

Klickitat County
Board of Commissioners
Minutes – Meeting of Tuesday, May 31, 2022

Morning Workshop Session

Chairman Jacob Anderson called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. All three (3) Commissioners were present.

Executive Session: Code Compliance Officer Interview:

At 9:07 AM, Chairman Jacob L. Anderson announced that the Board would be convening into Executive Session with Human Resource and Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave in accordance with RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment. Chairman Anderson noted that the session would last twenty-three (23) minutes. At 9:30 AM it was announced the Executive Session would be extended ten (10) minutes. At 9:40 AM it was announced the Executive Session would be extended five (5) minutes.

The Board convened back into Regular Session at 9:45 AM. No action was taken.

Executive Session: Annual Performance Evaluation:

At 9:45 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 fifteen (15) minutes.

The Board convened back into Regular Session at 10:00 AM. No action was taken.

Workshop Session Agenda

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

Attendance: Public Works Director Gordon Kelsey and Engineer Seth Scarola. There were also various county department directors, county employees, elected officials, and members of the public present in person and via zoom.

Director Kelsey reported on the consent agenda and pay estimate for this afternoon's agenda, followed by a construction program update, noting asphalt failure on the Roosevelt Grade that will be addressed, followed by a discussion on the asphalt warranty.

Engineer Seth Scarola reported on the Courtney Road Safety Project, noting the slash piles are getting burned this week and there will be some smoke in the air, followed by an update on the Grant Funded signs and guide post work that is being completed.

Engineer Scarola stated the annual road striping is on hold until the paint has been delivered.

Director Kelsey reported on the Courthouse parking lots construction and striping, followed by an update from Engineer Seth Scarola on the installation of sidewalks around the Courthouse and Klickitat County Services Building, followed by a brief update on the Satus radio tower site.

Director Kelsey reported on the east and west end maintenance crews' projects, followed by facilities works being done inside and outside of the Courthouse.

Director Kelsey reported on the punch list items being done on the Klickitat County Services Building, followed by an update on the HVAC repair in the Pioneer Center.

Director Kelsey requested and received verbal approval to proceed with the advertisement process for a Senior Facilities Maintenance Technician as well as a temporary seasonal hire to fill in the gaps.

Commissioner Sauter stated he had a constituent inquiring about the aesthetics of brushing done on Pine Forest Road, noting the brush removal looks unsavory at the moment. A discussion followed about the brushing done in rural areas versus the more traveled and popular roads.

Chairman Anderson inquired about the hours designated to the Public Works Department outlined in the reimbursable agreement from the Planning Department on this afternoon's consent agenda for approval, followed by a brief discussion about how the average number is calculated.

10:30 AM - Emergency Management Department Update:

Attendance: Department of Emergency Management (DEM) Director Jeff King. There were also various county department directors, county employees, elected officials, and members of the public present in person and via zoom.

DEM Director King reported on the consent agenda items on this afternoon's agenda, noting the Burn Ban for Zone 3, followed by a discussion about how the dates were decided on for the Burn Ban in the different zones. A discussion followed about this spring being the wettest spring and the burn ban going into effect causing frustration with residents not being able to complete burning their burn piles.

Director King stated some residents are very apprehensive about burning, noting the height of the grasses this year and the amount of wind we received if a fire were to start it will have a lot of fuel to burn.

Director King reported on the performance and functionality of the public safety radio system, and maintenance, followed by a discussion about the cost of repairs needed at Burdoin Site that has been delayed due to priority being microwave interference & Juniper Point site base station faults. Commissioner Sauter inquired if the user causing the interference can be held responsible for the cost, followed by a brief discussion about the cost to make the repairs and the details of shared site agreements being held responsible for the cost incurred.

Director King reported on the 9-1-1 Staff, noting staffing remains critical. Director King stated there is a lot of overtime being worked and that will cause budget impacts, followed by a discussion about the cost of overtime versus the cost of a full-time employee.

Director King stated three (3) Communications Officers are going to begin training in June and will continue to advertise for three (3) full-time training positions, a discussion followed about the hours and amount of training required for a Communications Officer in training.

Director King provided a COVID-19 update, stating the last request for Personal Protective Equipment was received from North Shore Medical Group, processed, and delivered since the last update. DEM Director King stated they are tracking the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and are receiving updates from Washington State Emergency Operations Center and are preparing public information/education material and will post it on the department webpage and social media accounts.

Director King reported on the Cascadia Rising 2022, the training he will be attending, followed by an update on the Emergency Management Grants and the Star Link Internet option for the Mobile Command Patrol vehicle, noting the initial research looks promising and the cost is less than what is being paid right now.

Director King stated he was able to hire a temporary, casual Administrative Assistant for ten (10) hours per week, noting she is a precious Communications Officer minimizing the training time.

Director King reported on the Emergency Medical Service ambulance service provided.

Commissioner Christopher reported on a meeting he had last week with Solid Waste Programs Coordinator Michelle Mulrony regarding a consultant for the Solid Waste Department. The Board requested the HR Director Van Cleave research the consultant company for cost and experience.

Approved (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously): The Board recessed for lunch at 11:27 AM.

Commissioner's Business Meeting

Chairman Anderson reconvened the meeting 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

There were no minutes requiring approval.

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

Lisa Evans commented on the upcoming Hood River/White Salmon Bridge closure, inquiring who in Klickitat County is the voice of the citizens or is it a State decision. Ms. Evans stated this is a very last-minute closure and can cause a lot of disruption for travelers.

Chairman Anderson stated he is Klickitat County's voice and stated he received a press release of the closure as well and inquired why the release was being sent so late. Chairman Anderson stated there was no way to change the closure date, the decision was made by the Port Commission and the repairs need to be done to the bridge abutments, there was no way to make changes to an already made decision.

Greg Wagner inquired about taxing the solar farms and if there will be revenue from taxing the solar farms and how much there will be going back to the citizens and when the citizens' taxes will go down.

Sheri Bousquet inquired about the revenue taxes from the wind farms and how much will the county profit from the solar farms. Ms. Bousquet inquired if the County was charging the wind farms the correct taxes.

Commissioner Sauter responded to Greg Wagner stating the wind farms do pay taxes, and the information he spoke about was inaccurate, noting the same with solar farms the taxes do not go on the tax rolls until the projects are complete or almost complete. Most projects under construction do not go on the tax rolls.

Chairman Anderson responded that you can not take the taxes of the ground, it needs to be the completed projected; Chairman Anderson and Commissioner Sauter both advised Mr. Wagner to request more information from the County Assessor.

Ms. Bousquet stated she has spoken to the County Assessor and was told they are not sure what taxing model they would be using, noting she would like to know the tax method the commissioners are going to use.

Commissioner Christopher stated the commissioners have no say in what taxing method will be used for energy projects as that is the job of the County Assessor, Commissioner Christopher stated there is a property value and a personal property value and when the projects go onto the tax roles they will be completed or partially completed projects.

Commissioner Sauter provided clarification on the amount of taxes received, followed by the Board reviewing where the County's revenue comes from.

Kathy Moco from Goldendale spoke to the Washington and Oregon Department of Transportation's ownership of the Biggs, The Dalles, and the Hood River/White Salmon Bridge. Ms. Moco stated the Port of Hood River owns the Hood River/White Salmon Bridge and can do with it what they will.

Ms. Moco stated the Courthouse parking lot looks very nice now that it is finished.

Public Hearings/Public Meetings/Bid Openings:

Public Meeting: Shoreline Substantial Development Permit and Shoreline Conditional Use Permit No. SH2022-01; Applicants: Underwood Conservation District (Person Bank).

Attendance: Assistant Planner Denice Lee and Planning Director Mo-chi Lindblad. There were also various county department directors, county employees, elected officials, and members of the public present in person and via zoom.

Assistant Planner Denice Lee stated the applicant is requesting the Board consider the Planning Commission's recommendation for approval of Shoreline Substantial Development and Shoreline Conditional Use Application No. SH2022-01. The applicant, Underwood Conservation District, is proposing to stabilize a streambank along Trout Lake Creek (in the Trout Lake vicinity).

Assistant Planner Lee reported the Board may summarily accept the Planning Commission's recommendation, or hold their own public hearing to modify the decision, noting the Board's decision will be forwarded to the Department of Ecology for final approval.

The Board noted the attention to detail and thanked the Planning Commission for their thorough details in reviewing the application and design.

***Approved (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** Shoreline Substantial Development Permit and Shoreline Conditional Use Application No. SH2022-01 (Pearson Bank).

Public Meeting: Shoreline Substantial Development Permit and Shoreline Conditional Use Permit No. SH2022-02; Applicant: Dan Gunkel (Peach Beach Dredging).

Attendance: Assistant Planner Denice Lee. There were also various county department directors, county employees, elected officials, and members of the public present in person and via zoom.

Assistant Planner Denice Lee reported on the Planning Commission's recommendation for approval of Shoreline Substantial Development and Shoreline Conditional Use Application No. SH2022-02, the applicant is Dan Gunkel; he is proposing to dredge two existing boat ramps along the Columbia River (in the Maryhill vicinity).

Assistant Planner Lee stated the Board may summarily accept the Planning Commission's recommendation, or hold their own public hearing if you wish to modify the decision. The Board's decision will be forwarded to the Department of Ecology for final approval.

A brief discussion was held about the short timeline that the applicant will have to dredge and what a large process it is.

***Approved (M/Christopher, S/Sauter. Passed unanimously):** Shoreline Conditional Use and Substantial Development Application No. SH2022-02 Applicant: Dan Gunkel (Peach Beach Dredging)

Public Hearing Continued/Closed to further public comment: Klickitat County Environmental Ordinance #121084 under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), RCW 43.21C.120, and the SEPA Rules, WAC 197-11-904. This ordinance contains this County's SEPA procedures and policies.

Attendance: Planning Director Mo-chi Lindblad. There were also various county department directors, county employees, elected officials, and members of the public present in person and via zoom.

Chairman Anderson opened the public hearing to further discussion by the Board.

Planning Director Mo-chi Lindblad stated the Board requested the Planning Department to provide a copy of the final document for the Board to review, and a brief discussion followed about the administrative appeals process language being removed.

***Approved (M/Christopher, S/Sauter. Passed unanimously):** Klickitat County Environmental Ordinance #0053122 to uphold 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. This ordinance contains this County's SEPA procedures and policies.

Miscellaneous Reports/Comments:

Attendance: Community Enrichment for Klickitat/Skamania Counties (CEKC) representing Linda Williams and Vern Harpole. There were also various county department directors, county employees, elected officials, and members of the public present in person and via zoom.

Linda Williams reported on the origination of the Community Enrichment for Klickitat/Skamania Counties, followed by a report on the founding and current members. Ms. Williams reported on the projects that have been overseen by Horizon.

Vern Harpole spoke to the Lyle Community Council and the projects that have been in the Community of Lyle as well as the training that has been done to bring the community back together and make a successful Community Council.

Economic Development Committee of the Greater Goldendale Chamber of Commerce Jonathan Lewis spoke about the projects Mid-Columbia Economic Development District does and can do, noting that CEKC can fill in the gaps and is passionate about these projects.

Commissioner Sauter spoke about his extensive involvement with Horizon and CEKC and the project breakdowns between the MCEDD, noting the importance of the groups in the community.

The Board held a discussion about projects that would benefit from the oversight of CEKC, followed by a discussion of the rate that CEKC charges to oversee the smaller non-profit groups.

Consent Agenda:

***Approved (M/Christopher, S/Sauter. Passed unanimously):** Consent Agenda with nine (9) items.

- 1) Agreement (C09922) for Reimbursable Services between Klickitat County (Public Works Department) and Wishram School District No. 94.
- 2) Agreement (C10022) for Reimbursable Services between Klickitat County (Public Works Department) and the City of Goldendale.
- 3) Contract (C10122) between Klickitat County (Emergency Management Department) and Legacy Power Systems for the purpose of providing annual radio site maintenance on eight (8) of the radio sites.

- 4) Amendment No. 3 to the Professional Service Agreement (**C10222**) between Klickitat County (Planning Department) and The Watershed Company to amend the scope of services, amend the schedule, and adjust the sub-phase budgets; the proposed amendment will increase the overall budget for the agreement by \$128,000, all of which will be covered by two Ecology Grants.
- 5) **Resolution No. 05722** in the matter of establishing the County ban on outdoor burning within the unincorporated areas of Klickitat County as requested by Klickitat County Fire District #1, #3, #8, and #13. The requested County Burn Ban would be from June 15, 2022, through September 30, 2022.
- 6) Approval of a reimbursement agreement (**C10322**) between Klickitat County (Planning Department) and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources for the proposed Regional Wild Fire Center.
- 7) **Ordinance #0053122-1** in the matter of revision of the Klickitat County Code 8.04.020 and repealing Ordinance O01317 to reorganize the Klickitat County Board of Health based on Legislative Amendments, effective date July 1, 2022.
- 8) Contract (**C10422**) Amendment No. 1 between the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services and the (Public Health Department) for the WorkFirst Children with Special Needs for a contract increase of \$4,000, for a total of \$5,000, effective date July 01, 2022, through June 30, 2023.
- 9) Consolidated Contract (**C10522**) CLH31016 Amendment No. 4 between the State of Washington Department of Health and the Klickitat County (Public Health Department) for the purpose of amending statements of work as well as increasing the contract amount by \$165,022 for a revised amount of \$2,373,056.

Payment Approvals/Pay Estimates/Change Orders:

***Approved Warrants (M/Christopher, S/Sauter. Passed unanimously):** Accounts Payable Warrants: (#314150-314246) in the amount of 160,670.49, Direct Deposit: (964) in the amount of \$827.51, for a total of \$161,498.00

Payroll Warrants: (#230085 – 230344), Combined Payroll, (#314119 – 314127), Electronic Transfer (#963), in the amount of \$1,013,901.70.

For a combined total of \$1,175,399.70 for the date ending May 31, 2022.

***Approved Warrants (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** Pay Estimate No. 1 and Final for the Annex 1 Asbestos Abatement in the amount of \$12,739.83, which includes \$888.83 in sales tax, to Summit Environmental.

Elected Officials Report/Update: County Clerk Office update on the Status of the office and OnBase

Attendance: County Clerk Renea Campbell. There were also various county department directors, county employees, elected officials, and members of the public present in person and via zoom.

County Clerk Renea Campbell provided a staff report, followed by an update of the OnBase Software that has been recently implemented in the Clerk's Office.

Clerk Renea Campbell reported on the process the Clerk's Office now uses by facilitating the OnBase Software System, followed by the digital archives now being done which have benefited the Office.

Commissioner Sauter inquired about the digital archiving and the cost of the work involved.

Senior Service Director Sharon Carter and Human Resource Manager KC Sheridan requested and received verbal approval to proceed with an internal advertisement for a Transportation Coordinator for the Goldendale area.

The Board thanked Public Works Facilities Maintenance Technician Ben Ell and wished him well on his next job adventure. Mr. Ell thanked the Commissioners.

Board Pending:


Commissioner Christopher reported on his attendance at a Goldendale Community Sports Meeting last week that is encouraging the young citizens of Klickitat County to have other options to do for activities.

Chairman Anderson reported on the meeting he attended regarding the City's cost to utilize the County's District Court, followed by a brief discussion on the implementation of trial calculations between the three (3) cities.

Commissioner Christopher requested if the Board was in support of him not attending the current insurance conference since the County will be switching insurances in 2023.

(2:43 PM) (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously): There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

* Reference Document on File. Please Note: The Board of Commissioners' minutes are action minutes. Zoom recording is on file as part of the official record and available on file 5.31.2022 Board of County Commissioner's Meeting.


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



7-5-22
Date