

**Klickitat County
Board of Commissioners
Minutes – Meeting of Tuesday, March 01, 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.

Executive Session: Annual Performance Evaluation:

At 9:30 AM Chairman Anderson announced that the Board would be convening into Executive Session in accordance with RCW 42.30.110(1) (g) to conduct an annual performance evaluation of a public employee. It was noted the session would last twenty-five (25) minutes. At 9:55 AM Chairman Anderson announced the executive session would be extended five (5) minutes. The Board convened back into Regular Session at 10:00 AM.

Workshop Session Agenda

10:00 AM – Public Works Department Update

Attendance: Public Works Director Gordon Kelsey, Public Works Deputy Director Jeff Hunter, Department of Emergency Management Director Jeff King in the Chambers, various county employees, and county residents participating via zoom.

Public Works Director Gordon Kelsey reported on the consent agenda item and the pay estimate for approval this afternoon, followed by a report on the grant-funded signs and guidepost construction, noting work is suspended until the County crews sweep Roosevelt Grade Road from the winter sanding material.

A report was given on Courtney Road Construction; the Klickitat Path; the Courthouse Parking Lots; the east and west end crews maintenance projects and finish work being constructed on the Klickitat County Service Building.

Public Works Deputy Director Jeff Hunter reported on the Satus Pass radio site, followed by a discussion on the availability of power in the area.

Public Works Director Gordon Kelsey requested and received verbal approval to advertise an Engineer Technician position.

Deputy Director Hunter reported on projects on the 2022-2027 proposed non-capital project plan, 2022, budget funds for the Fairgrounds, and potential new grant funding. The Board expressed support for transferring the funds from the reserve funds back into the Public Works budget, followed by a discussion on the necessary projects and budget needs for projects to be completed by Public Works for continued county maintenance.

Commissioner Christopher requested the dedication plaque be hung in a more visible area of the Klickitat County Services Building, followed by a brief discussion on the plaques material. The Board stated they will ask the citizens during the open house before mounting the plaque.

Commissioner Sauter reported an increase in road traffic on Old Highway 8 due to the State road construction being done on Highway 14.

10:30 AM Elected Official Report/Update: Auditor Brenda Sorensen.

Attendance: Auditor Brenda Sorensen, Chief Deputy Auditor Heather Jobe in the Chambers, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Auditor Brenda Sorensen reported on the recent school district's levy, followed by an update on House Bill 1357 that may potentially pass that will require all counties to prepare a printed voter pamphlet for every election, noting this will be an imposed unfunded mandate that could potentially be quite costly to the county's.

Auditor Sorensen reported candidates' filing week runs from Monday, May 16th, 8:30 AM through Friday, May 20th, 5:00 PM, followed by advising the local County Office's open this year.

A report was given on the Finance, Licensensing, Recording Departments', and Veteran's Officer, followed by a brief discussion on the Software Agreement on the Consent Agenda for approval this afternoon.

A brief discussion was held regarding car tab replacement.

10:45 AM - Department Update/Comment: Solid Waste Director Ruby Irving

Attendance: Solid Waste Director Ruby Irving in the Chambers, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Solid Waste Director Ruby Irving reported on the Litter Gitter Program, followed by a report on the upcoming spring clean-up events.

A discussion was held about the definition of a secured load being hauled to the transfer stations and the "Secure Your Load" education and awareness preparation and promotion, noting data collection will be provided before and after the educational messages are provided beginning in March.

Solid Waste Director Irving reported on the awareness booth at the upcoming farmers market for education and resources from Klickitat County Solid Waste and Washington State Department of Ecology, followed by reporting she is reviewing a contract with the Department of Corrections to expand the availability of adults for the Litter Cleanup Crew.

Solid Waste Director Irving stated the Waste Reduction and Recycling Education has been approved and is awaiting signatures, followed by stating she has been updating the City Councils on recycling programs as well as upcoming opportunities and events for citizens to participate in.

A report was provided regarding the planning for the Bingen and White Salmon Community Cleanup on April 22 and 23, and the discussion with the City of Goldendale and the Chamber about hosting a Goldendale Community Cleanup sometime in June is ongoing. Tentatively set for June 25th.

Solid Waste Director Irving stated she is currently working with multiple groups and agencies to create a digital Water Jam and to combine the resources for teachers to help with the hole created by covid, followed by a report that she is working with the Goldendale FFA teacher to create a composting program at the school using food waste.

Solid Waste Director Irving reported on House Bill 1163 Methane Emissions from Landfills and House Bill 1799 Organic Materials Management.

Commissioner Sauter reported on discussions held regarding boundaries for the Klickitat Path and the State Park easement acquisitions.

Approved (M/Cristopher, S/Sauter. Passed unanimously): The Board recessed for lunch at 11:00 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.

Agenda:

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

Approval of Commissioner Meeting Minutes

***Approved (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** the Klickitat County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes for February 15, 2022, as presented.

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

Jim Pence from Goldendale stated he would request that the speed limit on Garrison Road be reduced to 35 Miles Per Hour due to hazardous driving in the area, stating there is wildlife and children that are in danger due to the speed of unsafe drivers.

Clerk of the Board Lee Snell provided clarification to the speed study conducted by the Public Works Department on Garrison Road, noting the speed was not able to be reduced due to the speed of the traffic traveling the road.

Commissioner Christopher stated the County follows the State Department of Transportation guidelines.

Mike Thiele reported on the location of speed markers and the frequency in which the local citizen drive over the speed indicators.

Sam Counts lives on Garrison Road and is in support of lowering the speed limit, noting it is an unposted 50 Miles Per Hour (MPH) and they are going above 50 MPH.

Tracy McKune from Lyle requested information on the Highway 14 construction timelines and when the Historic Preservation Grant will be posted.

Commissioner Sauter reported to Ms. McKune the Highway 14 construction timelines, followed by Commissioner Christopher advising the construction on Highway 14 is State work and not County work.

Delmar Eldridge requested an evening meeting once a month.

Neil Kayser from Centerville inquired who pays the bill for the charging station for the electric cars parked out front of the Klickitat County Services Building.

Commissioner Christopher advised that the charging stations are not currently proving electricity and it is a State requirement for the construction of the building; Chairman Anderson stated Public Works is researching power providers as well as a way to provide payment for the service.

Public Hearings/Public Meetings/Bid Openings:

Bid Opening: for 2022, Annual Striping Program, RN 642-22

Attendance: Public Works Engineer Kevin Leis, Public Works Director Gordon Kelsey, Public Works Design Engineer Seth Scorola, fifteen (15) members of the public in the Chambers, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Public Works Engineer Kevin Leis provided a brief overview of the striping projects, followed by an engineer's estimate.

Speacialized Pavement Marking LLC.	Tualatin, Oregon	\$487,310.00
Stripe Rite Inc.	Kennewick, Washington	\$369,460.00

Bids forwarded (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously): to the Public Works Department for review and recommendation of the two (2) bids received for the 2022, Annual Striping Program, RN 642-22 The Engineer's estimate is \$359,456.00.

Request for Proposals opening to select a contractor to provide client project management services to Klickitat County to replacement of the County's current Financial System Software.

Attendance: Auditor Brenda Sorensen, twenty (20) members of the public in the chambers, various county employees, and county residents participating via zoom.

Lewa Daphne Edwards Berrydunn	Portland, Maine
Avero Advisors	Alcoa, Tennessee

Approved (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously): to return the two (2) proposals to the Auditor's Office for further recommendation.

Public Hearing for the removal of property from designation as a stock restricted area along Garrison Road.

Attendance: About twenty-five (25) landowners/petitioner signees, Public Works Director Gordon Kelsey in the chambers, various county employees, and county residents participate via zoom.

Chairman Anderson opened the Public Hearing, the Board disclosed there were no ex-parte contacts for this hearing.

Clerk of the Board Lee Snell provided an overview of the petition, noting the Auditor and Prosecuting Attorney have deemed there is little liability to the County for granting the petition.

Upon completion of the staff review, Chairman Anderson asked for public comment, Petitioner Lisa Thiele reported there is livestock that is in danger on the road and there are new property owners in the area who are creating a liability to the landowners in the area as well as living on the road, Ms. Thiele stated it is understood that the speed limit can not be lowered but there are blind corners that have created a safety hazard. Mr. Thiele noted they are requesting to just extend the removal of the stock restricted area by two miles.

Neil Kayser spoke in favor of the Stock Restricted Area removal, reporting on the difference between Open Range and Stock Stricted Areas, stating there will not be cattle owners letting their cows roam causing danger or potential problem cattle, rather this is to ensure the protection of the cattle owner.

Sam Counts stated she is in favor of the proposed petition.

Brad Cameron stated he is in favor of the petition and stated the speed of drivers has increased significantly and is causing a dangerous situation. Mr. Cameron stated he would request the Knight Road, Pipeline, and other frequently used roads for cattle relocation in the area be extended into Open Range as well.

Gail Frolich is in support of the petition to extend the Open Range area as well as to lower the speed limit, followed by Chairman Anderson closing the public hearing to further comment and calling for Board discussion.

Clerk of the Board Lee Snell reported the fees have all been paid by the petitioners and the proposed changes will be posted for four (4) weeks before the stock restricted area can be implemented.

Jim Pence stated when he bought his property in the area it was all open range and reported on an accident involving a cow that had happened on the road in the past, he noted he would like to see the whole area returned to Open Range.

Commissioner Christopher stated he is in favor of the petition and would like to look into ways to educate people who move to Klickitat County about the farming and ranching industries that reside here.

Commissioner Sauter stated that he supports the removal of the Stock Restricted Area, stating his family personally has had acres moved into Stock Restricted Areas. Commissioner Sauter reported that it is hard to educate people and is encouraging good neighbor relations.

Chairman Anderson stated all the neighbors along one section of the road that were able to sign a petition are encouraging and will be supporting the petition, which was followed by a motion.

Approved (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously): Motion to approve **Resolution No. 02922** in the matter of removing 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.

Kristin Cameron reported there was a document made by Jim Miller a former Road Department Director regarding Tips for Country Living, the Board stated the books are still in publication, followed by a discussion of cows that have been hit on Garrison Road and posting signage bringing awareness to cattle and farm equipment in the area posted throughout the county.

Neil Kayser advised Douglas County hands out a questionnaire regarding living in a rural area and encouraged the Commissioners to do something along those lines as well as encourage the real estate agents to provide education to the new property owners. A discussion was held about the electric charging stations in the front of the Klickitat County Service Building; the Board advised they were a State requirement to build the building as well and stated they are looking into a payment method to use the station. Mr. Kayser noted there is a road tax built into the purchase of fuel and inquired if the same tax will apply to electric cars.

Consent Agenda:

***Approved (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** the Consent Agenda with eleven (11) items.

- 1) Joint **Resolution No. 03022** of Clark, Klickitat, and Skamania Board of County Commissioners in the matter of appointing Kristy Morgan to serve as a trustee of the Fort Vancouver Regional Library as the Clark County designee, filling position No. 7. The appointment is for an unexpired term, expiring December 31, 2029.
- 2) Letter and **Resolution No. 03122** in the matter of reappointing Craig Schuster to the Klickitat County Noxious Weed Control Board, Position No. 3. The appointment is for an unexpired four (4) year term expiring April 1, 2026.
- 3) Personnel Authorization to begin the advertising process to fill a Building Plans Examiner I position at Grade 37, Steps 1-3, depending on qualifications, within the Building Department.

- 4) Personnel Authorization to begin the advertising process to fill a Public Health Nurse position at Grade 70, Steps 1-3, depending on qualifications, within the Public Health Department.
- 5) Personnel Authorization to begin the advertising process to fill a Senior Engineering Technician position at Union Grade, Steps 1-3, depending on qualifications, within the Public Works Department.
- 6) **Resolution No. 03222** in the matter of approving additional compensation for Courtney Cooke for providing Chief Adult Probation Officer services to the East and West Districts Courts. Effective February 1, 2022.
- 7) Software purchase agreement (**C02922**) between Tyler Technologies (Eagle Self-Service) and Klickitat County (Auditor's Office) for the purpose of automating and providing online services to the present Eagle Recorder Software.
- 8) Amendment No. 2 (**C03022**) to Agreement No. WRPIFA-1719-KICNRD-00032 between the Department of Ecology State of Washington and Klickitat County (Natural Resources Department) for the purpose of amending the expiration date from 06/30/2022 to 06/30/2024.
- 9) **Resolution No. 03322** in the matter of setting a public hearing to consider a weed assessment increase to be held the 15th day of March 2022, at 1:30 PM in the Commissioner's Chambers.
- 10) Local Agency Standard Consultant Agreement (**C03122**) between Klickitat County (Public Works Department) and Archaeological Services, LLC for on-call survey services including, performing on-site reconnaissance surveys, submission of draft reconnaissance survey reports, performing monitoring of sites during construction activities, and consultations with affected tribes.
- 11) Memorandum of Understanding (**C03222**) between The City Goldendale and Klickitat County (Economic Development/Natural Resources Department) for the purpose of providing funding to the City of Goldendale for work associated with the preliminary engineering phase of the city's Waste Water Treatment Plant Project.

Payment Approvals:

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

Accounts Payable: (#312197 - 312281) and Direct Deposit (#955) for a total of \$130,944.41.

Payroll Warrants: (#227732 – 227993), Combined Payroll, (#312188 – 312196), Electronic Transfer (#954), in the amount of \$1,054,155.59.

For a combined total of \$1,185,100.00, for the date ending February 28, 2022.

***Approved (M/Christopher, S/Sauter. Passed unanimously):** Pay estimate No. 22 to Kirby Nagelhout Construction Company in the amount of \$16,446.12 which excludes retainage in the amount of \$822.31 and includes sales tax in the amount of \$1,233.46, for a total payment amount of \$16,857.27, for the County Services Building Project, Contract No. C03120.

Board Pending:

Chairman Anderson reported the Hood River/White Salmon Bridge Legislation should be passing soon in Washington and Oregon and the signatures are being waited on in both states.

A brief discussion was held about the legislative bills that the County was not supporting are moving forward and some are changing as they move forward, followed by funding differences for the project proposals in the westside of the state versus the east.

Treasurer Greg Gallagher: Finance committee Update

Attendance: Treasurer Greg Gallagher, Fiscal Manager Jenn Bartley in the chambers, various county employees, and county residents participating via zoom.

Treasurer Greg Gallagher reported on the Finance Committee held Friday, followed by discussions of the tax title sale of the Klickitat Mill site levy amounts and the districts that will be made whole upon the sale of the tax title property.

A discussion was held regarding the responsibility of the cleanup costs for the Klickitat Mill Site, and the reimbursement of the cost to the County for the work, Treasurer Gallagher stated he will be following up with the Prosecuting Attorney regarding the legality of the cleanup and the sale of the property.

A discussion was held about the water rights on the Klickitat Mill site as well as what the water is currently being used for.

Treasurer Gallagher reviewed items discussed at the Finance Committee and designees for signatures on depository funds; electronic signature policies; the upcoming online surplus auction, noting he will be notifying the fire departments and schools about the surplus items available.

Treasurer Gallagher reported on the recently held tax title sale, followed by a brief discussion on County-owned property in the area.

Treasurer Gallagher reported the tax statements will be mailed within the week.


Commissioner Sauter inquired about the potential of personal property tax exemptions being increased through House Bill 1819 in recent legislation, stating there has been discussion to make the counties whole if the number is available to provide to the legislators, it was noted there is more work involved with claiming the personal property as well as time and wages in the Treasurer's Office staff time for receiving the personal property information.

Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel Elected Official Report/Update:

Attendance: Treasurer Greg Gallagher, Fiscal Manager Jenn Bartley in the Chambers, Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel, various county employees, and county residents participating via zoom.

Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel reported on the redistricting petition from the Trout Lake Community, noting he has advised this is not a political matter but is a legal matter.

Approved (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously): There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:57 PM. No scheduled workshops. * Reference Document on File. Please Note: A recording is on file as part of the official record and available online, 3.01.2022, Board of County Commissioner's Meeting.



Approved: Jacob L. Anderson
Chairman of the Board



3.22.2022
Date