in memory of Lewis County Commissioner Gary Stamper who passed away due to COVID.

Solid Waste Department

Solid Waste Director Ruby Irving provided an overview of her 2022 proposed budget, which included projected expenditures and revenues. Discussion followed regarding solid waste/landfill revenues.

Public Health Department

Public Health Director Erinn Quinn noted that she anticipates the County will receive more funding in 2022 for COVID-related expenditures, a review of received and expected revenues for 2021 followed. Director Quinn provided a staffing update, which included plans to fill a vacant Health Educator position in 2022. Further review and discussion regarding the Public Health Department's 2022 budget continued.

9:30 AM to 9:50 AM Break

Auditor's Office

Auditor Brenda Sorensen and Chief Deputy Auditor Heather Jobe presented the Auditor's Office proposed 2022 expenditures and revenues, and budgets for the Auditor's O&M, Veterans, and elections funds.

Economic Development Department

Economic Development/Natural Resources Director Dave McClure reported on his proposed budgets for 2022, which covered wages and benefits, VR&R rates, tourism, affordable housing, Natural Resources, and the new Small Business Development Center.

Approved (Motion/Anderson, S/Christopher) to recess for lunch at 12:15 PM.

Fair Board

Klickitat County Fair Board President Ron Ihrig and Treasurer Cynthia Bruce presented the Fair Board's 2022 budget proposal, noting that the increase for expenditures is to upgrade the Fair Board's website. Discussion followed regarding the cost to move Annex 5 to the Fairgrounds. Mr. Ihrig advised that the Fair Board feels

that the cost to move is too great. Mr. Ihrig said that the Fair Board does support the County's plans to upgrade the fairgrounds waterline.

The Board had a discussion regarding the sale of SDS timberlands, the sawmill, and other holdings. Commissioner Anderson commented that this will create a monopoly and log prices will go down.

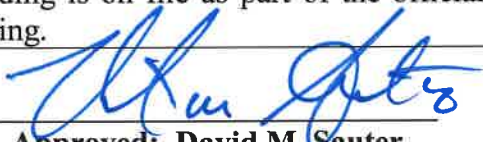
West District Court

Judge Jeff Baker advised that West District Court expenditures largely depend on how many jury trials are required, the budget is mostly wages and benefits and, when needed, witness travel expenses.

The Board had a brief follow-up discussion regarding solar guidelines. Commissioner Anderson suggested that he would have a meeting with Directors McClure and Lindblad for further discussion.

(M/Anderson, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously): The workshop was adjourned at 2:14 PM.

* Reference Document on File. Please Note: The Board of Commissioners' minutes are action minutes. A recording is on file as part of the official record and available on file 9.28.2021 Board of Commissioner's Meeting.



Approved: **David M. Sauter**
Chairman of the Board



11.02.2021

Date