

**Klickitat County**  
**Board of Commissioners**  
**Minutes – Meeting of Tuesday, October 19, 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.

**10:00 AM – Workshop Session Agenda Public Works Department Update**

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

Public Works Deputy Director Jeff Hunter reviewed consent agenda items and pay estimates on this afternoon's agenda.

A construction program update was given, noting the Old Mountain Road reconstruction is very well done; 2021, road design report was given, followed by east and west end crew maintenance projects.

Deputy Director Hunter reported on the Klickitat County Services Building, stating the contractors are preparing subgrade in the main Courthouse parking lot, floor tiles scheduled to start installation this week, the furniture assembly is done on the third floor and work will begin on the second floor, noting the lobby furniture is delayed until March 2022.

Deputy Director Hunter stated the contractor is working to install a handrail/guardrail on the north, the south entrance is open this week and the east entrance is closed.

Deputy Director Hunter stated the Oregon Trail Rally is still scheduled for November 5 and 6<sup>th</sup>, followed by a report on the recent theft attempt at the Trout Lake Park shower coin boxes, noting the boxes were destroyed but no coins were taken due to the parking attendant removing the coins every night.

Deputy Director Hunter requested and received verbal approval to proceed with the advertising processing for two (2) temporary snowplow drivers and a full-time Maintenance Technician in the Goldendale area.

A discussion was held regarding the use and cost of the Klickitat County Gun Range in Dallesport.

**Emergency Management Department Update/Report:**

Attendance: Department of Emergency Management Director Jeff King, Emergency Management Chief of Operations Filiberto Ontiveros in the Chambers, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Department of Emergency Management Director Jeff King reported on the public safety radio system; maintenance, radio site lease agreements, and public safety radio project.

Emergency Management Chief of Operations Filiberto Ontiveros reported on the 9-1-1 call taking and public safety radio dispatching call volume report; staffing levels, noting the emergency staffing condition continues and considerations need to be made to schedule options in light of potential vaccination mandate effects. A discussion followed regarding the vaccine mandate that was just implemented for the State of Washington employees and the volume of employees who left their jobs causing major disruption in the workforce.

DEM Chief of Operations Ontiveros reported on operations and training, advising of the work being done on the Text 9-1-1 Project as requested by the State, an update followed about the Emergency Management Service call response status.

DEM Director King reported on the COVID-19 Emergency Operations Center activation level; the wildfire season; the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System; training and exercises; the Emergency Management Program Grants and the Emergency Management Notification and ID Badge updates for the Klickitat County Employees due to the move to the new building.

DEM Director King requested and received verbal approval to proceed with increasing the Emergency Management Program Coordinator's hours to a .75 FTE as long as it remains grant-funded, the Board stated in the grant funding is no longer available the position will be reviewed.

DEM Director King advised of his research to make the department sustainable through the Enhanced 9-1-1 phone excise tax; the Emergency Communications Sales and Use Tax and the User Fees to Klickitat County Fire Districts.

The Board recessed for lunch at 11:39 AM.

**Call to Order/Roll Call:**

Chairman Sauter reconvened the Regular Meeting for Tuesday, October 19, 2021, at 1:00 PM. Opening with the Pledge of Allegiance. All three (3) Commissioners were present.

**Agenda:**

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

**Approval of Commissioner Meeting Minutes**

**Approved (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously):** the Klickitat County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes for September 21, 2021, and October 12, 2021, as presented.

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

Goldendale resident Susan Kelsey requested and received information about a town hall meeting that has been canceled in the White Salmon area with Jacob Anderson, followed by Ms. Kelsey stating she was not part of the protest that took place on September 14, 2021, and stated many in the County are not unsafe and she or the citizens she protests with are not unsafe.

Resident Gabrielle Gilbert requested Commissioner Anderson participate in quarterly town hall meetings with the west end constituents. Ms. Gilbert inquired about adding the daycare crisis into the 10-year strategy that is posted on the Klickitat County website. Ms. Gilbert stated she would the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife to enter into a contract with the County to redirect the animal wildlife calls. Ms. Gilbert stated she would like a public apology to Ms. Lynn Mason for the gesture made towards her on September 21, 2021.

Debbie Wagner of C.E.A.S.E read into the record an email written by Commissioner Christopher regarding comments made about Planning Director Mo-chi Lindblad on a radio talk show by Citizen Greg Wagner.

Greg Wagner of C.E.A.S.E requested Commissioner Christopher resign, noting the personal attacks that Commissioner Christopher has done on Mr. Wagner.

Commissioner Christopher responded stating there was no direct statement made accusing Mr. Wagner of personally attacking Planning Director Mo-chi Lindblad.

Resident Kathy Moco inquired if there is a plan to pick up the slack for plowing the snow due to the State workers resigning their jobs yesterday. The Board advised there is no plan at this time.

Commissioner Anderson advised he attends the regularly scheduled meeting that is held on the west-end and if there was the interest he would hold regular meetings for the citizen to come and speak, followed by an update on the childcare committee as well as the visibility of the Board has brought to the Legislators advising them of the crisis for the last fifteen (15) years.

Delmar Eldridge requested the Board take a second look at the solar farms that are moving into the County, Mr. Eldridge stated there are contracts in the New York area that appear to be unfair.

Lisa Evans from White Salmon stated with all the mandates recently is there a way to support people in the community to start childcare instead of utilizing the government to provide those services.

Chairman Sauter advised solar is in the economic renewable plan, not one personal opinion. The fact-finding part of the process is when the County receives an application, the County can not get involved in private citizen agreements with solar farm companies.

Citizen Lynn Mason stated she has been a part of organizations that have created childcare but these programs are not in this area, noting she believes child care is a government responsibility.

**Public Meetings/Public Hearings/Bid Openings:** Public Hearing to consider approval of the vacation of Short Plat SPL2006-5. Applicants: SDS Co., LLC.

Attendance: Assistant Planner Denise Lee, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Chairman Sauter opened the public hearing and asked for a staff review

Assistant Planner Denise Lee stated the vacation of Short Plat SPL2006-5, is located off of Oak Ridge, Ridgeview, and Kirbish Roads in the Husum vicinity on Parcels 04-11-1806-5101/00, 04-11-1806-5102/00, 04-11-1806-5103/00, 04-11-1806-5104/00, 04-11-1806-5104/41, 04-10-1306-5104/00, 04-11-1906-5104/00 and 04-10-2400-0001/00.

Assistant Planner Lee advised the applicant is proposing to vacate SPL2006-51 in its entirety; the Covenants and Road Maintenance Agreement that was filed with the short plat will also be vacated. The easement for Valley View Road will also be removed.

Chairman Sauter opened the public hearing to public comment; no one commented, Board discussion followed regarding the timeline for short plats.

Chairman Sauter closed the public hearing, which was followed by a motion.

**Approved (M/Anderson, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously): Resolution No. 10421** in the matter of granting final approval of the vacation for Short Plat SPL2006-5, in reference to the parcel numbers stated in the staff review; located off of Oak Ridge, Ridgeview, and Kirbish Roads in the Husum vicinity; Applicant: SDS Co., LLC.

**Consent Agenda:**

**Approved (M/Anderson, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** The Consent Agenda with Seven (7) items.

- 1) Interagency Reimbursement Agreement (C19221) IAA22176 between Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and Klickitat County to provide reimbursement to the County with extraordinary judicial, prosecutorial, or defense-related costs of resentencing and vacating the sentences of defendants whose convictions or sentences in Superior Court and District Court are affected by the State v. Blake decision and to provide reimbursement to assist the County with reimbursements for legal final obligations (LFO) to defendants whose convictions or in Superior Court and District Court are affected by the State v. Blake decision.
- 2) Personnel Authorization to advertise for a full-time Permit Technician position at Grade 35, Steps 1-3, depending on qualifications within the Building Department.
- 3) Final Acceptance and Release of Retainage for the Klickitat County Jail Control System in the amount of \$14,277.23, certifying all contract requirements have been met by Justice Systems Corp. for the design, procurement, and installation of a new intercom system and detention control system in the Klickitat County Jail, all in accordance with the contract plans, contract provision, and the Standard Specifications.
- 4) Small Works Contract (C19321) between All Seasons Heating and Air Conditioning and Klickitat County (Public Works Department) for the Klickitat County Courthouse HVAC Replacement Project 2021, in the amount of \$146,049.88; 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 (\$14,604.99) for an aggregate of \$160,654.87.
- 5) Consolidated Grant Agreement (C19421) between Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and Klickitat County (Senior Services) for the purpose of WSDOT providing funds in the amount of \$10,709 to purchase and install one (1) bus shelter for Bingen Point.
- 6) Intergovernmental / Interlocal Agreement (C19521) between the Hood River County Transportation District, Skamania County, Klickitat County (Senior Services Department), and the Mid-Columbia Economic Development District for 2022, for the purpose of implementing 2022, Multi-Provider GORge Pass Fare Program in the transit Agencies' respective service areas.
- 7) Scheduling a public meetings to be held Tuesday, October 26, 2021, at 1:30 pm:
  - Consider approval of a 2-year Plat Extension of Subdivision SUB 2018-01; parcel numbers 02-13-3375-0015/00 and 02-13-3360-1001/00, in the Dallesport vicinity. Applicant: Greg Wallace.
  - Consider Boundary Line Adjustment, BLA2021-11, parcel number 05-17-1952-0003/00 and 05-17-1900-0001/00, in the Goldendale vicinity. Applicants: Aaron and Sarah Glantz/Western Pacific Timber.

**Payment Approvals:**

**Approved (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously):** Pay Estimate No. 6 to Lee Contractors, LLC. in the amount of \$145,471.30; which excludes retainage in the amount of \$7,273.57 and includes sales tax in the amount of \$10,910.35 for a total payment amount of \$149,108.08 for the Klickitat County Courthouse Entrance Improvement Project, C06821.

**Approved (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously):** Pay Estimate No. 4 to Grade Worx, LLC. in the amount of \$450,650.03; excluding \$22,532.50 in retainage, for a total payment amount of \$428,117.53 for the Old Mountain Road Project.

**Approved (M/Anderson, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** Pay Estimate No. 1 to Interstate Concrete & Asphalt, Co. dba. in the amount of \$559,616.53, for the Roosevelt Grade Road Overlay Project.

**Approved (M/Anderson, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** Pay estimate No. 18 to Kirby Nagelhout Construction Company in the amount of \$668,151.21 which excludes retainage in the amount of \$33,279.67 and includes sales tax in the amount of \$50,111.34, for a total payment amount of \$684,982.88, for the County Services Building Project, Contract No. C03120.

**Approved Warrants (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously):** Accounts Payable: (#309264 - 309399) \$2,031,985.88, for the date ending October 18, 2021. There was no payroll requiring approval.

HR Manager KC Sheridan requested and received verbal approval to proceed with the advertising process for a Clerical I position in the Assessor's Office, steps I to III.

**Miscellaneous Reports/Comments:**

Attendance: Columbia River Gorge Commission Executive Director Krystyna Wolniakowski, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Columbia River Gorge Commission Executive Director Krystyna Wolniakowski advised she is working on the new ordinance for Klickitat County, followed by the adoption process.

CRGC Executive Director Wolniakowski advised of a change that is in the Management Plan allowing short term rentals; Commissioner Anderson inquired how the Gorge Commission will implement the short-term rentals in the areas of Klickitat County zoning as well as what will happen to the current short-term rentals that are operating in the area.

CRGC Executive Director Wolniakowski reported on the rules and regulations surrounding the short-term rental rules and regulations.

Chairman Sauter inquired about the United States Department of Agriculture grant funding that was granted to the County's in the Scenic Area, noting Klickitat County has been excluded. Chairman Sauter stated the funds should be distributed between the Scenic Area Counties equally. CRGC Executive Director Wolniakowski advised of the fund's distribution.

**Unfinished Business: Senior Services Director Follow-up discussion regarding the termination of home care services.**

Attendance: Senior Service Director Sharon Carter, HR & Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave, HR Manager KC Sheridan in the Chambers, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Senior Service Director Sharon Carter reviewed severance packages for the in-home aides that will be losing their positions due to the termination of home-care services. Director Carter stated the COVID-19 funds received were designated for the in-home care workers.

The Board held a discussion regarding the fairness or unfairness of the appearance of a severance package being provided to the in-home aids to pay for Cobra services. Chairman Sauter was in support, Commissioner Christopher and Anderson were not in support of paying three months of Cobra insurance coverage. A discussion followed regarding the required designation for the COVID-19 funds, noting the county subsidizes a large portion

of the In-Home Program and for a brief moment, the program was fully funded with the States appropriation of COVID-19 funds.

The Board further discussed the exact designation of the COVID-19 funds; inquiring if they are specifically designated to the In-Home Aides and their benefits, agreeing that the appropriations can be used in additional COVID-19 financial needs, noting the funds are deposited into the General Fund and future financial decisions will be unclear and can cause the appearance of unfairness and a precedent that severance packages are available.

Commissioner Anderson stated the In-Home Aides have the ability to receive unemployment due to the positions being eliminated, followed by Director Carter requesting and receiving guidance to addressing the In-Home Aides end date for employment, the Board stated they encourage the employees to stay until the end of December when the Client Services Program will end, understanding as the Aides have no client to care for they can assist in other ways as Director Carter requests in the Senior Services Department.

Director Carter stated she received a resignation from the Information and Assistant Coordinator in the Goldendale Office; Director Carter stated an existing staff member has expressed interest, followed by a request and approval to internally post the position.

**Elected Official Report/Update:**

Attendance: Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel, HR & Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave in the Chambers, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel reported on a criminal trial that had taken place last week, which resulted in sentencing, followed by an incarceration report for a citizen who was a participant in the drug court. Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel advised there is no war on drugs in Washington State anymore and the drug court can no longer operate as it has due to this fact.

Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel thanked his staff for their hard work on the criminal trial, followed by an update on infraction reductions that will save appointed attorney fees significantly reduced which is directly related to saving the taxpayers money.

At 2:52 PM Chairman Sauter announced that the Board would be convening into Executive Session in accordance with RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss pending litigation with Prosecutor David Quesnel. It was noted the session would last five (5) minutes. At 2:57 PM it was announced that the Executive Session would be extended five (5) minutes. At 3:02 PM it was announced that the Executive Session would be extended five (5) minutes. At 3:07 PM it was announced that the Executive Session would be extended five (5) minutes. At 3:12 PM it was announced that the Executive Session would be extended five (5) minutes. At 3:17 PM it was announced that the Executive Session would be extended two (2) minutes. At 3:19 PM it was announced that the Executive Session would be extended two (2) minutes.

The Board convened back into Regular Session at 3:21 PM. No action was taken.

At 3:22 PM 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 3:37 PM it was announced that the Executive Session would be extended five (5) minutes.

At 3:42 PM Chairman Sauter convened the regular meeting. No action was taken.

**Approved (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously):** There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:46 PM until 9:00 AM on Thursday, October 21, 2021, for scheduled workshops.

**Thursday, October 21, 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: Treasurer Greg Gallagher, Auditor Brenda Sorensen, Chief Deputy Auditor Heather Jobe, Senior Accountant Debbie Bridges, Human Resources & Administration Services Director Robb Van Cleave, and Fiscal Manager Jenn Bartley were present throughout the budget workshops.

**Public Works 6 Year Road Plan Discussion:**

Attendance: Public Works Director Gordon Kelsey, Deputy Director Jeff Hunter, and Senior Design Engineer Seth Scarola.

Director Kelsey provided a WSDOT breakdown of the different Washington counties' expenditures for road projects and maintenance projects compared to Klickitat County. The Board asked questions and the Public Works staff provided clarification.

Mr. Hunter presented 6-year Road Plan spreadsheets, which outlined funding options with reduced levels of landfill dollars. Discussion followed regarding how decreased funding would affect projects on the 6-year plan. Mr. Hunter advised that Public Works would only be able to do maintenance instead of construction projects. Commissioner Christopher stated that he does not want to see any landfill dollars used for roads. The Board had a discussion concerning Courtney Road and the last phase of Old Mountain Road.

Chairman Sauter stated that the County's finances are fine, but we are going to have to make some decisions and he does not support moving capital dollars to operations. The County's revenues cannot keep up with services, and we need to look at traditional revenue sources that other counties have had to use for years. The Board continued the road project discussion. Commissioner Anderson stated that it is reasonable to finish Courtney Road this far into the project and he is supportive of reducing Public Work's landfill allocation to \$800,000 for 2022.

Following further discussion, the Board's intent was to budget \$800,000 in landfill dollars for 2022 and then lower the road fund allocation to \$500,000 beginning in 2023.

Director Kelsey indicated that Public Works would revise the road plan and move forward with the Courtney Road project. The Board indicated that they were interested in seeing a project priority list.

Mr. Hunter requested and received verbal authorization to advertise the 6-year Road Hearing for November 9, 2021, at 1:30 PM and 6:30 PM. The public hearing will be heard in Goldendale and will be available to everyone via Zoom.

**Board of Health meeting:**

Chairman Sauter recessed the workshop to conduct a Board of Health meeting at 10:00 AM.

Approved (**Motion/Anderson, S/Christopher**) to recess for lunch at 11:00 AM. The workshop will resume at 12:00 Noon.

**Budget Workshop Discussion – Fiscal Manager Jenn Bartley.**

Commissioner Christopher provided a brief update on the proposed insurance premium increase.

Fiscal Manager Bartley provided a review of various fund balances and revenue forecast trends. The Board had a discussion regarding paying off the loans for the Dallesport Waste Water Plant and the Pioneer Center. Treasurer Gallagher provided additional clarification concerning the payoffs. The Board expressed their support to pay off the loans. Discussion followed concerning what funding sources to use for the payments.

The Board reviewed 2022 budget allocations, questioned transfers from the Cumulative Reserve Fund and Non-Departmental Fund, and made corrections and reductions in various department budgets. The Board agreed to cut the Intern and the At-Risk Youth programs for 2022. Wage and cost of living increases for 2022 were also considered. Commissioner Anderson indicated that there needs to be discussed soon about fewer road projects or a reduction in staff.

Chairman Sauter noted that he would support a reduction of landfill dollars to the road fund from \$800,000 to \$500,000 for the 2022 budget.

Following further review and discussion, the Board reached a consensus on a preliminary budget for 2022. Further workshops will be needed to find further reductions and define revenues. Director Van Cleave will reach out to the departments that are looking at reductions in their proposed 2022 budgets.

**(M/Anderson, S/ Christopher. Passed unanimously):** The workshop was adjourned at 4:23 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 10.19.20 21 Board of County Commissioner's Meeting.

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



11-23-21

**Date**