

Klickitat County
Board of Commissioners
Minutes – Meeting of Tuesday, February 08, 2022

Agenda Item - Comment/Disposition

Call to Order/Roll Call

Vice-Chairman Dan Christopher called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. Commissioners present: David M. Sauter and Dan Christopher.

Workshop Session Agenda

9:30 AM - Legislative update:

Attendance: Natural Resource/ Economic Development Director Dave McClure, Human Resource and Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave, Goldendale High School Student Racheal Gallagher in the Chambers, Lobbyist Zak Kennedy, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Lobbyist Zak Kennedy reported on various bills during this legislative session, reviewing bills the Commissioners have been watching and can have an impact on the County directly.

A brief discussion was held regarding the upcoming election year and the party differences that could affect outcomes.

Natural Resource/ Economic Development Director Dave McClure requested the status on the Data Center Tax Incentive bills, noting Senate Bill 5262 will most likely move through the legislative process.

Commissioner Sauter advised he will be meeting with Public Utility District General Manager Jim Smith this afternoon regarding the Dallesport Waste Water Plant, followed by a discussion on the taxation of the solar farms.

Clerk of the Board Lee Snell advised of an upcoming presentation from the White Salmon Valley Pool District on the status of the pool design and construction timeline.

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 reviewed the item on this afternoon's consent agenda, followed by questions and answers about the location of striping throughout the County.

Director Kelsey reported on Highway 14 closures coming up that will increase traffic on Old Highway 8, which can cause some congestion with pedestrians and locals in the area.

A construction program update was given, followed by an update on the Courtney Road Safety Project, noting the paperwork is being reviewed and the bid has not been awarded yet till approval from the Washington State Department of Transportation is given.

Director Kelsey reported that the designers are working with State Parks and the Washington State Department of Transportation to develop the design and obtain permits to pave the area of the Klickitat Trail.

A report was given on the surplus auction status, the east and west end crews, stating the crews are mowing, grading, replacing reflective guideposts, cleaning up the brush and trees in the Snowden area after the large storm.

Director Kelsey reported on the parking lot construction, followed by an update on the new Klickitat County Services Building and the remodel happening in the Courthouse for the old Chambers and HR Department Offices.

Public Works Deputy Director Jeff Hunter reported briefly on the Radio Tower Project, followed by Director Kelsey reporting on the speed limit reduction in the Murdock area on Highway 14.

Deputy Director Hunter requested and received verbal approval to proceed with the advertisement process for a Senior Engineering Technician.

10:30 AM - Natural Resources/Economic Development Department Update

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

Natural Resources/Economic Development Director Dave McClure reported on the Switzler Water Storage Project Environmental Impact Statement project and Natural Resources Specialist Whitney Reynier's increasing level of involvement in the project.

Natural Resources Specialist Reynier reported on the streamflow monitoring grant from Ecology, noting the grant will be amended to extend the end date and reallocate budget among tasks; followed by an update on this year's Lead Entity salmon recovery grant round and funding amounts available.

A brief discussion was held regarding the fish passage construction on Finn Ridge Road in the Centerville area, followed by an update on the Klickitat Mill Site public meeting.

Economic Development Coordinator Richard Foster stated his optimism for the efforts starting to happen at the Klickitat Mill site.

Natural Resources Specialist Reynier reported on an upcoming Coordinated Resource Management planning meeting with the WDFW and Conservation District, followed by a report on a grey wolf sighting in the county.

Natural Resources/Economic Development Director McClure advised on the status of developing the Tourism Fund contracts.

Economic Development Coordinator Foster reported on the proposal for a Federal Economic Development Administration grant for the Columbia Gorge Airport, stating the process is moving along very well, followed by an update on the Port's new building in Dallesport Industrial Park and on the training program being developed for people interested in starting in-home or community daycare businesses in the area.

Commissioner Sauter requested information on park and trail construction in the area and funding available for Federal Planning Grants.

Approved (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously): The Board recessed for lunch at 10:41 AM.

Call to Order/Roll Call:

Vice-Chairman Christopher reconvened the meeting at 1:00 PM. Opening with the Pledge of Allegiance. Two (2) Commissioners were present.

Agenda:

***Approved (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** as presented.

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

Goldendale resident Delmar Eldridge inquired about legal funds and renewable energy tax breaks, would any start-up business be granted the same breaks. Mr. Eldridge requested the Commissioner's hold a Town Hall Meeting and would like to have a question and answer time.

Greg Wagner inquired about the enforcement of Klickitat County Ordinances, implying that large corporations come into the County and do not follow the Ordinances. Mr. Wagner reported on the Sherman County wind farm negotiations and the difference between Oregon and Washington.

Commissioner Sauter responded to the legal counsel payments, noting they are a budget expense and approved by the Board, followed by a response to the business inquiry noting that he has run a very profitable construction business in the past. Commissioner Sauter stated any business can come to the County and work with the Economic Development/ Natural Resource Department and there are no breaks given to larger businesses, it is equal across the board.

Vice-Chairman Christopher advised there are no breaks given to large businesses versus small businesses and Oregon does pay royalties to their residents but they are in a different state and Washington does not provide such payment options.

Department Update/Report:

Attendance: Code Compliance Officer Lem Pratt in the Chambers, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Code Compliance Officer Lem Pratt reported on the open code violation cases and the forty-two (42) cases closed in January.

A brief discussion was held on the length of time the closed-out nuisance cases were open and the close-out process.

The Board expressed their appreciation for the closed cases due to compliance, followed by a brief discussion of what a code violation is and the enforcement of a violation.

Consent Agenda:

Approved (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously): The Consent Agenda with four (4) items, noting item No. 3 for further consideration.

- 1) **Resolution No. 02222** in the matter of scheduling a public hearing to be held at 1:30 PM on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, to declare certain county miscellaneous property as surplus and to set a date for disposal at an online public bid auction by the County Treasurer.
- 2) **Resolution No. 02322** in the matter of scheduling a public hearing to be held at 1:30 PM on Tuesday, March 1, 2022, to determine the advisability of a petition for removal of property from designation as a stock restricted area, more particularly described as 1,350 acres +/- and removing the portions of Parcel #1 and #3

outside the current restricted area, all located along Garrison Road, and to allow all interested parties to have had an opportunity to appear for or against the proposal.

- 3) ~~The following resolution is a follow-up to the Board's discussion and action during the January 25, 2022 meeting. Resolution No. 02422 in the matter of reappointing Sue Pennington to serve on the Klickitat County Board of Health. The appointment shall be to an unexpired term expiring July 1, 2022, when new state requirements become effective.~~
- 4) **Resolution No. 02422** in the matter of selling tax title parcel 03-10-2444-0010/00 to the city of White Salmon for \$31,376.88 to be distributed to the taxing districts based on the 2022 levies; the city of White Salmon will pay for the recording and excise fees.
- 5) Notice to contractors of a bid opening scheduled on March 1, 2022, at 1:30 PM to advertise for the 2022, Annual Striping Program, RN 642-22. This contract provides for the improvement of the 2022 Annual Striping Program: The work to be performed under these specifications includes but is not limited to, the removal of paint line, the installation of a yellow skip, no-pass, white edge pavement markings, and plastic pavement markings and symbols. Paint lines shall be applied with paint that complies with the Specifications for low VOC solvent-based paint and plastic pavement markings shall be Type A. Phase 1 is to be completed early summer 2022 consists of restriping all lane lines, striping some newly paved or seal coated surfaces, and installing new plastic pavement markings in specified locations. Phase 2 consists of striping the remaining newly paved or seal coated surfaces and striping areas that were not previously striped or areas that have been determined to need another coat of paint, and other work, all in accordance with the attached Contract Plans, these Contract Provisions, and the Standard Specifications. The improvements are located throughout Klickitat County. The Engineer's Estimate is between \$350,000 and \$600,000.

Payment Approvals:

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

Accounts Payable: (#311660 - 311797) \$461,500.22 for the date ending February 07, 2022.

Elected Official Report/Update – Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel

Attendance: Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel in the Chambers, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

The Board Recessed at 1:52 PM, returning at 1:55 PM.

The Board held a brief discussion of the population of Sherman County and the different state restrictions that Klickitat County is required to follow as we are in Washington, not Oregon.

Vice-Chairman Christopher reported on the Senior Advisory Board Meeting he attended this past week and advised of the funding investors the Senior Living Home needs to move forward.

Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel advised he has nothing to report and will continue to look into the matters requested, followed by an inquiry from Commissioner Sauter regarding the upcoming surplus auction and if family members are excluded from bidding on the items. Prosecuting Attorney advised employees and families should not bid on items that were removed from the office in which they occupied.

Board Correspondence noted for the record: Letter to The Honorable Meryl Harrell Deputy Under Secretary, Natural Resources and Environment regarding the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service's Proposed Rule Establishing Annual Programmatic Administrative Fees for Communications Use Authorizations current comment period, requesting an additional 30-day extension of the public comment period.

Approved (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously): There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:03 PM. * Reference Document on File. Please Note: A digital recording is on file as part of the official record and available online, 2.08.2022 Board of County Commissioner's Meeting.



Approved: Dan Christopher
Vice-Chairman of the Board



2.15.2022

Date