

**Klickitat County
Board of Commissioners
Minutes – Meeting of Tuesday, April 19, 2022**

Morning Workshop Session

Chairman Jacob L. Anderson called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Commissioners present: David M. Sauter, Jacob L. Anderson, and Dan Christopher.

Workshop Session Agenda

10:00 AM – Public Works/Road Department Update:

Attendance: Public Works Director Gordon Kelsey, Deputy Director Jeff Hunter, Citizen Lori Zoller, in the Chambers, various county employees, and county residents participating via zoom.

Deputy Director Jeff Hunter reported on items on this afternoon's consent agenda for approval, Public Works Director Gordon Kelsey reviewed consent agenda item no. 16, regarding the charging stations in the front of the Klickitat County Services Building, followed by an update on the construction projects being done.

A discussion was held regarding parking on Courtney Road for the tourists and citizens who use that area for recreation.

Public Works Director Kelsey stated the new parking lot construction on Grant Street was approved last night by the Goldendale City Council, followed by a brief discussion on the bidding and construction of the lots.

Director Kelsey reported on the bridge repair and replacements being submitted for the Federal Funding, followed by an update on the east and west end crew projects.

An update was given on the parking lot in front of the Courthouse, as well as the Klickitat County Service Building HVAC System.

Deputy Director Hunter reported on the Satus Pass Radio Tower construction, noting he is working on ensuring the tower is conducive to doing all the communication types by installing microwave communications.

Director Kelsey requested and received verbal approval to proceed with the advertising process for a Maintenance Technician in White Salmon.

Deputy Director Hunter stated the Bingen and White Salmon cleanup days will be April 22nd and 23rd, noting they have requested the County assist them with an excavator and two (2) road staff. The Board was in support.

Deputy Director Hunter reported on BPA owned land in the Snowden area that a private road is running through; the BPA has requested the County to purchase a portion of the private road through the BPA easement allowing the County to construct and maintain the road to the north end of the BPA property line. A discussion was held regarding the County being reimbursed for the construction of the road by future developers in that area.

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

Attendance: Natural Resource/ Economic Development Director Dave McClure, Natural Resources Project Coordinator Whitney Reynier, Economic Development Coordinator Richard Foster, Auditor Brenda Sorensen, HR & Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave, HR Manager KC Sheridan, Citizen Lori Zoller, and Howard Johnston in the Chambers, various county employees, and county residents participating via zoom.

Natural Resources Project Coordinator Whitney Reynier reported on the upcoming well monitoring as well as the lower water supply than normal, noting that, regardless of the recent snowfall, there will still be an impact on the local ranchers and farmers.

Natural Resources Project Coordinator Reynier stated that drought funding was not appropriated during the Legislative Session this year.

Natural Resources Project Coordinator Reynier reported on the Lead Entity Process, noting that two technical committee members are at the end of their terms and reappointment will be before the Board for approval, followed by a discussion of an amendment to the County's agreement with Central and Eastern Klickitat Conservation District to aid in monitoring stream flows in the area.

Natural Resources Project Coordinator Reynier reported on the East Simcoe CRM (Coordinated Resource Management) planning process.

Natural Resource/ Economic Development Director Dave McClure reported on the Water Conservancy Board activities and a vacant alternate position.

Economic Development Coordinator Richard Foster reported on the Mid-Columbia Economic Development District's 2022 CEDS Priority Project list, followed by a discussion of workforce training projects.

Economic Development Coordinator Foster reported on a cemetery district in the west end that has fundraised and will be requesting Community Development funds to ensure the landscaping and burial sites remain in compliance, the rising cost of services and materials are having a large impact on the cemetery's budget.

Economic Development Coordinator Foster reported on WAGAP's progress in securing funding for a daycare site in the area, followed by an update on The Dallesport Airport infrastructure grant application. Director McClure noted he has the budget to fund a cultural resource survey that is needed.

Economic Development Coordinator Foster provided an update on the Klickitat Mill Site.

11:00 AM - New Business:

Attendance: Auditor Brenda Sorensen, HR & Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave, HR Manager KC Sheridan, Chief Deputy Auditor Heather Jobe, Adult Probation Interim Director Courtney Cooke, Citizen Lori Zoller and Howard Johnston in the Chambers, various county employees, and county residents participating via zoom.

Auditor Brenda Sorensen reported on recent staffing changes, noting that she will be requesting a supplemental to hire employees that overlap the existing employees that will be moving or retiring. The Board was in support.

HR Manager KC Sheridan requested and received verbal approval to proceed with the advertisement process for the Litter Crew Supervisor position in the Adult Probation Department, a discussion followed regarding the Department of Ecology Grant that will fund this position.

Motion (M/Sauter, S/Christopher); passed. To recess for lunch at 11:29 AM.

Commissioner's Business Meeting

Chairman Anderson reconvened the Regular Meeting for Tuesday, April 19, 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):** 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 March 22, 2022, as presented.

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

John Naka stated he is one of the petitioners who would like to see the Trout Lake District Boundaries. Mr. Naka inquired what the Commissioner's plans are going forward on this afternoon's discussion.

Lyle resident Vern Harpool reported on the Lyle Community Council Meeting regarding the Lyle Sand Bar access and the follow-up steps to meet with surrounding landowners, noting the community will be involved with ensuring there is safe access and parking for the area.

Goldendale resident Dave Barta transferred a thought "stuff does not fix itself" and reported on the solar farm concerns from citizens in the area, requesting the commissioners continue to work on the rules and regulations regarding solar farms.

Trout Lake resident Joanna Turner stated she is in favor of redistricting, followed by reporting on how the district boundaries affect voting for the Commissioner, school districts, and communities as a whole.

Trout Lake Mary Callahan inquired if the fact the Trout Lake Community is in one single valley was considered and the natural boundaries respected.

Stephanie Erving stated she is a long-time resident of the Trout Lake area and owns land in each district, requesting the commissioners put Trout Lake into one district

Linda Rowland read into the record a statement for a Trout Lake teacher, concerns were stated regarding the voting and district boundaries. Ms. Rowland stated she is in support of the White salmon Watershed all being in the same district.

Sheri Bousquet inquired about the public hearing scheduled next week for Klickitat County Code and Ordinances, Chairman Anderson stated this will be heard next week and encouraged Ms. Bousquet to wait until next week because she has information that the public doesn't. Ms. Bousquet stated she is concerned the citizens don't have the information and inquired when they will receive the information. Ms. Bousquet requested the Commissioner hold the public hearing until the citizens have all the information.

Clerk Lee Snell provided clarification regarding the information provided to Ms. Bousquet, followed by Commissioner Christopher stating the commissioners will receive the information on Thursday and they will hold their public hearing accordingly.

Kathy Keller Jones from Trout Lake stated what the separation of the boundaries feels like, noting she is just down the street from downtown.

Commissioner Christopher stated the letters and emails were informative and he received different information than he had in the past; Commissioner Christopher responded to Mr. Barta stating the Comprehensive Plan will be discussed on Thursday and hopes there will be a way to work with a consultant or another way to get the plan started.

Chairman Anderson stated that once elected from a district a Commissioner is working for the whole County. He thanked the residents of Trout Lake for their letters, emails, and statements.

Public Meetings/Public Hearings/Bid Openings:

Attendance: Auditor Brenda Sorensen, Elections Administrator Brandie Sullivan, Chief Deputy Auditor Heather Jobe, eighteen (18) members of the public in the Chambers, various county employees, and county residents participating via zoom.

Public Meeting: Review of the 2020 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.

Chairman Anderson opened the Public Meeting by advising that the purpose of the meeting is to give 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.

Chairman Anderson inquired about the precinct separation and was unsure if we can separate the precinct by districts, Brandie stated you are not able to split precincts.

Brandie reported on the process to redistrict in 2011, noting the office wanted to make an impact as little as possible on Klickitat County.

Auditor Brenda Sorensen reported if they moved the boundaries they would have been moving Trout Lake into District 2, impacting the community of Trout Lake further.

Brandie stated no matter how they were to separate the district boundaries a community would be separated.

Chairman Anderson inquired about the precinct separation and was unable to separate the precinct by districts, Brandie stated you are not able to split precincts.

Commissioner Christopher stated Centerville is split between districts as well as Goldendale, followed by examples of surrounding areas, noting even the town of Prosser has reached into Klickitat County. Commissioner Christopher stated there is a county-wide general election, noting there is no evidence of a Commissioner hurting one district when elected, they are a Commissioner of the whole County. Commissioner Christopher also stated that he can see a potential for voter disenfranchisement under the current boundary lines, so his recommendation would be to move the Trout Lake precinct into district 2 and unite all of Trout Lake into one district.

Commissioner Sauter stated as redoing the whole boundaries would be all the districts as a whole and many places are split, noting it is concerning about the detail of the election that spoke to earlier by Commissioner Christopher. Commissioner Sauter stated there was no political consideration given to the district boundaries in 2011 and purposefully left out the voter details to not make a gerrymander, followed by a discussion about when the office filling week is. Commissioner Sauter inquired if this could be done prior to filing week, Auditor Sorensen stated it could not be done.

Auditor Sorensen requested if a decision is made that it could be done after the general election.

Chairman Anderson reported on true disenfranchised if a candidate lives in district 2 and the boundary moves into district 1, that would keep someone from being able to run for the Commissioner seat, followed by a description of the boundaries now and the rate of growth on the west end. Chairman Anderson stated the natural boundaries and areas were considered and are concerned about disenfranchising a potential Commissioner candidate.

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Commissioner Sauter stated the timing was on the Commissioner's Office and not on the Auditor's Office and is disappointed that we did not have as much time as he would have liked and there was adequate consideration given to the areas in consideration of moving the boundaries. Commissioner Sauter stated the commissioners serve the whole County and are saddened by the perception that the citizens don't feel represented by all of the Commissioners.

Chairman Anderson stated he can see on the map that the districts are following natural boundaries as well as the precinct; the communities are one group and one community. Chairman Anderson stated he respects the Auditor's Office and the Judge in their decision.

Code Compliance Department Update:

Attendance: Code Compliance Officer Lem Pratt, HR & Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave, Sheriff Bob Songer, Under Sheriff Tim Neher, Chief Jail Deputy Carman Knopes, Chief Civil Deputy Karen Elings, Citizens, Kathy Moco, Candy Magnuson, Central/Eastern Klickitat Conservation District Manager Loren Meagher, in the Chambers, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Code Compliance Officer Lem Pratt gave his resignation for a date to be determined in the month of June, noting he will keep the Board in the know of the exact date, followed by a discussion about the location of Officer Pratt's relocation and the great job that he did in the position.

Verbal approval was given to the Human Resource and Administrative Services Department to proceed with the advertising process for a Code Compliance Officer to train under the current Code Compliance Officer Pratt.

Code Compliance Officer Pratt reported on case management status, noting seven (7) cases have been closed since his last update, followed by an overview of the ongoing cases.

Code Compliance Officer Pratt stated between six (6) to eight (8) phone calls are received per week on code compliance questions, followed by stating there are currently seven (7) active nuisance cases and six (6) active code violations, there are still fifteen (15) suspended code cases due to permit expirations extensions.

Miscellaneous Reports/Comments:

Attendance: Chief Jail Deputy Carman Knopes, Sheriff Bob Songer, Under Sheriff Tim Neher, Chief Civil Deputy Karen Elings, Fiscal Manager Jenn Bartley, Natural Resource/Economic Development Director Dave McClure, citizens, Kathy Moco, Candy Magnuson, Central/Eastern Klickitat Conservation District Manager Loren Meagher, in the Chambers, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Chief Jail Deputy Carman Knopes stated the past two (2) years they have not been able to have a gathering due to the pandemic, followed by a staffing update.

Prior to the motion Chairman Anderson read the proclamation into the record.

***Approved (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** to proclaim National Correctional Officer and employee appreciation Week, May 1st – 7th, 2022.

Consent Agenda:

***Approved (M/Christopher, S/Sauter. Passed unanimously):** Consent Agenda with ten (17) items.

- 1) **Resolution No. 04322** in the matter of appointments to the Klickitat County Senior Services Advisory Board.
- 2) Agreement (**C05722**) between Klickitat County and *The Goldendale Sentinel* for publication of all legal notices and delinquent tax lists as well as notices to be published by a newspaper of "general circulation" for the 2022-2023 contract period, effective July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023.

- 3) Scheduling a Public Hearing to be held on April 26, 2022, at 1:30 PM to consider proposed amendments to the Klickitat County Environmental Ordinance #121084, and the SEPA Rules, WAC 197-11-904; and to hear public comments in favor of and opposed.
- 4) 2022-2024 Consolidated Contract (**C05822**) Amendment No. 3 (Contract CLH31016) between the Washington State Department of Health and Klickitat County (Public Health Department) for the purpose of amending statements of work for the COVID-19 Mass Vaccination – FEMA program, effective January 1, 2022.
- 5) **Resolution No. 04422** in the matter of closing the Economic Development Department's petty cash fund in the amount of four hundred dollars (\$400.00) and authorizing the Klickitat County Treasurer to close the fund.
- 6) **Resolution No. 04522** in the matter of scheduling a public hearing to be held at 1:30 PM on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, to consider supplemental appropriations and amendments to the 2022 Budget for various departments and funds in the amount of \$1,608,186, and to hear public comments in favor of and opposed.
- 7) Personnel Authorization to begin the advertising process to fill a vacant Chief Accountant or Senior Accountant I-II position at Grade 74, Steps 1-5, Grade 72, Steps 1-5, or Grade 70, Steps 1-5 within the Auditor's Office.
- 8) Personnel Authorization to begin the advertising process to fill a vacant Clerical Administrative Assistant II – Elections position at Grade 35, Step 1 within the Auditor's Elections Division.
- 9) Concurrence to Award Bid and Small Works Contract (**C05922**) between Felton Fire Service and Klickitat County (Public Works Department) to provide 2022-2024 Fire Alarm Testing and Inspection Services as bid in the amount of \$14,428.87.
- 10) Concurrence to Award Bid and Small Works Contract (**C06022**) between Summit Environmental and Klickitat County (Public Works Department) for the Annex 1 Asbestos Abatement Contract as bid in the amount of \$12,740.
- 11) Concurrence to Award Bid and Small Works Contract (**C06122**) between All Season's Heating and Air Conditioning and Klickitat County (Public Works Department) for the Klickitat County Courthouse HVAC Replacement Project 2022 as bid in the amount of \$139,650.56.
- 12) Concurrence to Award Bid and Small Works Contract (**C06222**) between All Season's Heating and Air Conditioning and Klickitat County (Public Works Department) for the Pioneer Center HVAC Replacement Project 2022 as bid in the amount of \$101,149.44.
- 13) Concurrence to Award Bid and Small Works Contract (**C06322**) between All Season's Heating and Air Conditioning and Klickitat County (Public Works Department) for the Status Pass Radio Site HVAC Project 2022 as bid in the amount of \$17,544.00.
- 14) **Resolution No. 04622** in the matter of Acceptance of a Statutory Warranty Deed donating fee simple County road right-of-way of previously established roads in Klickitat County.
- 15) Camp Host Agreement (**C06422**) between Klickitat County (Public Works Department) and Allan and Carolyn Mortensen for camp host services at the Guler Mt. Adams County Park.
- 16) Master Services and Subscription Agreement (**C06522**) between Klickitat County (Public Works Department) and Chargepoint to provide cloud-based services for vehicle charging stations.
- 17) Local Agency Standard Consultant Agreement (**C06622**) between Klickitat County (Public Works Department) and GN Northern, Inc. for the purpose of providing 2022 on-call Geotechnical Engineering services.

Voucher Certification and Approval

***Approved Warrants (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** Accounts Payable: Warrants #313176 – #313267 for a total of \$310,387.51 for the date ending April 18, 2022.

There were no payroll warrants requiring approval at this time.

Board Pending:

Commissioner Christopher stated he was in attendance at the latest WSAC Meeting and reviewed the topics of discussion.

The Board recessed at 2:31 for five (5) minutes

Chairman Anderson reported on the Columbia Gorge Regional Airport noting there are water rights in dispute and inquired if the Board would be in favor of hiring a water rights consultant that specializes in this field, noting the Airport Board is requesting a meeting between the City of The Dalles, Board of County Commissioners, and the Water District.

Commissioner Sauter stated past conflicts have been the two owning partners have their attorneys and one attorney cannot represent both parties interests.

Commissioner Christopher inquired if the Board was in support of signing the letters of support for the land purchases of the Department of Natural Resources and Columbia land trust. The board stated they were.

Natural Resource/Economic Development Director Dave McClure advised that he has the funds in Professional Services if a consultant were to be hired.

Noting for the record: On Friday, April 22, 2022, at 12:00 PM the Commissioners will be attending a special luncheon at the Pioneer Center Senior Services dinner room in White Salmon, in recognition of Klickitat County Senior Services volunteers in honor of National Volunteers Recognition Week which is April 17th - April 23rd.

Correspondence noted for the record: Letter to Director Megan Duffy in the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office of an endorsement for the Department of Natural Resources land acquisition Grant Application No. 22-1294A for the Trout Lake Area Preserve.

Correspondence noted for the record: Letter in support of the Columbia Land Trusts' 2.5 million requests for the Klickitat Oaks Wildlife Corridor, addressed to The Honorable Maria Cantwell, The Honorable Patty Murray, and The Honorable Jaime Herrera Beutler.

Motion (M/Sauter, S/Christopher . Passed unanimously): Motion to adjourn the regular meeting from 2:50 PM until 9:05 AM on Thursday, April 21, 2022, for scheduled workshops.

Thursday, April 21, 2022 - Regular Meeting Extension: Workshop Extension.

Chairman Anderson called the workshop to order at 9:05 AM. All three (3) Commissioners were present. Also present at the workshop were: various Elected Officials, Department Heads, staff, and several members of the public.

Salary Survey update: HR & Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave provided a history of previous salary surveys and an overview of the current survey. Director Van Cleave indicated that based on this information his recommendation to the Board would be to increase the regular employee compensation plan (all pay grades) including contract employees and Elected Officials by three percent (3%) effective June 1st. Director Van Cleave noted that the survey review also recommends that positions below 85% of the market mid-point should be assessed for an upward grade adjustment.

Discussion followed concerning the county's compensation plan, contract employees, and the cost of recruiting, and retaining trained experienced employees. Commissioner Sauter stated that other counties, as well as private businesses, are having issues hiring the trained staff they need, it is not just monetary available housing, location, and childcare are all factors. Chairman Anderson pointed out that job duties from one county to the next can be wildly different and HR needs to start getting more creative in filling hard-to-fill positions.

The Board indicated that they were not supportive of an across-the-board three percent (3%) increase. Commissioner Christopher suggested in the future if an elected official request a salary adjustment, he would like to form a salary commissioner per RCW as opposed to it being done by the board. Following further discussion, the

Board asked Director Van Cleave to come back with data for the positions that are under 85% of average and analysis of compression and equity for further discussion.

Director Van Cleave provided an overview of Fleet Management options for the Board to consider, noting that costs will range between \$20-\$25 per month per vehicle. Director Van Cleave recommended a trial of 3 to 5 vehicles for 190 days to see what type of data we get. The Board agreed.

Commissioner Christopher commented that he feels the County would benefit from having a motor pool and fewer vehicles, and the fleet software needs to have an online scheduling component.

The Board had a discussion concerning the Solid Waste Department structure and staffing. Chairman Anderson asked for the Recycling Coordinator and Landfill Compliance Officer to come in and give the Board an update and explain their job duties and responsibilities.

Chairman Anderson recessed the workshop at 10:18 AM for 2 minutes.

The Board held a discussion regarding the development of county policy statements for renewable energy projects, decommissioning plans, and pilt payments. Commissioner Christopher stated that he would like the County's policy regarding decommissioning plans to mirror Representative Corry's. The Board discussed setting up meetings with legislators to discuss how these projects impact Klickitat County. Chairman Anderson commented that huge solar projects will be exempt from paying sales tax to the County and it is not right that the County had to increase its sales tax.

Commissioner Sauter stated that the Hood River Bridge replacement legislation took years, and there should be a plan in place, maybe an energy caucus to work with other energy project host counties. Commissioner Christopher suggested an energy tax caucus. The Board agreed that a good strategy related to equity and identifying issues that need to be addressed would be a good start. Economic Development/Natural Resource Director Dave McClure stated that getting the host counties together would be of value.

Following further discussion, the Board agreed Commissioner Sauter would act as the County's lead with the Washington State Association of Counties to push Klickitat County's policy based on today's discussion. Commissioner Christopher will write the policy and Director McClure will review it before bringing it back to the Board for further discussion.

The Board discussed the Comprehensive Plan update process. Commissioner Christopher stated that the Comprehensive Plan is outdated and he is looking for a timeline for getting the process started. Chairman Anderson provided a brief overview of the Comprehensive Plan.

Planning Director Mo-chi Lindblad provided updates on the SEPA review ordinance, fee schedule update, Decommissioning Plan, Shoreline Master Plan, and the Critical Areas update. Director Lindblad stated that the Comprehensive Plan is a guidance document and it has needed to be updated for a long time. Commissioner Sauter stated that the goals and objectives for the plan are driven by comments through the Planning Commission, not by the Board of Commissioners.

Following the discussion, Director Lindblad proposed to develop an outline for the Comprehensive Plan Update by the 3rd quarter of this year. The Board agreed.

Commissioner Christopher asked the Board if they would be supportive of the Klickitat County Historical Society placing historical photographs on the walls of the County Services Building on a rotating basis. The Board was very supportive of Commissioner Christopher's suggestion.

The Board held a brief discussion concerning the RFQ process to select qualified attorneys to provide public defense service before the Superior Court for the 2023-2024 contact period. Prosecutor David Quesnel advised that due to changes in the drug laws there has been a decline in caseloads. A discussion regarding the reappointment of Board of Equalization members followed.

Motion (M/Sauter, S/ Christopher. Passed unanimously): To adjourn the workshop for lunch at 11:54 AM.

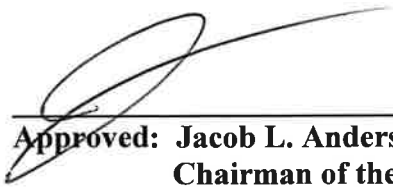
Board Pending:

Fiscal Manager Jenn Bartley provided a review of the 2022-1 Supplemental Budget that is set for a public hearing on May 10th. Further discussion, clarification, and questions followed.

Commissioner Christopher provided an update on a meeting he attended with a potential Data Processing Center that is considering locating in Klickitat County.

Motion (M/ Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously): To adjourn the workshop at 1:51 PM.

* Reference Document on File. The Board of Commissioners' minutes is action minutes. A digital recording is on file as part of the official record and available on file 4.19.2022 Board of County Commissioner's Meeting. Please Note: All Commissioner meetings and workshops are open to the public to attend. Meetings are recorded, and Workshops are NOT recorded.


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



5.17.2022
Date