

Klickitat County
Board of Commissioners
Minutes – Meeting of Tuesday, October 12, 2021

Morning Workshop Session

Chairman David Sauter opened the morning session at 10:00 AM with Commissioners Dan Christopher, Jacob Anderson (via Zoom) and David Sauter present. Through out the meeting there were various members of the public, staff and elected officials present via zoom.

Workshop Session Agenda

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

Attendance: Public Works Director Gordon Kelsey and Deputy Director Jeff Hunter.

Director Kelsey provided updates on the status of construction projects underway and a review of projects in the design phase. Discussion followed regarding the front courthouse parking lot. Director Kelsey advised that the fuel tanks found under the parking lot pre-date the present courthouse and were located behind the original courthouse. Director Kelsey updated the Board on the new County Services building. The Board discussed options for the use of the Annex 5 building. The Board asked Public Works to come back with a cost estimate to move the building to the gun range. Director Kelsey updated the Board on the Oregon Trail Rally which is planned for November 5th & 6th, a controlled burn proposed by the U.S. Forest Service and the Goldendale homecoming dance which is being held in the livestock barn at the Fairgrounds.

10:20 AM - Human Resource (HR) and Administrative Services Update/Report:

Attendance: HR and Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave, Fiscal Manager Jenn Bartley, HR Manager KC Sheridan, Senior Services Director Sharon Carter, Treasurer Greg Gallagher, and Auditor Brenda Sorensen.

Fiscal Manager Bartley provided an update on American Rescue Plan funding and noted that the way Counties report has been changed. A quarterly financial update followed. Ms. Bartley noted that the County's cash is on target and pointed out that the County exceeds the State Auditor's benchmarks. Ms. Bartley advised that she is analyzing accounting and budget processes to help departments develop sustainable budgets and to improve their knowledge of the budget process. Mr. Bartley proposed that she would like to do a quarterly financial update. The Board agreed.

HR Manager Sheridan advised that Senior Services was awarded the grant to fund the Senior Volunteer Coordinator position as previously discussed and it will be included in the 2022 and 2023 budgets and organizational chart as a grant funded position.

Senior Services Director Carter stated that there are 4 full time and 2 casual positions that will be affected by the transition of the County's senior home care program to privately owned home care and she asked if it would be appropriate to offer a severance package to allow the employees to get health insurance during the 90-day waiting period with their new employers. Director Carter stated that her department received COVID funding that could cover this expense. The Board expressed concerns regarding setting a precedent. HR Director Van Cleave advised that the unions have had similar requests and they have been told no. The Board indicated that they would like to know the amount of COVID dollars that were used for benefits and wages for the home care employees.

Ms. Sheridan reported that notices will be sent out shortly regarding open enrollment for health care benefits, noting that there is a change on how long-term care coverage is handled and if you do not want it you have to opt out. Director Van Cleave advised that the deadline for the salary survey has been extended to gather more data and will be coming to the Board soon.

At 11:10 AM Chairman Sauter announced the Board would be going into a “closed session” to discuss collective bargaining negotiations associated with collective bargaining in accordance with RCW 42.30.140(4) for fifteen (15) minutes. At 11:25 it was announced that the Closed Session would be extended for fifteen (15) minutes. At 11:40 AM Chairman Sauter convened the regular meeting. No action was taken. Commissioner Anderson left the meeting to attend another meeting.

Motion (M/Christopher, S/Sauter); passed. To recess for lunch at 11:41 AM.

Commissioner’s Business Meeting

Chairman Sauter reconvened the Commissioner’s meeting at 1:00 PM, which was followed by the pledge of allegiance. All Three Commissioners were present, Commissioner Anderson via Zoom.

Agenda:

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

Approval of Commissioner Meeting Minutes

There were no Commissioner meeting minutes requiring approval at this time.

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

Cedar Valley resident Eric Young expressed concerns about the WSDOT reduced workforce and asked if the County has a plan in place to maintain public safety on State highways this winter. Chairman Sauter advised that the County has not been contacted by the State regarding this matter.

Goldendale area resident Greg Wagner asked what RCW allowed the Commissioners to hear the solar moratorium matter. Chairman Sauter advised that he would forward the RCW to Mr. Wagner. Mr. Wagner asked how Commissioner Anderson could write an ordinance related to Knight Road solar projects. Chairman Sauter advised that Mr. Wagner is confusing terms, ordinances and resolutions are different, Commissioner Anderson wrote a resolution.

Gabriele Gilbert, White Salmon commented on the child care deficiency in Klickitat County and asked the Board to get a handle on fixing the problem. She commented on the important services that Washington Gorge Action Programs provides to county residents. Ms. Gilbert also asked Commissioner Anderson to come to the west end and meet with the citizens. Commissioner Anderson advised that he has a town hall meeting scheduled at the Pioneer Center on October 19th at 7:00 PM.

Husum resident Sheri Bousquet followed up on her request for a copy on the solar moratorium findings of fact. Chairman Sauter stated that he had not confirmed the information and will check with Planning Director and get back to her.

Goldendale area resident Del Elridge asked what a citizen would need to do to demand the Commissioners do ordinances for solar projects and to reinstate the moratorium. Chairman Sauter advised that there are development requirements and restrictions in place for the development of energy projects. Mr. Eldridge asked what the restrictions were. Chairman Sauter noted that there are 2 permitted solar projects in the Bickleton area and you can look at their permits which would list conditions and restrictions.

Mr. Eldridge stated that citizens want more stringent restrictions and want to know how to get it done. Commissioner Anderson provided further clarification regarding the permitting process, citizen involvement, cleanup of solar panels, decommissioning, batteries, and other mitigation issues raised.

Commissioner Anderson stated that the points Mr. Eldridge is making are valid and that is why the State legislation is having solar discussions including the photovoltaic module stewardship and take back program.

Public Meetings/Public Hearings/Bid Openings:

Chairman Sauter opened the public meeting to consider final approval of Binding site Plan No. BSP2021-02; Applicant: Lyle School District, and requested a staff report.

Associate Planner Denise Lee provided a staff report (via zoom), advising that this is a proposal to separate the former Dallesport School building, the Community Center, and vacant lot on Parcel No. 02-13-3314-0001/00. The parcel is located between Central Blvd and Dallesport road in Dallesport.

Ms. Lee reported that an administrative review of the binding site plan proposal has been completed and signatures have been obtained from the Road, Health, and Planning Departments, and the Treasurer's Office attesting that all conditions attached to the preliminary approval have been met.

Chairman Sauter opened the public meeting to consider approval of Short Plat SPL2021-01, Parcel No. 05-17-1452-0002/00 in the Goldendale vicinity. Note: Applicants Jennifer & Mike Kallio were present.

Via Zoom Associate Planner Denise Lee provided a staff report, advising that an administrative review of the short plat has been completed and signatures have been obtained from the Road, Health, and Planning Departments, and the Treasurer's Office attesting that all conditions attached to the preliminary approval have been met.

Associate Planner Denise reported that an administrative review of the short plat has been completed and signatures have been obtained from the Road, Health, and Planning Departments, and the Treasurer's Office attesting that all conditions attached to the preliminary approval have been met.

Approved (M/Anderson, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously): granting final approval of Binding Site Plan No. BSP 2021-02, and grant final approval; Applicant: Lyle School District, Ann Varkados, Superintendent.

Miscellaneous Reports/Comments:

Attendance: County Clerk Renea Campbell, Auditor Brenda Sorensen, Treasurer Greg Gallagher, Chief Deputy Auditor Heather Jobe, Fiscal Manager Jenn Bartley, Superior Court Administrator Mary Hanson, and HR Director Robb Van Cleave.

Chairman Sauter provided a brief update on WSAC's legal action related to the Blake decision, noting that Klickitat County's share of the assessment will be \$3,341.

The Board continued the discussion regarding who will manage the reporting requirements for the Washington State Administrative Office of the Court's Interagency Reimbursement grant which provides reimbursement for costs related to convictions affected by the Blake decision. Clerk Campbell shared information from a recent meeting with County Clerks regarding the grant. Ms. Campbell advised that she and her staff will manage the reporting of the grant. Fiscal Manager Bartley suggested that each grant/state email with instructions should be saved as backup. Following further discussion, the Board indicated that they would like Ms. Campbell to manage the grant reporting.

Consent Agenda:

- *Approved (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously):** Consent Agenda with eleven (11) items.
- 1) Dietitian Contract (C18321) between Mid-Columbia Medical Center and Klickitat County (Public Health Department) for the purpose of continuing Women Infant and Children Dietician services.
 - 2) Professional Services Agreement (C18421) between Amy Roots and Klickitat County (Public Health Department) for the purpose of providing Woman Infant and Children (WIC) Counselor services.

- 3) Professional Services Agreement (**C18521**) between Crystal Casas and Klickitat County (Public Health Department) for the purpose of providing Woman Infant and Children (WIC) Counselor services
- 4) Professional Economic Development Services Agreement (**18621**) between Klickitat County Public Economic Development Authority and Klickitat County for the purpose of providing the Washington Department of Commerce grant award #S22-75106-018 to support economic development activities in Klickitat County.
- 5) Personnel Authorization to advertise for a full-time Communications Officer position at Union Grade, Steps 1-3, depending on qualifications within the Department of Emergency Management.
- 6) Interagency Agreement (**18721**) IAA22102 between Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts and Klickitat County (Juvenile Department) to engage the services of a contractor to process Truancy At-Risk Youth and Child in Need of Services (BECCA) programs and services.
- 7) Scheduling a public meeting to be held Tuesday, October 19, 2021, at 1:30 pm to consider approval of a Plat Vacation, SPL2006-51; parcel numbers 04-11-1806-5101/00, 04-11-1806-5102/00, 04-11-1806-5103/00, 04-11-1806-5104/00, 04-11-1806-5104/00, 04-10-1306-5104/00, 04-11-1906-5104/00 and 04-10-2400-0001/00 off of Oak Ridge, Ridgeview, and Kirbish Roads in the Husum vicinity. Applicant: SDS Co., LLC.
- 8) Interagency Agreement (**18821**) IAA22139 between Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts and Klickitat County (Juvenile Department) to support CASA programs to increase the number of children served by court-appointed special advocates in dependency matters or to reduce the average caseload of volunteers to recommended CASA standards.
- 9) Service Agreement (**C18921**) between Mid-Columbia Children's Council, Inc. and Klickitat County (Public Health Department) for the purpose of setting forth the responsibilities in the provision of collaborative services to enrolled participants of Head Start.
- 10) Contract agreement (**C19021**) between Klickitat County (Juvenile Department) and Melanie Kelly, LCSW, CSOTP to provide services as an Oregon State Certified Sex Offender Therapist, effective November 1, 2021, through October 31, 2023.
- 11) Grant Program Agreement Amendment (**C19121**) (E22-064) between Klickitat County (Emergency Management) and the Washington State Military Department for the purpose of providing funding in the amount of \$41,758 to prevent terrorism and other catastrophic events and to prepare the Nation for threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk to the security of the United States.

Voucher Certification and Approval

***Approved Warrants (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously):** Accounts Payable: Warrants #309093 – #309214, and Payroll Warrants #223316-223596, Benefit Warrants #309083-309092, and electronic transfer #941 for a total of \$1,041,749.59 for the date ending October 11, 2021.

Unfinished Business:

Chairman Sauter advised that the Board considered and approved Open Space Farm and Agricultural Conservation Land Application OS-FCL-2021-01, and now the Board needs to adopt the Findings, Conclusion, and Decision in support of the Board's decision on Tuesday, October 5, 2021.

Chairman Sauter read the following into the record: The property subject to this application consists of two (2) parcels 04-16-1900-0002/00 (384.11 ACRES) and 04-16-2032-0004/00 (1.66 ACRES) for a total of 385.77 acres. According to the Assessor's records, the parcels have been enrolled in the Open Space Farm & Agricultural Land current use classification under RCW 84.34.020(2) October 4, 1988 and have continued enrollment without interruption.

Present improvements located on the property include a residence, shop, and barn on Parcel 04-16-1900-0002/00. The other Parcel 04-16-2032-0004/00 is bare land, which the applicant describes the present use of the land as cattle pasture.

The current use is idle land due to disabilities. If approved for Open Space Farm & Agricultural Conservation Land, annual property taxes would be approximately \$1,842.12 based on this year's levy rate, resulting in a gain of \$1,120.53.

The Applicants shall manage for weed control pursuant to state weed law (17.10 RCW) and current county noxious weed control list. The Applicants must establish a ground cover to protect the resources being conserved under the granting of this application.

Granting of application covers 384.77 acres and any change in use or parcel size will void this agreement. Failure to comply with any one of the terms and conditions will result in removal from classification. Compliance with the terms and conditions of this agreement will be monitored and enforced by the Klickitat County Assessor's office.

In conclusion the Board has found that the Applicants have demonstrated that the property fully meets the definition and requirements of "Open Space Farm and Agricultural Conservation Land" as defined under RCW 84.34.020(8) and that the primary use of the property has been commercial agriculture, and at this time no longer meets the criteria but has a high potential for returning to commercial agriculture in the future.

***Approved (M/Anderson, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** Motion to adopt the findings, conclusions, terms and conditions as presented in support of Board action granting approval of Application No. #OS-FCL-2021-01, as filed by applicant Floyd Bartmess for classification as Open Space Farm and Agricultural Conservation Land for Current Use Assessment under chapter 84.34.RCW. Additionally, the Chairman is authorized to sign the "Notice of Approval of Application for Classification as Open Space" as well as on the "Open Space Taxation Agreement".

Continued discussion regarding the surplus of law enforcement body armor/bulletproof vest:

Attendance: Undersheriff Tim Neher and Chief Civil Clerk Karen Elings. Chairman Sauter provided a brief update on the Board's earlier discussion regarding the grant to reimburse costs related to the Blake decision.

Discussion continued regarding the surplus of law enforcement body armor/bulletproof vests. Commissioner Christopher stated that he thinks there is value to citizens to surplus used bulletproof vests. Undersheriff Neher and Chief Civil Clerk Elings provided a history of how body armor and vests are used by the deputies, noting that deputies have personally purchased their own, recently the department did purchase vests for corrections officers and deputies. Undersheriff Neher advised that he has used his older vests as added layers of protection in dangerous settings, and the department uses expired body armor/vest during training exercises and on the shooting range.

Elected Official –Report/Update:

Treasurer Greg Gallagher provided a Finance Committee update, which focused on paying off debt. Treasurer Gallagher provided payment information for 2021 through 2025, noting that by 2025 the only remaining debt will be the bond on the new building. The Board discussed options and benefits of paying the Dallesport Waste Water Treatment Plant and the Pioneer Center loans off early to eliminate interest payments. It was noted that the State Revolving Fund does not charge interest. Ms. Bartley advised that American Relief Fund dollars can not be used to pay off debt. The Board expressed interest in moving forward and Treasurer Gallagher noted that he will look into the matter further.

Treasurer Gallagher confirmed that the next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for October 22nd and that due to the holidays in November there will not be a meeting.

Prosecuting Attorney Quesnel noted that he had no items for discussion.

(2:55 PM) (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously): There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned until Thursday, October 14th at 9:00 AM for scheduled workshops. It was also noted that Commissioners Sauter and Christopher would be participating separately in union negotiations Wednesday, October 13, 2021.

Thursday, October 14 2021 - Regular Meeting Extension: Workshop Extension.

Chairman Sauter called the workshop to order at 9:00 AM. Commissioners Sauter and Christopher were present, Commissioner Anderson joined the meeting at 10:27 AM due to a previous commitment.

2022 Budget Workshop Schedule

Attendance: Treasurer Greg Gallagher (via Zoom), Chief Deputy Auditor Heather Jobe, Human Resources & Administration Services Director Robb Van Cleave and Fiscal Manager Jenn Bartley were present throughout the budget workshop.

Public Works Department:

Attendance: Public Works Director Gordon Kelsey, Deputy Director Jeff Hunter, Deputy Finance Director Susan Gregson (via zoom), and Senior Accountant/Systems Administrator Pam Beierle.

The Public Works management team presented a bare bones 2022 budget for Buildings and Grounds. The Board reviewed multi-year comparisons of revenues and expenses. Public Works provided an overview of facilities maintenance, capital/non-capital projects, and expenses and revenues for the Trout Lake park, gun range, fairgrounds/indoor arena, and jail.

Mr. Hunter presented a spreadsheet which outlined projects the carpenter position completed that compared bid cost versus actual cost and the savings created by having a carpenter on staff. Review and discussion followed concerning Fund 131 and Fund 303 Capital Improvement. The Board reviewed the proposed cost to complete the last radio project tower site on Satus Pass. There was discussion about submitting a request for Landfill Gas Improvement dollars to cover the cost of the electrical service to the radio site.

Director Kelsey provided an overview of the budget and expenses for the new County Services Building, Fund 307 for 2021 and 2022.

The Board had a discussion regarding proposed projects for 2022.

Civil Service Commission:

Civil Service Secretary Melanie Bartz presented the 2022 budget for the Civil Service Commission, noting that the budget was reduced by 3% as instructed.

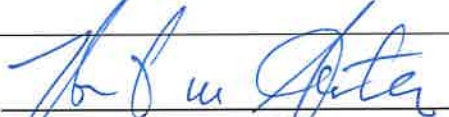
Fiscal Manager Bartley advised the Board that they will need to dig into the budget and make some tough decisions next Thursday, adding that there are specific deadlines per statute that are getting closer and she needs to advertise the preliminary budget hearing and post the preliminary budget. Ms. Bartley stated that she would like to have the first public hearing on November 9th and then continue the hearing to November 23rd. Ms. Bartley stated that Public Works will be discussing the 6-year road plan next Thursday beginning at 9:00 AM, noting that the 6-year road plan also requires a public hearing before adoption.

Following further discussion and clarification, Ms. Bartley suggested that the video system in the new building may qualify for American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding because the County has changed the way they do business due to the pandemic. Commissioner Christopher indicated that he would like to know whether ARP funding can be used for County road projects.

A brief discussion followed regarding available options to raise 2022 revenues to cover anticipated expenditures.

Motion (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously): to adjourn workshop (10:44 AM).

* 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 Zoom 10.12.21 BOCC Meeting.



Approved: David M. Sauter
Chairman of the Board



10.19.2021

Date