

**Klickitat County**  
**Board of Commissioners**  
**Minutes – Meeting of Tuesday, February 22, 2022**

**Agenda Item - Comment/Disposition**

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

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

**Workshop Session Agenda**

**9:30 AM - Legislative update:**

Attendance: Natural Resource/ Economic Development Director Dave McClure in the Chambers, Lobbyist Zak Kennedy, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Lobbyist Zak Kennedy inquired if the Commissioners have any concerns they would like him to address immediately.

Lobbyist Kennedy stated a lot of bills are not making it through the Senate, noting the two parties are not working together and bills are not given enough time to be reviewed by the Democratic proposing party.

Lobbyist Kennedy stated some upcoming firearms bills may be able to be used as leverage, another concerning bill is HB 1630 and some companies are requesting private security funds from City Council meetings because the Police Force is not funded enough to keep up.

Lobbyist Kennedy reported on budget and transportation bills, followed by an update on the SB 5909 Concerning legislative oversight of gubernatorial powers concerning emergency proclamations and unanticipated receipts.

A discussion was held about the proposed Emergency Declaration and some of the Timber County regulations that could affect Klickitat County.

A discussion was held about the hearing-impaired devices available in the Chambers.

Clerk of the Board Lee Snell inquired if the Board has specific requests for the upcoming Open House, noting the Public Works staff has already planned for light refreshments and there will be small group tours.

**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 reported on the consent agenda items, noting the agreement amendments are to move funds and utilize the federal funds where necessary and not lose any funds.

A construction project update was given, stating contracts are being signed for the Courtney Road Safety Project. Director Kelsey stated the designers are working with Washington State Parks and Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to finalize the design and obtain permits, noting he met with WSDOT and their American Disabilities Act Staff this week to coordinate paths.

Director Kelsey advised he met with the Goldendale City Council to discuss parking, followed by a request for direction regarding the removal of annex 1, the Board expressed support for the building removal and the construction of a parking area as planned.

A report was given on the east and west end crews, and the finishing items being done on the Klickitat County Services Building.

Public Works Deputy Director Jeff Hunter reported on the Radio Tower sites, followed by Director Kelsey's report on The Surface Transportation Program (STP) Grant Funding and Pass-through Grants to the Cities; a discussion followed about the benefit provided to the cities by the County applying and paying for the match to the grants.

Director Kelsey advised of bills proposed that require County's to move their motorized fleet to electronic, noting Klickitat County has always been below the population threshold but as discussions continue it will eventually affect Klickitat County.

Commissioner Christopher advised he is meeting with the Klickitat Parks and Recreation District and requested if the Board has any items they would like him to inquire about.

**10:30 AM – Public Health Department Update/Report:**

Attendance: Public Health Director Erinn Quinn in the Chambers, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Public Health Director Erinn Quinn advised on upcoming grant funding, employee recognition funding from the State, noting they are encouraging employee retention.

An Environmental Health update was provided, followed by a COVID-19 update, noting the indoor mask mandate is scheduled to end March 21, 2022.

Director Quinn stated the Public Health Department website is being upgraded, as well as digitizing records and ongoing organization throughout the department, followed by a staff update.

Director Quinn advised the office has been brought up to audit standards and continues to improve.

A discussion was held regarding the integration of client's health information from digitizing paper files and the ease of organization it is bringing to the office. The Board expressed their appreciation for Director Quinn's efficiencies as well as the thoroughness of her department update.

**11:00 AM – Sheriff's Office Elected Official Report/Update:**

Attendance: Sheriff Bob Songer, Under-Sheriff Tim Neher, Chief Civil Deputy Karen Elings, Chief Jail Deputy Carmen Knopes, in the Chambers, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Sheriff Bob Songer reported on the calls for service from January 1, 2022, through February 17, 2022, followed by reporting the Sheriff's Office has a meeting with the purchasers of the SDS Timber Properties to inquire if they would like to continue a contract with the County for Range/Timber Deputy services.

Under-Sheriff Tim Neher reported on a recent incident in Murdock which ended in an arrest.

Under-Sheriff Neher stated he and Sheriff Songer testified on legislative bills concerning law enforcement, followed by a report on funding from Representative Mosbrucker towards an animal shelter in Klickitat County. Under-Sheriff Neher stated he would like to work with the Board on a location of the animal shelter possible on land the County already owns.

Under-Sheriff Neher stated there has been funding designated from Representative Mosbrucker for a mental health facility, followed by a report from Sheriff Songer on a call he received this morning about an account holder in the Lyle Fire District stating her concerns about account usage, noting she may be reaching out to the Board this afternoon.

Under-Sheriff Neher requested the Board reconsider the discontinuation of the Google Chat feature, noting they use it frequently and find it quite necessary as a safety feature; a discussion continued about the way the jail uses the Google Chat feature.

Chief Jail Deputy Carmen Knopes provided a staff report and an over-time report, followed by upcoming training and Court schedule.

Chief Jail Deputy Knopes reported on inmate transportations; medical and mental evaluations, followed by stating that the Sunday church services are scheduled to begin again, and in January two (2) additional programs began being taught by Klickitat Valley Hospital employees Chris Twohy and James Tuning to assist inmates when they are released.

Chief Jail Deputy Knopes reported on the struggle the Jail is having regarding mental health patients, noting she is working with the Trueblood task force to bring more opportunities for the community members of Klickitat County.

Chief Jail Deputy Knopes extended a thank you to the Public Works Department for the prompt work being done in the jail, noting Public Works employee Ben Ell has done an outstanding job and is an asset to Klickitat County. Chief Jail Deputy Knopes thanked the jail staff for their hard work.

Sheriff Songer advised of a recent request for a mental health arrest made by the Comprehensive Health Department that was not properly signed and the protocol was not followed; the Sheriff's Office was not able to perform the pick-up based on liability.

Chief Civil Deputy Karen Elings reported on the status of the body-worn cameras, followed by a discussion about the Range/Timber Deputy Program. A report was provided on the Marine Patrol Deputy Program, noting the County qualifies for funding for a new boat, noting she will provide more details as they become available.

Under-Sheriff Neher advised a recent COVID-19 exposure has delayed a deputy's training this week.

Chairman Anderson inquired about the funding designated for a mental health facility in Goldendale, followed by a discussion of mental health facilities throughout the state and the cost to run the facility.

**Approved (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously): To recess for lunch at 11:36 AM.**

**Call to Order/Roll Call:**

Chairman Anderson reconvened the Regular Meeting for Tuesday, February 22, 2022, at 1:00 PM. Opening with the Pledge of Allegiance. All three (3) Commissioners were present.

**Business Agenda**

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

**Approval of Commissioner Meeting Minutes**

**Commissioner Christopher requested to wait on approving the minutes until after citizen comment.**

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

Delmar Eldridge stated he would like to help with the cost of public records by advising that redactable information is removed before filing, and inquired if the Commissioners have complied with the solar site regulations that would be required to place solar panels in Tract D.

Sheri Bousquet inquired who is in charge of making sure that building permits are properly filed and building construction is being inspected as required. Ms. Bousquet inquired if the commissioners can have more oversight of the Planning Department determinations and environmental impact studies being released for projects.

Elaine Harvey spoke to an incident in the County parking lot where she was parked in her own vehicle, Ms. Harvey stated that the incident between Commissioner Christopher and Ms. Harvey has nothing to do with any other involvements that the Yakama Nation has with Klickitat County.

Kaylee Towle requested the Commissioners review the mental health and substance abuse resources in Klickitat County, noting it is few and far between on the other side of the river as well. Ms. Towle stated she is a Sheriff's Office Employee and the volume of mental health calls is quite staggering.

Commissioner Sauter responded to Mr. Eldridge stating that the County has complied with all RCWs for permits and is unaware of any solar farms wishing to place solar panels in Tract D. A response was provided to Ms. Bousquet about the Code Compliance Officer and Planning Department Director, noting both are overseen by the Board of Commissioners.

Chairman Anderson responded to Ms. Bousquet advising of the duties of the Building Department Director who oversees the building permits issued as well as the Planning Department Director's oversight of the Planning Department.

The Board advised Ms. Bousquet there are processes for project permits issued that are followed and suggested reaching out to the Building Department Director.

Tracy McKune is representing the Red Cross and is inquiring about the proclamation on this afternoon's consent agenda proclaiming March as National Red Cross Month. Ms. McKune advised she is listed in the Klickitat County Washington Fire Prevention Handbook.

Commissioner Christopher inquired if Ms. McKune is requesting that the Board not approve the Proclamation on this afternoon's Agenda. Ms. McKune confirmed her request is to not approve the Proclamation.

Commissioner Christopher expressed he would like to provide clarification that Klickitat County is not suing the Yakama Nation over boundary disputes but is challenging the Ninth-Circuit's Ruling.

Warn Johnson inquired if the position of Code Compliance has been filled, noting he has quite a few complaints he would like to resolve.

Commissioner Sauter responded to Ms. Towle stating the full Board is in support of increasing the mental health support in the County and is looking for support from the State as well.

**Approval of Commissioner Meeting Minutes**

**\*Approved (M/Christopher, S/Sauter. Passed unanimously):** the Klickitat County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes for January 25, 2022, and February 01, 2022.

**Public Hearings/Public Meetings/Bid Openings:** Opening for Request for proposals for Backup and Disaster Recovery Hardware, Software, and Support services.

Dismissed as there were no proposals received.

**New Business:** Human Resources Manager KC Sheridan

Attendance: HR Manager KC Sheridan, Building Director Lynn Ward, Auditor Brenda Sorensen in the Chambers, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

HR Manager KC Sheridan requested and received verbal approval to proceed with the advertising process of a Building Plans Examiner I.

Commissioner Christopher noted this position is fully funded through the Building Permit Fees and not taxpayer funds.

**Consent Agenda:**

**\*Approved (M/Christopher, S/Sauter. Passed unanimously):** The Consent Agenda with four (4) items. Items two (2) through six (6), pulling item number one (1) for further review.

- 1) ~~Proclamation in the matter of proclaiming March 2022 to be Red Cross Month in Klickitat County and to encourage all citizens to join in this observance.~~
- 2) Modification (**C02522**) to the Memorandum of Understanding (C24221) between Klickitat County (Klickitat County Public Works (Covering Road Department Supervisors)) and Council 2, Washington State Council of County and City Employees, AFSCME, AFL-CIO representing Klickitat County Commissioned and Non-Commissioned the 2022-2025 Collectively Bargained Agreement. Effective January 1, 2022; to create a new Supervisor position with the title of Surveyor Supervisor.
- 3) Local Agency Agreement (**C02622**) Supplement No. 2 between Klickitat County (Public Works Department) and Washington State Department of Transportation for the Roosevelt Grade Road Overlay, CRP 362.
- 4) Local Agency Agreement (**C02722**) Supplement No. 2 between Klickitat County (Public Works Department) and Washington State Department of Transportation for the West Darland Drive Overlay Project, CRP 361.
- 5) Local Agency Standard Consultant Agreement (**C02822**) between Klickitat County (Public Works Department) and Sargent Engineers, Inc. for Structural Engineering Services; performing general structural engineering services.
- 6) Letters and **Resolution No. 02822** in the matter of appointing individuals to the Klickitat County Public Economic Development Authority Board for a term beginning January 1, 2022, and concluding December 31, 2022.

Chairman Anderson advised that funding has a good chance of being designated for the White Salmon / Hood River Bridge from the Oregon Legislation session. Chairman Anderson noted a letter Governor Brown . sent to Governor Inslee with regards to the Bridges across the Columbia River.

**Unfinished Business:** Continued from February 15, 2022, Commissioner's motion to disconnect the Google Chat feature

Attendance: HR Manager KC Sheridan, Clerk Renea Campbell, Human Resources & Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave, Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel, Fiscal Manager Jenn Bartley, Auditor Brenda Sorensen, Building Director Lynn Ward, Klickitat County Superior Court Administrator Mary Jo Hanson, Public Works Deputy Director Finance & Administrative Services Pam Beierle in the Chambers, Chief Jail Deputy Carmen Knopes, various county employees and residents via Zoom.

Commissioner Christopher stated he acted without including the Directors and Elected Officials before making the motion to remove the Google Chat feature and rescind the motion from last week.

Auditor Brenda Sorensen stated she is used to using the Chat feature and there is an Information Technology Policy in place for the use of computers, the chat feature is used in her office as a tool.

Clerk Renea Campbell stated they use it as a security feature in the Courtroom and used it once last week for a safety measure and use it to facilitate court business.

Klickitat County Superior Court Administrator Mary Jo Hanson stated her office uses the feature as a tool to assist the judge if a document is needed, clarification was requested and given to Commissioner Sauter regarding the ease of a Google Chat versus an email.

Fiscal Manager Jenn Bartley reported she and the Public Works Senior Accountant uses it daily to work on the financial system, where information can be passed back and forth through the chat and does not clutter your email inbox.

Chief Jail Deputy Carmen Knopes states the jail staff utilizes the chat feature to communicate with the Superior Court Staff and internal staff as needed.

The Board stated they are willing to rescind the motion and this is a manager issue, noting the goal was to reduce the liability of the County.

Public Works Deputy Director Finance & Administrative Services Pam Beierle stated she has used the chat feature for ease of communication and utilizes it for work and if you are busy you can answer quickly.

Chairman Anderson stated he relucted approved the motion but as heard here today this chat is a tool and requested if the elected officials and department heads request to continue to utilize the feature, noting the feature can be turned off at the request of the Elected Official or Department Head.

**Approved (M/Christopher, S/Sauter. Passed unanimously):** to rescind the motion to shut off the Google Chat feature for all County employees made last week.

Discussion continued about the Information and Technology Department pulling the chats as requested by the Elected Official of Department Head, Clerk Renea Campbell stated there are management features in place already to be able to have those chats reviewed.

Information and Technology Manager Jeffrey Roe stated that a Public Records Officer should have access to review the chats as necessary; Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel stated he would not approve of another department reviewing the chats or emails within his Office.

Human Resources & Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave stated that a specific department should not be in charge of monitoring the chats and it is a management issue, not an IT responsibility, the Board agreed.

**Approved (M/Christopher, S/Sauter. Passed unanimously):** Consent Agenda item No. 1. As an email clarifying the proclamation has been received from P. Michael Drake, CFRE Executive Director.

- 1) Proclamation in the matter of proclaiming March 2022 to be Red Cross Month in Klickitat County and to encourage all citizens to join in this observance.

**Board Pending:**

Building Director Lynn Ward advised that she has been working with individuals regarding the Building Permits and there is a Washington State Building Code Council that can be used to find out more information about Permitting.

Planning Director Mo-chi Lindblad reported what the requirements would be for reviewing and updating the State Environmental Policy Act Ordinance, Zoning Ordinance as well as the fee ordinance.

Commissioner Sauter stated he is in support of Planning Director Lindblad reviewing the Ordinances, followed by a request from Chairman Anderson to the Prosecuting Attorney's Office for cooperation's on revisions, Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel stated he is in support.

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

Attendance: Human Resources & Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave, HR Manager KC Sheridan in the Chambers, various county employees, and residents via telephone.

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

At 2:15 PM, Chairman Jacob L. Anderson announced that the Board would be convening into Executive Session with Human Resource and Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave, HR Manager KC Sheridan and Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel in accordance with RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) to discuss the performance of a public employee. Chairman Anderson noted that the session would last ten (10) minutes. At 2:25 PM it was announced the Executive Session would be extended five (5) minutes. At 2:30 PM it was announced the Executive Session would be extended five (5) minutes.

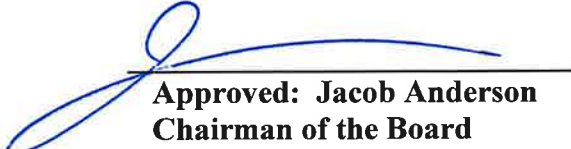
The Board convened back into Regular Session at 2:35 PM. No action was taken.

At 2:35 PM Chairman Anderson 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 Anderson noted that the session would last for five (5) minutes. At 2:40 PM it was announced the Executive Session would be extended five (5) minutes.

The Board convened back into Regular Session at 2:45 PM. No action was taken.

There being no further business before the Board, **Approved (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** to adjourned at 2:57 PM.

\* Reference Document on File. Please Note: The Board of Commissioners' minutes are action minutes. A recording is on file as part of the official record and available on file 2.22.2022 Board of Commissioner's Meeting.

  
**Approved: Jacob Anderson**  
**Chairman of the Board**



March 1, 2022  
**Date**