

Klickitat County
Board of Commissioners
Minutes – Meeting of Tuesday, April 12, 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: Solid Waste Director Ruby Irving, Citizen Lori Zoller in the Chambers, Lobbyist Zak Kennedy, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Lobbyist Zak Kennedy reported on policy changes on the law enforcement capabilities, specifically regarding restraining patients in the local hospitals.

Lobbyist Zak Kennedy advised that the Board consider inviting candidates down to visit Klickitat County, followed by Commissioner Christopher stating he would like to see pursuing the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) bill in the coming years.

Commissioner Sauter stated his agreement for the continuation of pursuing the PILT Payments and the policy's around the green energy projects, followed by Chairman Anderson reviewing the difference in legislation in the data centers versus the green energy projects, noting the unfairness in the sales tax breaks the larger companies are receiving from the State and on the local level Klickitat County had to raise sales tax this year.

9:45 AM - Board Pending:

Commissioner Christopher reported on the upcoming topics on the Washington Association of Counties.

Commissioner Sauter reported on the Mid-Columbia Economic Development board member vacancy, followed by a brief conversation about the vacant positions' background qualifications.

A discussion was held about the low-income housing development in the Roosevelt area.

Solid Waste Director Ruby Irving requested setting up a meeting time with Commissioner Sauter and Republic Service regarding the hosting fee for the landfill.

Commissioner Christopher reported on the meeting he had last week with Snohomish County Commissioner and the landfill tour.

10:00 AM – Public Works Department Update

Attendance: Public Works Director Gordon Kelsey, Public Works Deputy Director Jeff Hunter, Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel, Fiscal Manager Jenn Bartley, Citizen Lori Zoller in the Chambers, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Public Works Director Gordon Kelsey reported on the add-on pay estimate for approval this afternoon, followed by a construction program update. Director Kelsey reported on the plowing the county was doing yesterday after the unexpected snowfall.

Director Kelsey reported on the parking lot changes for Grant Street, the Board was in support of the newly designed parking lot proposal, followed by a report on the training the Klickitat County Public Works employees have been to for guardrail repair certification.

A report was given on the east and west end crew projects; the construction of the Courthouse Parking lot; the finishing building repairs being done on the Klickitat County Service Building and the arrival of the rest of the furniture.

Director Kelsey reported his office is helping to load out the items from the County's surplus auction as well as noting that annex 5 will be removed next week by the owner.

Public Works Deputy Director Jeff Hunter reported on the Satus Radio Tower Project, followed by a report on the Superior Court design and upgrade. The Board was in support.

Deputy Director Hunter scheduled a meeting with Commissioner Sauter with the Public Utility District regarding the Dallesport Wastewater Treatment Plant.

A brief discussion was held regarding trash cans around the Klickitat County Service Building, followed by Chairman Anderson passing along a thank you from the Trout Lake Ditch Company for the ditch debris removal.

A discussion was held about the excess water in the Glenwood area.

10:30 AM - Human Resource and Administrative Services Department Update/Report:

Attendance: Human Resource and Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave, HR Manager KC Sheridan, Fiscal Manager Jenn Bartley, Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel, Citizen Lori Zoller in the Chambers, various county employees, and County residents participating via Zoom.

Fiscal Manager Jenn Bartley reported on the General Fund balance as well as noted the County financial information for the general public is uploaded to the County's Fiscal Webpage, followed by a brief discussion regarding the revenues and expenditures of the County's General Fund.

At 10:38 AM, Chairman Jacob L. Anderson announced that the Board would be convening in 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 fifteen (15) minutes. At 10:53 AM it was announced the Executive Session would be extended fifteen (15) minutes. At 11:08 AM it was announced the Executive Session would be extended fifteen (15) minutes. At 11:23 AM it was announced the Executive Session would be extended ten (10) minutes. At 11:33 AM it was announced the Executive Session would be extended ten (10) minutes.

The Board convened back into Regular Session at 11:43 AM.

Approved (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously): To terminate the Solid Waste Director.

Approved (M/ Christopher, S/Sauter. Passed unanimously): The Board recessed for lunch at 11:48 AM.

Call to Order/Roll Call:

Chairman Anderson reconvened the Regular Meeting for Tuesday, April 12, 2022, at 1:00 PM. Opening with the Pledge of Allegiance. All three (3) Commissioners were present.

Agenda:

Approved (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously): with one add-on under New Business and one Pay Estimate add-on.

Approval of Commissioner Meeting Minutes

No Commissioner Meeting Minutes for approval.

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

Trout Lake resident Gail Phares requested the Board hear public comment on April 19, 2022, Public Meeting regarding the Board's 2021, redistricting plan decision.

Pat Arnold read into the record a letter sent to Sheriff Bob Songer from America's United regarding religion and the Constitution.

Diana Bambe is Chair of the Trout Lake Community Council but is speaking for herself. Ms. Bambe requested the Board hear the public and allow public comment during the April 19 meeting. Ms. Bambe reported on the election process of the Trout Lake Community Council and requested the Board state collaboratively or individually what the roles of a Community Council are.

Husum resident Sheri Bousquet inquired what type of standing a community council has and requested if the Board will consider community council opinions during the Comprehensive Plan Update.

Chairman Anderson inquired from Ms. Bambe if the group is a 501c, clarification was provided that they are not a 501c.

Commissioner Sauter stated that the Prosecuting Attorney spoke accurately during the Redistricting Hearing that Community Councils do not have the legal authority and as a Board, they work with Community Council but the County should take the lead on projects.

Commissioner Anderson clarified the role of Community Councils and what the legality of plans are when brought to the County from a Community Council in Klickitat County.

Commissioner Anderson requested Ms. Arnold email the letter to the BOCC email, followed by her interpretation of what a Community Council does, and requested her District's Commissioner attend a Community Council

Commissioner Sauter stated he has been and will be in attendance at any Trout Lake Community Council Meetings when requested and has extended an offer to be in attendance in the past.

Sheri Bousquet stated she would like to have the citizens be heard during the update of a Comprehensive Plan, noting it is the locals who live in the area and the locals are the experts in the area. Ms. Bousquet stated there are

developments that she feels don't fit the rural character.

Public Hearings/Public Meetings/Bid Openings:

*** Short Plat SPL 2021-19; Applicant: Gary Gottschalk**

Attendance: Assistant Planner Denice Lee in the Chambers various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Assistant Planner Denice Lee provided a staff review of Short Plat No. SPL 2021-19; stating it is a proposal to create 2 lots from parcels 04-11-3000- 0007/00 and 04/10/2500-0007/00 (2 parcels that equal one legal lot). The proposed short plat is located within the Husum vicinity.

Assistant Planner Lee reported the administrative review of this short plat has been completed. Signatures have been obtained from the Road, Health, and Planning Departments, and the Treasurer's Office. All conditions attached to the preliminary approval have been met.

Approved (M/Sauter, S/Anderson. Passed by majority): Granting final approval of Short Plat SPL 2021-19; Parcel No's. 04-11-3000-0007/00 and 04-10-2500-0007/00 located in the Husum vicinity; Applicant Gary Gottschalk.

Miscellaneous Reports/Comments:

Attendance: Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Southeast Region State Lands Assistant Manager Larry Leach, Natural Area Manager Keyna Bugner, Natural Resources Project Coordinator Whitney Reynier in the Chambers various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Southeast Region State Lands Assistant Manager Larry Leach did introductions and stated he has provided maps of the County's Trust Lands.

Natural Area Manager Keyna Bugner reported on the management of 126 acres of privately-owned lands within the approved expansion boundary for the Trout Lake Natural Area Preserve and preserving the Oregon Spotted Frog which has breeding habitats near the Preserve.

Natural Area Manager Bugner stated the grant being applied for could permanently protect all of the remaining privately-owned Oregon Spotted Frog breeding habitats near the preserve to protect the species from future habitat loss.

A discussion was held about the boundaries, noting there is no expansion of the Natural Area Preserve, followed by a request for the Board to sign a letter of support, the Board stated they would like to wait a week.

DNR, Southeast Region State Lands Assistant Manager Leach reported on the timber sales on the eastside and specifically in Klickitat County.

DNR, Southeast Region State Lands Assistant Manager Leach reported on the direction received from the Commissioner of Public Lands, followed by the approximate timber revenues sales from County Trust Land Timber.

Unfinished Business:

Department of Emergency Management Director Jeff King, Chief of Operation Filiberto Ontiveros, Human Resource and Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave, HR Manager KC Sheridan, Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel, Auditor Brenda Sorensen, Elections Administrator Brandie Sullivan in the Chambers, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Emergency Management Director Jeff King requested and received verbal approval to proceed with the advertising process for a temporary/part-time Clerical Administrative Assistant, prior to receiving verbal approval a brief discussion was held regarding the training process for the new employee.

Director King reported on the Department of Emergency Management staffing levels, noting an original discussion held in September of 2021, requesting to reorganize the Department of Emergency Management Organization Chart to include three (3) additional Communication Officer positions.

Chief of Operation Filiberto Ontiveros reviewed the current and future staff schedule, noting employees are having to give vacation back due to the lack of staffing, followed by a discussion about the difficulty to hire, train, and retain communications officers.

Chief of Operation Ontiveros stated the difficulties of having one communication officer per shift, followed by Chairman Anderson requesting the outcome of hiring six (6) positions as requested.

A discussion was held about the hiring process, retention, and the need for discussions to be held with the Union.

The Board agreed to reorganize the Department of Emergency Management and add three Communication Officer positions and allow Director King to advertise for six (6) Communication Officers.

Payment Approvals:

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

***Approved Warrants (M/ , S/ . Passed unanimously):** Accounts Payable: (#313015 - 313121) \$165,367.56.

Payroll Warrants: (#228795 – 229052), Combined Payroll, (#313005 – 313014), Electronic Transfer (#959), in the amount of \$788,641.69.

For a combined total of \$1,173,620.44, for the date ending April 11, 2022.

***Approved (M/Christopher, S/Sauter. Passed unanimously):** Pay estimate No. 24 to Kirby Nagelhout Construction Company in the amount of \$67,872.92 which excludes retainage in the amount of \$3,393.65 and includes sales tax in the amount of \$5,090.47, for a total payment amount of \$69,569.75, for the County Services Building Project, Contract No. C03120.

Consent Agenda:

***Approved (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** The Consent Agenda with two (2) items.
1) **Resolution No. 04022** in the matter of awarding the bid for designation of the county legal newspaper for advertising of legal notices, delinquent tax lists, and notices pursuant to statute to The Goldendale Sentinel, Goldendale, WA for the contract.

2) **Resolution No. 04122** in the matter of establishing the County ban on outdoor burning within the unincorporated areas of Klickitat County as requested by Klickitat County Fire Districts #2, #9, and #10. The requested County Burn Ban would be from May 1, 2022, through September 30, 2022.

New Business:

***Approved (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously): Resolution No. 04222** in the matter of scheduling a public meeting to be held on the 19th day of April 2022, at 1:30 P.M., to review the 2021 Klickitat County Redistricting Plan for the purpose of giving adequate consideration pursuant to RCW 29A.76.010 (4)(e) to the extent feasible and if not inconsistent with the basic enabling legislation for the municipal corporation, county, or district, the district boundaries shall coincide with existing recognized natural boundaries and shall, to the extent possible, preserve existing communities of related and mutual interest. As directed by the Superior Court.

Board Pending:

Three-minute recess at 2:52 PM.

Commissioner Sauter requested what the Board would advise on the Mid-Columbia Economic Development Authority open position, the Board advised they would like to leave the nomination to the city's advisement.

Commissioner Christopher requested that a policy statement review for green energy projects coming into Klickitat County be added to the workshop agenda.

Chairman Anderson advised he is spending quite a bit of time on the White Salmon/Hood River Bridge.

Commissioner Christopher stated he would like to move forward with the Comprehensive Plan and would like to continue the discussion in the upcoming workshop.

Elected Official Report/Update:

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

Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel announced he had no items of discussion to report in an open session.

At 3:00 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 fifteen (15) minutes. At 3:15 PM it was announced the Executive Session would be extended fifteen (15) minutes. At 3:30 PM it was announced the Executive Session would be extended five (5) minutes.

The Board convened back into Regular Session at 3:35 PM. No action was taken.

***Approved (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** to allow Chairman Anderson to sign the Airport Settlement Agreement.

Approved (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously): There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 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 4.12.2022 Board of Commissioner's Meeting.



Approved: Jacob Anderson
Chairman of the Board



4.26.2022

Date