

**Klickitat County**  
**Board of Commissioners**  
**Minutes – Meeting of Tuesday, October 05, 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 and Jacob L. Anderson. Dan Christopher will join the meeting within the hour.

**Workshop Session Agenda**

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

Attendance: Public Works Director Gordon Kelsey in the Chambers, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Public Works Director Gordon Kelsey reported on the contract change order on this afternoon's agenda, followed by a road construction update.

A discussion was held regarding the new Klickitat County Services Building flooring and interior design. Director Kelsey requested and received direction regarding the main floor surface, the board was in support of allowing the concrete floor to remain as is.

Director Kelsey stated the furniture for the public lobby areas is back-ordered, an option would be to rent furniture in the interim, the Board requested the furniture company provide rental furniture at no cost to the County.

Director Kelsey stated the contractor is installing the handrail/guardrail on the north and south entrances. The south entrance should be open by the end of the week and the north entrance will be open next week.

Chairman Sauter inquired and received information about when the Dead End Signs will be put up on the recently vacated O'Brien Road.

Commissioner Christopher joined the meeting at 10:22 AM.

**Natural Resources/Economic Department Update/Report.**

Attendance: Natural Resource / Economic Development Director Dave McClure, Economic Development Specialist Richard Foster in the Chambers, Natural Resources Program Coordinator Whitney Reynier via Zoom, and various county employees and residents via Zoom.

Natural Resource / Economic Development Director Dave McClure reported on the agenda for this evening's Klickitat County Public Economic Development Authority meeting.

Economic Development Specialist Richard Foster reported on the Federal Economic Development Authority Grant requirements for projects at the Dallesport Airport. Chairman Sauter inquired and received information about the grant timeline and how it will fit with the Columbia Gorge Community College time requirements.

Specialist Foster reported on potential Federal Funding for the Child Care Committee, Director McClure reported on upcoming the Inner Agency Coordinating Committee meeting where project sponsors can meet with Federal and State agencies that may offer funding opportunities.

Natural Resource Coordinator Whitney Reynier reported she will start well monitoring for the fall, followed by reports from citizens and well drillers that there is a very low water table, followed by an update on the status of the Department's streamflow monitoring project.

Coordinator Reynier stated that she is reviewing the temperature Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) that US EPA has promulgated for the Columbia River.

Coordinator Reynier stated the five (5) projects the Klickitat County Lead Entity submitted to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board will receive funding, followed by a discussion on the projects.

Commissioner Anderson inquired about making the Star Link Internet option more affordable to the citizens of Klickitat County, possibly some grant options.

A review and discussion were held regarding the September 14, 2021, minutes.

Commissioner Christopher requested we have more civil meetings and when citizens are speaking over the Commissioners, can they be muted, a discussion followed regarding the three (3) minute comment period and using the mute button. Chairman Sauter stated he will hold civil meetings and in the future, each Commissioner will get to run the Commissioner's Meetings.

A discussion was held about the Commissioners Meetings being recorded, Commissioner Anderson expressed support for the continuation of recording the meetings.

A discussion was held about the meeting video retainage and space storage for future meetings.

The Board recessed for lunch at 11:23 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.

**Agenda:**

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

**Approval of Commissioner Meeting Minutes**

**Approved (M/Anderson, S/Christopher . Passed unanimously):** the Klickitat County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes for September 14, 2021, as presented.

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

White Salmon Michelina Roth stated she is part of a group of people submitting a petition named, Klickitat County Citizens for Health Safety and Fair Representation For All, noting they have 230 signatures. Ms. Roth read the petition requesting leadership from the Commissioners and to work with the residents of the east and west end of the County, followed by concerns with the September 14<sup>th</sup> Citizen Comment period where Commissioner Anderson and Christopher were in attendance to listen to citizens opposed to Governor Inslee's Mandates.

Becky Miles followed Ms. Roth reading the second part of the petition.

Gabrielle Gilbert supported the petition and is in support of continuing the zoom meeting to allow constituents to be a part of the Tuesday, County Commissioner Board Meetings. Ms. Gilbert stated there was no orchestration of events that lead up to the event of Commissioner Christopher showing the middle finger to a constituent on Zoom.

Candance Magnuson stated she is here to help her neighbors and the citizens of Klickitat County and oppose the solar farms in the area. Ms. Magnuson stated she received a letter regarding a boundary line adjustment ½ mile down the road, would like to receive a letter of other events in the area.

GiGi Pomerantz stated it is better to prevent an illness than treat one. Ms. Pomarance reported on the COVID-19 statistics and encouraged the Commissioners to support Governor Inslee's mask and vaccine mandate.

Luke Throop reported on the CDC statistics and vaccine mandates, Mr. Throop requested 30 minutes in front of the Commissioner's to provide a presentation about the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Board stated they would not be in support of a presentation during a Commissioner Meeting; a Board of Health Meeting would be a more appropriate place.

Greg Wagner stated he was made aware of the Commissioner's having lunch, which included a beverage with alcohol. Discussion followed regarding county policy.

Pat Arnold from Trout Lake in support of the petition and supports the discussion of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Ms. Arnold stated she was not impressed with the actions of citizens and the Commissioners on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

Lynn Mason stated she does not want to be in a position of wearing a mask but we are in this position because of the Pandemic we are in and the virus is changing.

Commissioner Anderson stated there are quite a few citizens on either side of this issue and there is no one right way, but as elected Commissioners, they are elected to represent all citizens, not just one side or the other.

The Commissioners extended the public comment period because there are no Public Meetings scheduled.

Sheri Bousquet requested a findings of fact for the rescinding of the Solar Moratorium and thanked Commissioner Anderson for supporting the freedom of choice for medical care. Ms. Demmick inquired about a County Code of Ethics, as well as if alcohol is being consumed during lunch

Linda Rowland in support of the petition and stated she would like to see respectful behavior.

Susan Kelsey from Goldendale stated she respects the diverseness of opinions; but as the law of the land and the constitution states body autonomy is listed as a constitutional right.

John Parr states the County should open itself up to more information about COVID-19; stating the narratives and statistics given from the federal level are questionable. Mr. Parr stated he is in support of Luke Throop providing a presentation to the County Commissioners and citizens. Mr. Parr stated Executive Orders are not law and go against many Klickitat County citizens.

Sandra Choate stated she feels very strongly about the vaccine and mask mandate and if you are receiving your salary from taxpayers' money and work in the public space the vaccine should be given and masks should be worn.

Commissioner Anderson stated he is willing to have a town hall on the west end of the County to speak with citizens who have differing viewpoints on the vaccine and mask mandates.

Chairman Sauter stated he is personally dealing with the events of September 14<sup>th</sup> and believes in the rule of law and was not able to maintain an orderly meeting and that has been very difficult; Chairman Sauter stated the events were extremely disappointing and thanked the audience in the Chambers and on Zoom for such civilized discussion today.

#### **New Business:**

Attendance: Clerk Renea Campbell, Klickitat County Superior Court Administrator Mary Jo Hanson, Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel, Chief Deputy Auditor Heather Jobe, various county employees and residents via Zoom.

Clerk Renea Campbell stated she is concerned with the implementation of the Court's Interagency Reimbursement Agreement between the County and the State regarding the State v. Blake decision.

Chairman Sauter inquired about the caseloads that would be paid out from Superior Court, East and West District Court, a brief discussion with Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel followed, noting there is no direction from legislators as to the division of funds between the courts.

Chief Deputy Auditor Heather Jobe reviewed the Contract and Accounts Payable process, noting this is a reimbursable payment generated by the office overseeing the payments.

The discussion will be rescheduled until the District Courts, Superior Court and the Prosecuting Attorney can all be present.

#### **Consent Agenda:**

**Approved (M/Anderson, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** the Consent Agenda with three (3) items.

- 1) Budget Transfer within the General Fund for the Building Department and Code Compliance/Nuisance totaling \$26,700.
- 2) Request from the Sheriff's Office to purchase a Wrap Cart to be used with the safe restraints Wrap previously purchased at the cost of \$2,600.55 including tax.
- 3) Scheduling a public meetings to be held Tuesday, October 12, 2021, at 1:30 PM:
  - Consider approval of Binding Site Plan BSP 2021-02, Parcel No. 02-13-3313-0001/00 within the Dallesport vicinity. Applicants: Lyle School District (Ann Varkados).
  - Consider approval of Short Plat SPL 2021-01, Parcel No. 05-17-1452-0002/00 within the Goldendale vicinity. Applicants: Jennifer and Mike Kallio.

#### **Payment Approvals:**

**Approved (M/Anderson, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** Change Order No. 2 for the Roosevelt Grade Road Overlay CRP 362, Federal Aid No. STPR - N201 (001), Contract No. TA- 7079, in the amount of \$630,000.00. This Change Order provides for the additional depth of .17FT. CL. ¾" HMA PG 28-64 on 5.00 miles of Roosevelt Grade Road.

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

Accounts Payable: (#308998 - 309069) for a total of \$144,369.21 for the date ending October 4, 2021.

There were no payroll warrants requiring approval at this time.

At 2:10 PM the Board was recessed for five (5) minutes.

**Miscellaneous Reports/Comments:**

**Public Hearing: Application #OS-FCL-2021-01, Applicant: Floyd Bartmess.**

Attendance: Deputy Assessor Mike Bellamy in the Chambers, various county employees and residents via Zoom.

Chairman Sauter opened the Public Hearing, the Board disclosed there were no ex-parte contacts for this hearing.

Deputy Assessor Mike Bellamy provided a staff overview of the application and stated the Assessor's Office recommends approval of the reapplication.

Upon completion of the staff review, Chairman Sauter asked for public comment, Ken McCune stated he is a friend of Mr. Bartmess and is in support of the application being approved, followed by Chairman Sauter closing the public hearing to further comment and called for Board discussion.

Commissioner Christopher inquired about the future use of the property, followed by a discussion of the tax payments.

The Board stated they are supportive of allowing people to stay in the program for future use, which was followed by a motion.

**Approved (M/Anderson, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** Motion to approve the application for classification to Open Space Farm and Agriculture Conservation Land Current Use Assessment; Application No. OS-FCL- 2021-01 Applicant: Floyd Bartmess, and direct staff to prepare findings of fact and conclusions consistent with Board discussion for consideration on October 12, 2021.

**Human Resource and Administrative Services Department Update/Report:**

HR Manager KC Sheridan requested and received verbal approval to advertise for a full-time Communication Officer, noting one position is currently being advertised but a retirement notice was recently received. Manager Sheridan stated posting for two (2) positions at once will be most productive.

Chairman Sauter announced the Board will go into Closed Session at 2:42 PM with the Human Resources & Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave and HR Manager KC Sheridan in accordance with RCW 42.30.140(4) to discuss the collective bargaining negotiations and/or grievance/mediation with regard to collective bargaining. Chairman Sauter noted that the Closed Session would be for fifteen (15) minutes. At 2:57 PM it was announced the Closed Session would be extended fifteen (15), at 3:12 PM it was announced the Closed Session would be extended ten (10) minutes.

The Board convened back into Regular Session at 3:22 PM. No action was taken.

**Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel Elected Official Report/Update:**

Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel noted he had no items of a general nature for discussion and requested to go into Executive Session.

At 3:23 PM Chairman Sauter announced that the Board would be convening into Executive Session with Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel in accordance with RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss pending litigation. Chairman Sauter noted that the session would last for ten (10) minutes.

The Board convened back into Regular Session at 3:33 PM. No action was taken.

Code Compliance Officer Lem Pratt reported on the new Code Compliance web page that allows complaints to be submitted online anonymously.

**Approved (M/Anderson, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:46 PM. No scheduled workshops. \* Reference Document on File. Please Note: A 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



11-23-21

Date