

Klickitat County
Board of Commissioners
Minutes – Meeting of Tuesday, April 26, 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

9:30 AM – Public Works/Road Department Update:

Attendance: Public Works Deputy Director Jeff Hunter, Department of Emergency Management Director Jeff King, Citizen Lori Zoller in the Chambers, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Public Works Deputy Director Jeff Hunter reported on the Consent Agenda Items for approval this afternoon, followed by an update on the grant-funded signs and guidepost work; the Roosevelt Grade Paving Project, and the Courtney Road Safety Project.

Deputy Director Hunter reported on the Klickitat Path; Courthouse parking lot construction; the small works guardrail projects and the 100% Federal Funded Bridge Call for projects, noting the County will submit for a bridge replacement on BZ Glenwood Highway at Outlet Creek, Several Bridge deck seal and bearing replacements.

Deputy Director Hunter stated the east and west end crews are cleaning ditches on Liedl Grade, base repair on Garrison Road, rolling the indoor Joan Frey Arena in preparation for the Home and Garden Show, chip sealing, and removing trees and grading roads.

Deputy Director Hunter stated the Courthouse unit replacement is up and running starting today, followed by stating the Pioneer Center equipment is delayed until July, and shutting down the HVAC Unit in July would be impractical so the unit will be replaced in the fall.

Deputy Director Hunter reported on the Satus Pass Radio Site, followed by stating that Trout Lake Park opens this Friday.

Commissioner Christopher inquired about Courthouse Historic Grant projects, followed by a clarification from Deputy Director Hunter on the projects currently on the list. Commissioner Christopher noted for the record and Clerk Lee Snell that he may want to attend the Klickitat Path Open House and requested the Board's attendance be advertised.

Commissioner Sauter reported on the past and the upcoming discussions with the Public Utility District regarding the purchase of the Dallesport Waste Water Treatment Plant.

10:00 AM - Department Update/Report:

Attendance: Department of Emergency Management (DEM) Director Jeff King, HR & Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave, and Citizen Lori Zoller in the Chambers, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Emergency Management Director Jeff King reported on the Radio System Use and 9-1-1 Dispatch Services Agreements on the Consent Agenda for approval this afternoon, followed by an update on the Public Safety Radio System performance and functionality.

DEM King reported on the Annual Radio System maintenance; radio site lease agreements; the Satus Pass Radio Project site; 9-1-1 Dispatch staffing, noting the staffing remains critical and the DEM Department is currently advertising for three (3) full-time and one (1) casual Communications Officer.

DEM King reported on the operations and training; Mass Casualty Incident Plan; a brief COVID-19 update, noting the State Emergency Operations Center is scheduled to terminate the COVID-19 incident response declaration on July 1st, 2022.

DEM King reported on the Klickitat County Outdoor Burn Ban, noting County zone 1 goes into effect on May 1st, Zone 2 and 3 are being evaluated, noting the letter of variance on this afternoon's consent agenda for The Country Café in Lyle. A brief discussion was held on the zone boundary areas and numbering system.

DEM King stated he will continue to conduct meetings and training with the DEM volunteers, followed by the Emergency Management Program Grants.

A report was given on the information and education that will be available to the public during the Goldendale Home and Garden Show on May 6-8 and the White Salmon Spring Festival on June 4th regarding the Emergency Notification System and Emergency Preparedness.

An update was given on the Klickitat County Fire Department #9, Roosevelt Fire District, followed by a discussion of the security camera system in the Klickitat County Services Building.

10:23 AM Recess for five (5) minutes.

Commissioner Sauter reported on his upcoming meeting regarding the Lyle area, followed by an upcoming meeting he has with Republic Services.

Commissioner Christopher reported on discussions with the Historical Society, followed by requesting if the Board was in support of having a County Booth at the Klickitat County Fair. The Board stated they would like to poll the Directors and inquire if they would be willing to staff the booth.

Chairman Anderson stated he will be meeting with the Charter Communications Group regarding adding fiber to houses in the area.

Commissioner Christopher requested during the public hearing today that speakers be as specific as possible about what they agree or disagree with about the proposal, as well as a Prosecuting Attorney's opinion on the proposed opinions on this afternoon's agenda.

The Board held a discussion about the departure of the Code Compliance Officer and requested a job outline and process to be created to pass on to the next person in the position.

HR & Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave reported there is an intranet version that is available for departments to use and employees to create procedural documents.

11:00 AM - Columbia Gorge Regional Airport Update:

Attendance: Airport Manager Jeff Renard (Aviation Management Services), HR & Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave, Department of Emergency Management (DEM) Director Jeff King, Natural Resource/Economic Development Director Dave McClure, and Citizen Lori Zoller in the Chambers, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Airport Manager Jeff Renard reported on the Transponder Landing System potentially being installed at the airport, noting it will be installed and paid for by a grant.

Airport Manager Renard reported on the airfield reports, airport projects, and grant-funded projects available, followed by reporting on updates to be done around the airport.

A discussion was held about the Fire Boss Planes that will be housed at the Airport during the summer, followed by Airport Manager Renard stating there is a need for temporary housing for fire crews to remain on the Washington side, noting the difficulty to cross The Dallas Bridge while it is closed under construction.

Motion (M/Sauter, S/Christopher); passed. To recess for lunch at 11:17 AM.

Commissioner's Business Meeting

Chairman Anderson reconvened the Commissioner's meeting at 1:00 PM, which was followed by the pledge of allegiance. All Three Commissioners were present.

Agenda:

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

Approval of Commissioner Meeting Minutes

Motion (M/Christopher, S/Sauter. Passed unanimously): to approve meeting minutes for March 29, 2022, April 5, 2022, and April 29, 2022, as presented. Sauter abstained on the minutes from April 5, 2022, as he was not present.

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

Lyle resident Vern Harpool stated a kiter was endangered down at the sand bar and there was no way to get to the person safely, Mr. Harpool requested a meeting get set up where there can be access gained to the sandbar through the legal access that is written in but not being acknowledged by the railroad.

Sheri Bousquet stated Undercavass was approved by the Superior Court Judge and there will be no water monitoring, Ms. Bousquet stated she does not believe there is a fire evacuation plan and the increase of traffic in the area scares Ms. Bousquet, followed by stating she believes solar farms will follow the same pathway as the Undercavass Project did.

Greg Wagner with the C.E.A.S.E group inquired how to get the Commissioner's attention, and stated his disapproval with the Hearings Examiner that has overseen the recent projects in Klickitat County.

Goldendale resident Jack Compton stated he listened to the radio and overheard Greg Wagner talking about solar farms and talking about the Commissioner's job, Mr. Compton stated his perception is that the commissioners have been and are hiding things from the constituents.

Kathy Moco from Goldendale stated she has listened to the radio in the mornings and has been attending the meetings for quite a while and stated that she has personally known two of the Commissioners for quite some time and knew the previous Commissioners and has the utmost respect, stating the Commissioners do work for the County and the people stating that they Commissioners are not doing their job are new to the area and do know the processes.

Elaine Harvey stated the green energy projects are affecting the Native Treaty Lands, noting their inefficiencies. The Department of Natural Resources has deemed the land as the best fit for solar, and the environment should be protected.

Candy Magnuson brought a lithium-ion battery for a weed whacker and stated her friend had a fire in her house last night while the battery was changing, Ms. Magnuson stated the damage was quite extensive and shared her concerns with allowing the solar farms to have battery storage sheds, noting they are near the trees and cause a lot of fear to the residence in the area.

Tracy McKune from Lyle Washington stated she read the letter of variance for approval this afternoon, noting how is the Lyle Fire Department-funded, what are the benefits of changing County Risk Pool Insurance and how was the Microsoft Contract vetted and how does the Information and Technology Department know it is a good company.

Commissioner Christopher stated it is not the Board that is pushing anything, the Undercanvass project followed the process and guidelines, and the judge did uphold water regulation. Commissioner Christopher responded to Mr. Compton advising that he does listen to the speakers and was paying attention taking notes and looking up information to be able to respond to questions.

Commissioner Sauter stated the Superior Court Judge did uphold the water regulations, responding to Mr. Compton stating that misinformation and lies are spoken on the radio show and please take into consideration that they are not factual and look into the other side of the information.

Chairman Anderson stated there are multiple sides to every story and when a Superior Court Judge rules he has seen all the facts.

Public Meetings/Public Hearings/Bid Openings:

Public Hearing: To consider proposed amendments to the Klickitat County Environmental Ordinance #121084 under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), RCW 43.21C.120, and the SEPA Rules, WAC 197-11-904; and to hear public comments in favor of and opposed. This ordinance contains this County's SEPA procedures and policies. The SEPA rules, chapter 197-11 WAC, must be used in conjunction with this ordinance.

Attendance: Planning Director Mo-chi Lindblad, eleven (11) members of the public, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Chairman Anderson opened the public meeting to consider proposed amendments to the Klickitat County Environmental Ordinance #121084 under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), RCW 43.21C.120, and the SEPA Rules, WAC 197-11-904 and asked for a staff review.

Planning Director Mo-chi Lindblad reported consistent with RCW 43.21C.075, SEPA appeal hearings must be combined with hearings on specific government actions, with certain limited exceptions, noting while the County is not subject to many of the requirements contained in RCW 36.70B, the provisions relating to SEPA administrative appeals still apply. RCW 36.70B.050 requires the local project review to (1) combine the environmental review process with the procedure for review of project permits; and (2) provide for no more than one open record hearing and one closed record appeal. Because of these requirements, the proposed texts in Section 7C/KCC 20.28.030 are intended to clarify the administrative appeal process. The amendment addresses a practical issue that had arisen when there were challenges to an environmental determination concerning different permit types.

Chairman Anderson opened the public hearing for the purpose of hearing public comments in favor of and opposed to considering the proposed amendments to the Klickitat County Environmental Ordinance #121084 under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), RCW 43.21C.120, and the SEPA Rules, WAC 197-11-904.

Sheri Bousquet stated she is in opposition to the proposal, stating she would like to see the proposals kept local and not overseen by a hearings examiner. Ms. Bousquet stated she would like to see the large corporations pay fees, stating the large foreign entities do not care about the local citizens.

Kenneth McKune from Goldendale stated he is in agreement with Sheri Bousquet's statements, Mr. McKune read into the record his opposition to the appeal costs outlined in the ordinance.

Dave Barta stated that even though there are disagreements the Commissioners are in no way despicable, Mr. Barta stated he would like to keep the process local and not have the projects overseen by a hearings examiner and requested the appeal process remains local.

Jack Compton stated he opposes changing the SEPA ordinances and agrees with Sheri Bousquet, noting he does not feel like the changes are warranted at this time.

Russ Hanson from Goldendale is neither opposed nor in agreement, noting he doesn't like how the combination of the Conditional Use Permit and the SEPA Process. Mr. Hanson read into the record an email exchange with Chairman Anderson regarding the reason why the combination would happen.

Delmar Eldridge stated the commissioners have created the problem stating the commissioners could have upheld the Solar Moratorium, followed by stating the solar panels will be solar waste in 20 to 25 years and will clog up the landfill.

Pat Arnold from Trout Lake spoke against the proposal, thanking Planning Director Lindblad and her staff. Ms. Arnold noted she has put time and work into the comments she makes and feels there will be financial burdens on citizens and the Commissioners during an appeal process.

Greg Wagner was opposed to the changes due to having no prior meeting to explain this public hearing, Mr. Wagner stated he would like to have the Board of Equalization and Planning Commission oversee the projects and not a hearings examiner.

Chairman Anderson opened the Public Hearing for Board discussion.

Commissioner Christopher inquired where Mr. Wagner saw that the County will not be billing for large projects. Mr. Wagner stated a code that supported the fees, Planning Director Lindblad stated that they will be charging large companies and are making the code consistent.

Questions and answers were provided about the hearing process and the SEPA regulations, every application has its own appeal process and the County has to follow the regulations that are outlined by the state. No changes are being made to who oversees the appeals, which is outlined in RCW.

Clarification was provided on who will oversee the appeal process, noting two different hearing bodies cannot oversee the appeal, only one body will oversee the appeal.

Commissioner Sauter extended a thank you to Planning Director Lindblad, noting the language is presented clearer. The testimony received had nothing to do with the SEPA Appeal process, noting he agrees that the appeal process needs to stay local, typically the commissioners have always overseen the appeals, but with the appeals getting more complicated there has been a need to bring in a Hearings Examiner, like a judge, they are to look at the facts.

Commissioner Christopher inquired if Director Lindblad can define what a non-project action is, followed by a discussion of non-project-specific decisions.

Chairman Anderson inquired and received answers on the past SEPA appeal cases.

Approved (M/Christopher, S/Sauter. Passed unanimously): to continue the public hearing until 1:30 PM May 10, 2022, for further Board discussion and a legal review, leaving the hearing open to further public comment, written and verbal.

Miscellaneous Reports/Comments

Attendance: SafeSpace Children's Advocacy Center of The Gorge, Executive Director Beatriz Lynch, Development Director/Volunteer Coordinator Kelly Brown, Veterans Advisory Board (VAB) Members, Bill Caldwell, Frank Hewey, Cindy Furlong, and Brian Thimmig, Auditor Brenda Sorensen, Chief Deputy Auditor Heather Jobe, four (4) members of the public, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

SafeSpace Children's Advocacy Center of The Gorge, Executive Director Beatriz Lynch reported on the duties overseen by the SafeSpace Children's Advocacy Center.

Executive Director Lynch stated they are looking for a permanent home for their center, as well as looking into hiring a mental health provider to help families, noting the Comprehensive Mental Health Department is understaffed and unable to see the children.

Questions and answers were provided about the number of children seen and the number of children seen by the mental health provider.

Commissioner Sauter inquired about when the schools were closed down due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and is the industry ready to handle that.

Executive Director Lynch spoke to the cases now being seen as the children are coming back to school, noting that the severity of the cases has increased, followed by the cost incurred by each child that comes into the SafeSpace Children's Advocacy Center versus going into the Emergency Room.

New Business:

Attendance: Resource Steward Andrew Fielding for the Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission, Veterans Advisory Board (VAB) Members, Bill Caldwell, Frank Hewey, Cindy Furlong, Brian Thimmig, Jerry Smith, Auditor Brenda Sorensen, Chief Deputy Auditor Heather Jobe, HR & Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave, four (4) members of the public, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Resource Steward Andrew Fielding for the Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission reported on the overview of State Parks' proposed purchase of a 112-acre parcel within Klickitat County, noting this is something that has been in the works for quite a while and the owner has since passed away. The acquisition has continued with the heirs.

Commissioner Sauter inquired if State Parks pays Payment in Lieu of Taxes, no they do not.

Chairman Anderson inquired why is there a purchase of the property versus just doing a conservation easement, followed by a statement from Resource Steward Fielding stating that the purchase of this property it will open up the conversation to purchase others in the area, noting there are oak trees as well as grey squirrels in the area and the fish habitat is under conservation and worth continuing.

A discussion was held about payment in lieu of taxes and taxes given to the Junior Taxing Districts.

Miscellaneous Reports/Comments: Veteran's Advisory Board update.

Attendance: Veterans Advisory Board (VAB) Members, Bill Caldwell, Frank Hewey, Cindy Furlong, and Brian Thimmig, Jerry Smith, Auditor Brenda Sorensen, Chief Deputy Auditor Heather Jobe, HR & Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave, four (4) members of the public, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Veterans Advisory Board President Frank Hewey advised of a recent resignation from the Veteran's Advisory Board, followed by a discussion on an interested Board Member.

Member Bill Caldwell advised of aid given to indigent veterans on the westside of the county, followed by a discussion on the funds received from the Government during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Brian Thimmig stated there is a group OIS Support Service Veterans Family that is helping active duty veterans, noting they assist in housing by working with the landlords.

Consent Agenda:

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

- 1) Letter granting a variance to the County's burn ban on behalf of The Country Café in Lyle Washington for the operation of a barbeque pit and a wood-fired outdoor brick pizza oven for commercial purposes.
- 2) Memorandums from the Planning Department scheduling a public meeting to be held Tuesday, May 3, 2022, at 1:30 PM to consider the Planning Commission's recommendation of approval of a proposal to rezone approximately 14.9 acres from Open Space (20-acre minimum) to Rural Center (5,000 SF minimum if on public water and sewer) within the area approximate 660' of the "west Wishram Heights" vicinity that is north of State Route 14 within the Urban Exempt Area of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (CRGNSA), Wishram, WA vicinity.
And
Public Meeting: To consider approval of Boundary Line Adjustment 2021-12, Parcel No. 02-13-2152-0001/00, 02-13-2152-0003/00, and 02-13-2152-0004/00 in the Dallesport vicinity: Applicants: Timothy and Robin Urness/Mike and Lisa Erland.
- 3) Fairgrounds Licensing Agreement (**C06722**) between Klickitat County (Public Works Department) and Friends of the fair for the use of the Fairgrounds, May 20, 2022, June 17, 2022, and July 15, 2022, for a fundraising barrel race to raise money to allow Friends of the Fair to support the Klickitat County Fair and Rodeo.
- 4) Contract (**C06822**) for 2022, Liquid Asphalt Purchase between Klickitat County (Public Works Department) and Albina Asphalt for the purpose of Albina Asphalt furnishing various liquid asphalt materials meeting or exceeding the specifications and requirements outlined in the bid.
- 5) Local Agency Supplemental Agreement (**C06922**) No. 1 between Klickitat County (Public Works Department) and Sargent Engineers, Inc. for Structural Engineering Services; performing general structural engineering services.
- 6) Reimbursable Work Agreement (**C07022**) between Klickitat County (Public Works Department) and the Klickitat County Port District No. 1 to do the following work at a time and in a manner convenient to the County: construction, repair, or maintenance of Public Agency streets, bridges, drainage facilities, sidewalks, curbing, traffic control devices, and further miscellaneous services on an individual basis. For a period of five (5) years.
- 7) **Resolution No. 04722** in the matter of withdrawing from the Washington Rural Counties Insurance Program and becoming a member of the Washington Counties Risk Pool. Effective October 1, 2022.

- 8) Microsoft Enterprise Agreement (**C07122**) for Windows between Klickitat County (Information and Technology Department) and Microsoft for the purpose of reducing the cost to license all the PC's in the County for a three (3) year fixed price and simplifying the County's licensing management.
- 9) **Resolution No. 04822** in the matter of reappointing Adrianna Grimm to the Klickitat County Technical Committee, representing Hydrology and Ecology technical expertise for an unexpired three (3) year term, expiring April 21, 2025.
- 10) Radio System Use and 911/Dispatch Services Agreements (**C07222**)- (**C08622**) between Klickitat County (Emergency Management Department) and Klickitat County Fire District No.'s 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 as well as the City of Bingen Fire for the purpose of providing 911/Dispatching service, including 9-1-1 call taking, radio dispatching, Emergency Medical (EMD) and Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) service to the Districts. These agreements are effective from 12:01 AM on July 1, 2022, until 11:59 PM on June 30, 2025.
- 11) **Resolution No. 04922** in the matter of granting funds to the Klickitat County Water Conservancy Board in the amount of \$10,800 to fund its activities conducted pursuant to the laws, rules, and regulations governing water conservancy boards in the State of Washington.
And
Memorandum of Understanding (**C08722**) between Klickitat County (Natural Resource/Economic Development Department) and the Klickitat County Water Conservancy Board for the purpose of granting the Water Conservancy Board \$10,800 to be used to benefit the citizens of Klickitat County.

Voucher Certification and Approval

***Approved Warrants (M/Christopher, S/Sauter. Passed unanimously):** Accounts Payable: (#313362 - 313449) \$230,125.99.

Payroll Warrants: (#229053 – 229309), Combined Payroll, (#313353 – 313361), Electronic Transfer (#960), in the amount of \$1,040,801.61.

For a combined total of \$1,270,927.60, for the date ending April 25, 2022.

***Approved (M/Christopher, S/Sauter. Passed unanimously):** Change Order to Avidex for the purpose of installing two (2) additional wireless microphones in the first-floor conference room. The change order amount is \$4,587.00 including shipping and handling.

Board Pending:

The Board Recessed at 3:26 PM for five (5) minutes.

***Approved (M/Christopher, S/Sauter. Passed unanimously):** Change Order to Avidex for the purpose of installing two (2) additional wireless microphones in the first-floor conference room. The change order amount is \$4,065.00 including shipping and handling.

Elected Officials Report/Update: Treasurer Greg Gallagher: Finance Committee Update

Attendance: Treasurer Greg Gallagher, Auditor Brenda Sorensen, Chief Deputy Auditor Heather Jobe, HR & Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave, HR Manager KC Sheridan, citizen Lori Zoller, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Treasurer Greg Gallagher provided a brief update on the Finance Committee Meeting held last Friday, stating there was a determination of how and when to use the American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Treasurer Gallagher reported on the Treasurer's Office Staff, noting he will have a vacancy for an accountant in June, noting advertising was discussed in the meeting to find the necessary staff in the Treasurer's and the

Auditor's Office.

Chairman Anderson advised a discussion was held regarding upgrading a LinkedIn profile to attract more applicants, noting Prothman has worked for other job postings but not for the accounting positions. HR & Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave advised out salaries are low in those higher-level positions.

A discussion was held on recruitment and the lack of housing in the area, followed by a discussion about different options to attract employees, such as working from home options.

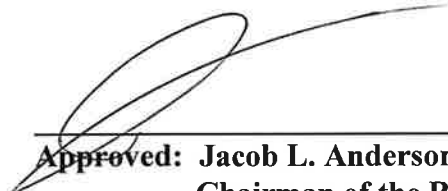
Treasurer Gallagher requested and received verbal approval to reorganize his office organizational chart, followed by a discussion on the grades and pay scales of qualified accountant applicants.

Treasurer Gallagher reported on the tax payments received, as well as stated the White Salmon property has been transferred to White Salmon.

Treasurer Gallagher reported on property transfers and the difficulty it poses on the taxes district allocations, followed by a discussion on the Trust Timber Sales.

Motion (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously): To adjourn the meeting (4:13 PM). There are no workshops scheduled.

* Reference Document on File. Please Note: The Board of Commissioners' minutes are action minutes. A digital recording is on file as part of the official record and available on file 11.23.2022 Board of County Commissioner's Meeting.



Approved: Jacob L. Anderson
Chairman of the Board



5.17.2022
Date