

**Klickitat County
Board of Commissioners
Minutes – Meeting of Tuesday, January 11, 2022**

Morning Workshop Session

Chairman Jacob Anderson called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. Commissioners present: David M. Sauter, Dan Christopher, and Jacob L. Anderson via Zoom

Workshop Session Agenda

Legislative update:

Attendance: Lobbyist Zak Kennedy, Sheriff Bob Songer, Undersheriff Tim Neher, citizens Dave West and Lori Zoller in the Chambers, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Lobbyist Zak Kennedy reported on legislative changes, specifically noting a concerning change having to do with the Treasurer's Office and the deferment of taxes due.

Lobbyist Kennedy reported on the WAC concerning the Public Health Department and the detainment of people due to the state of emergency the state is still under due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Lobbyist Kennedy followed with additional changes to internet access and the ability of installers to lay cables in the right-of-way, followed by an update that police reforms will be discussed later today as well as the cattle industry county of origin discussion that will be taking place later today.

Lobbyist Kennedy stated hot topics are climate control regulations and water project regulations.

Commissioner Sauter inquired about the Payment in Lieu of Taxes and the counties being able to negotiate the taxes on the renewable energy projects.

Chairman Anderson requested support on the Hood River Bridge through the transportation committee, as well as 5727/1838 - Protecting, restoring, and maintaining habitat for salmon recovery, Chairman Anderson noted the language is concerning.

A discussion followed about the wildlife bill and the interest in the depredation of cattle the removal of wildlife from a harmful situation and the endangerment of humans.

Commissioner Christopher reported he attended the Dallesport Community Meeting yesterday, noting the citizens that were in attendance were in support of gifting the community center land parcel back to the county.

Commissioner Sauter reported on his meeting regarding solar industry's in the area; the Payment in Lieu of Taxes and the depreciation schedule that applies to the wind farms, noting there is a cap on the payments and it does not benefit the county, followed by Commissioner Sauter reporting on the average tax payments energy projects pay per megawatt versus payments made off of a depreciation schedule and the effect these projects make on the tax roll in the smaller counties.

9:45 AM - Unfinished Business:

Attendance: Public Health Director Erinn Quinn, Human Resources/Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave, Sheriff Bob Songer, Undersheriff Tim Neher, citizens Dave West and Lori Zoller in the Chambers, various county employees and residents via Zoom.

Chairman Anderson stated the Board of Health is changing and inquired if the Board would like to set goals and have a discussion on the way the Commissioners would like to see the Board of Health going, noting the guidance for the Board of Health members RCW has been formalized but the WAC doesn't line up with the RCW.

Public Health Director Erinn Quinn reported she is going to follow the direction of the Board and the RCW is not clear on how the Board needs to be aligned.

A discussion was held about the different options available to appoint members to the Board of Health, followed by Chairman Anderson and Commissioner Sauter stated they believe the Board of Health can move forward with the absence of one member due to expiration of the appointment until more clear direction from the legislation is given.

Director Quinn stated in the past the Director has recommended the Board Members and requested to remain involved in the appointment of the future member, noting the current members understand they may not be on the Board moving forward but are committed to be involved.

Director Quinn requested the Board appoint Sue Pennington to the expired position for six months until the Board will need to reorganize on July 1st. No further decision was made.

10:15 AM – Public Works/Road Department Update:

Attendance: Public Works Director Gordon Kelsey, Public Works Deputy Director Jeff Hunter, Human Resources/Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave, Citizen Lori Zoller in the Chambers, various county employees, and County residents participating via Zoom.

Public Works Director Gordon Kelsey reported on items on this afternoon's consent agenda, followed by a construction update, and discussion about the need for parking.

A maintenance report was provided for the east and west end of the county, noting potholes are being filled throughout the county.

Director Kelsey reported on the work being done on the new County Services Building, followed by a discussion about the HVAC System repairs.

Director Kelsey stated work continues on the Courthouse entryways, followed by a report from Public Works Deputy Director Jeff Hunter on the Satus Pass Radio Site.

Public Works Director Kelsey reported on the snow removal for school bus turnarounds and calls from concerned citizens regarding the removal.

Director Kelsey stated The Fish and Wildlife Department will be renting spots at the Fairgrounds next week for a study on the local deer population.

Director Kelsey requested and received verbal approval to continue with the advertising process for a Road Construction Inspector.

A discussion was held about Courtney Road and the advertisement process for the project, followed by a clarification on the maintenance in the winter months.

Commissioner Christopher inquired about snow removal in the parking lots and the discussion of where the county employees should be parking.

Questions and answers were given regarding flooding in the area and the emergency preparations that the County has for those events, followed by a discussion of private citizens plowing County roads.

11:00 AM – Board Pending:

A discussion was held regarding the taxation of the green energy projects in Klickitat County, noting the tax should be based on production, not depreciation. The value does not go down as quickly as the production, a discussion followed about the neighboring states taxing the projects.

The Board stated the Department of Revenue recommends the Assessor access the projects on the depreciation scale, and she is following the recommendation given.

Approved (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously): The Board recessed for lunch at 11:20 AM.

Commissioner’s Business Meeting

Chairman Anderson reconvened the meeting at 1:00 PM; Opening with the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners present: David M. Sauter, Dan Christopher, and Jacob L. Anderson via Zoom.

Agenda:

***Approved (M/Christopher, S/Sauter. Passed unanimously):** with an add-on under New Business.

Approval of Commissioner Meeting Minutes

***Approved (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** the Klickitat County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes for December 28, 2021.

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

Centerville resident Dave West requested the Commissioner’s stay involved in bills being passed this legislative session, noting there are difficult times ahead.

Vern Harpool reviewed his position on the Board of Health appointment and the importance and the Public Health Department.

Citizen Dave Barta spoke about the effect of WAC 246-100-040, Procedures for Isolation or Quarantine, as well as the stream buffers, being proposed in 5727/1838 - Protecting, restoring, and maintaining habitat for salmon recovery

Lynn Mason inquired about the recorded meetings being posted on the website as well as the up-to-date minutes. Ms. Mason stated her support of the County providing a no-kill animal shelter.

Pat Arnold reported on the upcoming cougar legislation and stated the citizens need to review the bill in its entirety.

Gabrielle Gilbert stated the importance of daycare in the county and her displeasure with the upcoming legislative changes to the wild animal bill being reviewed by legislators.

Ken McCune reviewed the original purpose of Annex 1 and encouraged the Commissioners to use the building as it was constructed as a parking garage.

Russ Hanson supported Dave Barta’s comments about WAC 246-100-040 that will allow emergency detention orders for anyone who doesn’t comply with the Governor’s Mandates surrounding the COVID-19 Pandemic and the State of Emergency the state is still under.

A response was provided to Lynn Mason, stating the storage for the recorded meetings was recently changed and the suggestion was made to use the Google Chrome browser, followed by an update that the regular meeting minutes will be posted upon signature.

Commissioner Christopher reported on the current condition of the Annex 1 Building.

Commissioner Sauter responded to the Board of Health concerns brought up by Vern Harpool, and clarification was provided as to the continuation of the virtual Commissioner's Meetings.

The Board discussed the attendance at the State Board of Health discussion, as well as 5727/1838 - Protecting, restoring, and maintaining habitat for salmon recovery (riparian buffers).

Department of Emergency Management Report/Comments:

Attendance: Department of Emergency Management Director Jeff King, Chief of Operation Filiberto Ontiveros, Human Resources/Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave, Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel, Building Department Director Lynn Ward, Citizens Dave Barta and one (1) other in the Chambers, various county employees and residents via Zoom.

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

Chief of Operation Filiberto Ontiveros reported on staffing; the operation and training, and expressed support of Senate Bill 5555 Concerning Communications Officer State certification and recognition and requested the Board support the Bill as well.

DEM Director King reported on the Klickitat County Emergency Operations Center's deactivation to level 3, monitoring status, followed by a report on the shortage of Personal Protection Equipment and the state's requirement for the individual counties to supply their own to the entities as needed.

A report was provided on County Code 8.24, noting it is on hold due to workload priorities; the Emergency Notification System, noting the Operations Manager is updating contact information as needed, followed by a report on the winter storm last week as well as upcoming storm information.

A discussion was held about the upcoming appreciation banquet tonight for the first responders and emergency personnel.

New Business:

Attendance: Building Department Director Lynn Ward, Human Resources/Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave, Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel, Citizens Dave Barta and one (1) other in the Chambers, various county employees and residents via Zoom.

Before the motion Building Department Director Lynn Ward reported on the need for a scanner in her office to increase the productivity of archiving documents in the department, a discussion was held about the amount of archiving that will be done in the three (3) year lease timeframe.

Chairman Anderson requested Building Director Ward provide the number of single-family dwelling permits issued in her monthly reports.

***Approved (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** Building Department request for Authorization to Lease a IQ Qualtro X 4400 Scanner from Conon at a monthly cost of \$195.00 for 36 month period.

Consent Agenda:

***Approved (M/Christopher, S/Sauter. Passed unanimously):** Consent Agenda with seven (7) items.

1. **Resolution No. 00422** in the matter of reviewing 2021 equipment rates for the Equipment Rental and Revolving Fund #504 accepting the County Engineer's recommendation and authorizing and directing the Klickitat County Public Works to extend the Equipment rates set by Resolution No. 07418 to 2022.

2. **Resolution No. 00522** in the matter of reauthorizing investments and granting the Public Works Director and the Public Works Deputy Director - Finance & Administration the authority to request, in writing, that the County Treasurer make investments on behalf of various funds within the Public Works Department, and that earnings from the investments shall accrue to the respective funds. The authorizing resolution granting this authority shall be renewed annually prior to January 31st of the next year.
3. Concurrence to Award Bid and Small Works Contract (**C00322**) between Pacific Northwest Environmental, LLC and Klickitat County (Public Works Department) for the Klickitat County Courthouse First Floor Asbestos Abatement 2022 project as bid in the amount of \$46,474.62.
4. Concurrence to Award Bid and Small Works Contract (**C00422**) between Coburn Electrical Inc. and Klickitat County (Public Works Department) for the 2022-2023 Klickitat County On-Call Electrical Services as bid in the amount of \$1,662.38 per specifications.
5. Personnel Authorization to begin the advertising process to fill a vacant Information Technology System Administrator position at Grade 43, Steps 1 – 5 (\$28.96 - \$32.58) per hour, within the Information Technology Division of the Human Resources and Administrative Services Department.
6. Intergovernmental Agreement (**C00522**) # LE: MLE1220 between Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and Klickitat County (Sheriff's Office) for the purpose of providing funding to support the Marine Program. In exchange for vessel registration fees, transmitted to the County by the Washington State Treasurer,
7. Interagency Agreement (**C00622**) K16914 between the Washington State Patrol and Klickitat County (Sheriff's Office) for the purpose of providing up to \$5,000 to support the locating and eradication of illicit cannabis plants, and the investigation and prosecution of cases involving controlled substances before state and federal courts in the State of Washington.

Voucher Certification and Approval

***Approved Warrants (M/Christopher, S/Sauter. Passed unanimously):** Accounts Payable: Warrants #311039 – #311059 for a total of \$179,891.62 for the date ending August 11, 2022.

There were no Payroll warrants requiring approval.

Elected Official – Prosecutor's Report/Update:


Attendance: Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel, Treasurer Greg Gallagher, Auditor Brenda Sorensen, Fiscal Manager Jenn Bartley, Human Resources/Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave, Citizen Dave Barta in the Chambers, various county employees and residents via Zoom.

At 2:26 PM Chairman Anderson announced that the Board would be convening into Executive Session in accordance with RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss pending litigation with Proctor Quesnel and Deputy Prosecutor Rebecca Cranston. It was noted the session would last ten (10) minutes. No action was taken.

Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel advised the Board on Open Public Meeting Act Procedures.

(M/Christopher, S/Sauter. Passed unanimously): There being no further business before the Board, the regular meeting was adjourned at 2:40 PM, there are no workshops scheduled for Thursday, August 13, 2022.

* 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 online labeled Board of County Commissioner's Meeting 1.11.2022.


Approved: Jacob Anderson
Chairman of the Board



2.01.2022
Date