

**Klickitat County  
Board of Commissioners  
Minutes – Meeting of Tuesday, June 14, 2022**

**Agenda Item - Comment/Disposition**

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

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

**Workshop Session Agenda**

**10:00 AM – Public Works Department Update**

Attendance: Public Works Director Gordon Kelsey, Engineer Seth Scarola, and Human Resources & Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave. There were also various Elected Officials, county employees, and members of the public in attendance via zoom.

Public Works Director Kelsey reported on the Consent Agenda items for signature, followed by Engineer Seth Scarola reporting on the grant-funded signs and guidepost punch list items; the assessment of the defective pavement on the Roosevelt Grade; the Courtney Road Safety Project; the Klickitat Path progress, and the plans to advertise for bids to pave parking lots. Director Kelsey reported on the east and west end crews projects, followed by a discussion about Pine Forest Road.

Director Kelsey requested and received verbal approval to advertise for a part-time temporary Facilities Maintenance Technician.

Chairman Anderson inquired about designated staff parking in the parking lot to be constructed west of the County Services Building. Discussion followed about the security cameras and parking designations for the public and staff.

Commissioner Sauter inquired about the maintenance on Sleepy Hollow Road, Director Kelsey stated he will look into it further, followed by a discussion about water in the Glenwood area.

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

Attendance: Auditor Brenda Sorensen, Chief Deputy Auditor Heather Jobe, and Human Resources & Administrative Services Director Van Cleave. There were also various Elected Officials, county employees, and members of the public in attendance via zoom.

Auditor Brenda Sorensen reported on elections that were held in April, followed by ballot mailing dates for August 2, 2022, Primary Election, noting the voters will receive a printed primary voters' pamphlet.

Auditor Sorensen advised of upcoming Department of License increases, noting there is a license plate shortage and there are quite a few updates to license plate issuance.

Auditor Sorensen reported on the Recording Department, followed by an update on the Veteran's Services Officer.

Auditor Sorensen provided a staff report, followed by stating she is interviewing for open positions this week as well as next.

**Recess for five (5) minutes at 10:32 AM**

**Public Health Department Update:**

Attendance: Public Health Director Erinn Quinn and Director Robb Van Cleave. There were also various Elected Officials, county employees, and members of the public in attendance via zoom.

Director Quinn provided updates on clinical services, Title X funding and other grant opportunities. Ms. Quinn reported that the Smile Mobile will be offering dental services at the Pioneer Center this month.

Director Quinn reported that public health nurses are continuing to travel to clients' homes for vaccine services when requested. A brief update on Environmental Health, staffing and Board of Health members followed.

A discussion was held about a short-term solution for the Mental Health Crisis Program, noting a monumental amount of work to get a program running out of the Public Health Department.

A discussion followed regarding the process to run a Klickitat County Public Health Mental Health Program, followed by Chairman Anderson reporting on the Mental Health Program provided by Skamania County.

The Board would like to have a follow-up conversation and be a part of the progress.

Commissioner Sauter reported on the meeting he attended concerning the Assisted Living Facility, which is planned for the White Salmon area. Commissioner Sauter stated that his meeting was with the Columbia Gorge Housing Authority and USDA- Rural Housing Office to discuss funding eligibility.

**Approved (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** The Board recessed for lunch at 11:16 AM.

**Call to Order/Roll Call:**

Chairman Anderson reconvened the Regular Meeting for Tuesday, June 14, 2022, at 1:00 PM, and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. All three (3) Commissioners were present.

**Business Agenda**

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

**Approval of Commissioner Meeting Minutes**

There were no minutes requiring approval at this time.

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

Glenwood Fire Chief Brent Gimlin requested that the burn ban that is supposed to go into effect tomorrow be postponed due to the unusual amount of rain for this time of the year.

Delmar Eldridge inquired about the Commissioner's holding a town hall meeting to discuss proposed solar projects in the Goldendale area. Sheri Bousquet asked the Board to hold a town hall meeting to discuss solar projects.

Peter Leon stated he took offence to a comment made last week regarding Sheriff posse members carrying weapons, adding that he is one of the certified instructors and for a posse member to carry a weapon they must meet strict criteria.

Greg Wagner inquired about writing industrial solar ordinances, tax revenue from solar projects, mitigation funds from Avangrid's Lund Hill solar project, what the interest rate on the bond for the Klickitat County Services Building is, what the County is doing to make sure it survives if there is a recession, why the County is allowing short-term rentals with no Conditional Use Permit for short-term rentals.

Pat Arnold responded to Peter Leon regarding the firearms training, inquiring why are they armed and are there legal issues with that, noting it appears that they look like law enforcement. Ms. Arnold inquired about the White Salmon Pool RSO Grant funding requests, as well as inquiring about the County writing to the WDFW Commission regarding going to in-person meetings only, noting this is a big disservice to the citizens.

Department of Emergency Management Director Jeff King responded to an inquiry to extend the burn ban into July due to the rain and the need to continue burning, noting he recommends a July 1<sup>st</sup> date, noting the discussion held with the Commissioners before signing the Burn Ban 3 resolution and wanting to respect the Zone 3 Fire Chiefs recommendation.

Commissioner Christopher responded to the town hall requests, and the accusations of hiding or misleading the citizens, stating he has always been willing to meet with any citizen. Commissioner Christopher responded to the RSO Grant requests, stating one is the White Salmon Pool, the Dallesport Park, and the update of the Goldendale Park.

Commissioner Sauter responded to Ms. Arnold about the WDFW moving from Zoom only to in-person only, stating it is more convenient allowing participation but suspects they are unsure of allowing both. Commissioner Sauter responded to town hall requests, the tax payments, and litigation charges.

Chairman Anderson responded to Ms. Bosquet, stating the transaction between farmers and solar companies is a private transaction and the Commissioners have no interactions, as well as no interaction with solar companies and any other statements made in regards to the Commissioners receiving any compensation from any solar companies is false and the statements are lies.

The Board discussed delaying the burn ban with Glenwood Fire Chief Brent Gimlin, noting they would like to hear from other Zone 3 Fire Chiefs before they extend the ban.

#### **Senior Services Department Update/Report:**

Attendance: Senior Services Director Sharon Carter, Human Resource and Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave, HR Manager KC Sheridan in the Chambers, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Senior Services Director Carter reported on staff, followed by requesting and receiving verbal approval to proceed with increasing a part-time position into a full-time position and advertise the vacancy.

Director Carter reported on the current and anticipated case counts as well as funding to the Senior Services Department due to changes in funding and insurance coverages that may add additional caseloads to the Senior Services.

Director Carter requested to combine a part-time cook position with a transportation position, followed by a discussion of paid benefits and the allocated expenses billed for each service; the Board advised Director Carter to work with Human Resource and bring back costs for the part-time positions.

A discussion was held regarding the Ride Share Transportation Program ridership numbers, followed by requesting Director Carter track ridership for future budget discussions.

Commissioner Sauter inquired about free or discounted passes for citizens requiring transportation from the White Salmon area to utilize the Hood River Pool, and what the ride shares look like for that service.

Klickitat County Fire District 3 Fire Chief Wesley Long, stated he had a conversation with Emergency Management Director King and he is not opposed to extending the burn ban to July 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Board concurred with receding the previous resolution and signing a new resolution next week with the burn-ban effective date of July 1, 2022.

#### **Miscellaneous Reports/Comments:**

Columbia River Gorge Commission Executive Director Krystyna Wolniakowski and Vital Sign Indicators Planner Lisa Nass Cook, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Director Wolniakowski reported on the Climate Change Action Plan for the National Scenic Area.

Planner Cook reviewed the National Scenic Area Act for two purposes; to establish a national scenic area to protect and provide for the enhancement of the scenic, cultural, recreational, and natural resources of the Columbia Gorge and to protect and support the economy of the Columbia River Gorge by encouraging growth to occur in existing urban areas and by allowing future economic development in a manner that is consistent with the first purpose.

**Chairman Anderson left the meeting at 2:38 PM, returning at 2:42 PM**

Commissioner Sauter inquired what the plan is to integrate the climate chapter into the overall management plan, and why this isn't just a management plan update part II, how will the goals and policies be implemented since this is a non-regulatory policy.

Planner Cook and Director Wolniakowski indicated that the policy is non-regulatory and not updated more than every 5 years and no less than every 10 years, noting this is not adopted as a policy, but more of requested guidelines.

Commissioner Sauter stated his concern with the Klickitat County permitting process and the inadvertent changes that will be implemented by the additions of policy documents that are not in the action plan and have not been adopted and added into the policy.

Director Wolniakowski advised of the surrounding county's policy implementation and the Columbia River Gorge Commissions Planner's issuance of permits in the scenic area.

Chairman Anderson inquired about Oak Woodlands in Klickitat County, noting the Oak Woodlands are not an endangered specimen in Klickitat County, inquiring about the policy stating zero-sum net loss of Oak Woodlands can create conflicts on agriculture land and can cause distress to the land owner. Chairman Anderson followed with statements about the cold-water refuges, noting the enhancement of the cold-water refuges can be done and the importance of those actions to facilitate more cold-water refuges on the Columbia River and not focusing upstream into other entities oversite areas.

Discussions followed about the importance of diversity of personnel of any upcoming policy changes and the necessity of policy for infrastructure guidelines.

**Consent Agenda:**

**\*Approved (M/Christopher, S/Sauter. Passed unanimously):** Consent Agenda with twelve (12) items. Noting: Item #1: The Resolution in the matter of approving an increase of the hourly compensation for attorneys providing indigent defense services was amended to cover all courts and appointed indigent counsel; Item #2 has a revised increased amount of \$1,509.68.

- 1) **\*Resolution No. 06122** in the matter of approving an increase of the hourly compensation for attorneys providing indigent defense services in East & West District Courts.
- 2) **\*Purchase request** from the Information and Technology Department for a 36-month lease for the Canon Copiers throughout the department and offices in Klickitat County.
- 3) **\*Personnel Authorization** to begin the advertising process to fill a vacant Summer Labor Buildings and Grounds position at Grade 33, Steps 1, within the Public Works Department.
- 4) **\*Amendment No. 1 (C11022)** to Grant #21-1200, Lead Entity Operating Grant between the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office and Klickitat County (Natural Resource Department) for the purpose of adding \$60,000 to the existing grant to cover lead entity expenses during the fiscal year 2023.
- 5) **\*Scheduling a Public Meeting** to be held Tuesday, June 21, 2022, at 1:30 PM to consider approval of short plat 2019-23; parcel number 03-10-1400-0017/00 in the White Salmon vicinity. Applicant Kinzey's Country Place, LLC.

- 6) \*Authorization to purchase request from the Department of Emergency Management for 25 Motorola Minitor VI pagers with programming and 6 Motorola APX4000 Portable Radios with Programming in the amount of \$27,795.26 which includes applicable tax.
- 7) \*Amendment No. 3 (C11122) to the Agreement between Beacon Health Options, Inc. and Klickitat County (Sheriff's Office) for the purpose of amending the description of services and compensation, Exhibit A.A2, and replacing it with Exhibit A.A3, effective January 1, 2022.
- 8) \*Amendment No. 4 to Contract (C11222) K9575 between the Washington State Department of Corrections and Klickitat County (Sheriff's Office) for the purpose of extending the contract end date from December 31, 2022, to June 30, 2023. The per diem rate is an increase of 3.39 through June 30, 2022, then an additional increase of \$3.56 for the remainder of the contract.
- 9) \*Agreement (C11322) between Galaxy Digital and Klickitat County (Senior Services) for web-based volunteer management software subscription services. Effective July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2024.
- 10) \*Request for the Chairman's signature and submission of the 2021 Title VI Non-Discrimination Annual Accomplishment and Goals Report and Standard Assurances.
- 11) \*Final Acceptance and Release of Contract Bond for the Countywide Edge Lines Project Federal No. HSIP-000S (571), Contract No. TA-7043, CRP 357, certifying all contract requirements have been met by Hicks Striping and Curbing, Inc.
- 12) \*Final Acceptance and Release of Contract Bond for the Improvement of 1.14 miles of Old Mountain Road, CRP 350, certifying all contract requirements have been met by Grade Worx, LLC.

**Voucher Certification and Payment Approvals:**

**Approved Warrants (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** Accounts Payable: (#314394 - 314498), \$225,508.35. Payroll Warrants: (#730606 – 230866), Combined Payroll, (#314384 – 314393), Electronic Transfer (#965), in the amount of \$820,623.62. For a combined total of \$1,046,131.97, for the date ending June 13, 2022.

**Board Pending: Issues as determined by the Board of Commissioners.**

A discussion continued about extending the Zone 3 burn-ban, the Board indicated conditions on the ground support an extension.

**Approved (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously): Motion to resend Resolution No. 05722** and implement the Burn Ban for Zone 3 effective July 1, 2022, a resolution for signature will be provided next week.

Director Robb Van Cleave stated he has received the permission from Interim Adult Probation Director, the District Court Judges, and the Department of Ecology to move the Solid Waste Litter Crew Grant from the Solid Waste Department to the Adult Probation Department for oversight. The Board stated they are in support.

Director Van Cleave reported on the upcoming discussion on this Thursday's workshop regarding the Solid Waste Department and the upcoming contract negotiations.

**Adjournment (3:34 PM) Approved (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned until 9:10 AM on Thursday, June 16, 2022.

**Thursday, June 16, 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: Planning Director Mo-chi Lindblad, Building Director Lynn Ward, Administrative Services and HR Director Robb Van Cleave, and four (4) members of the public.

**9:05 AM: Planning Director Mo-chi Lindblad: Planning fee schedule follow-up.**

Planning Director Lindblad reviewed a spreadsheet of proposed minimum fees due when an application is submitted for the various types of planning/development applications. Discussion followed regarding fees for Conditional Use Permits and SEPA Appeals. The Board discussed the proposed fees and the shift in policy to more accurately reflect the cost of processing planning/development applications.

Commissioner Sauter indicated that he would like to have a discussion with the Prosecutor and get his perspective on the changes. Commissioner Christopher stated that the fees need to be clear.

The Board discussed fee waiver requests and what has historically been done.

**9:40 AM Board Pending:** Board follow-up and pending issues discussions.

The Board held a brief discussion regarding development application fees. Director Ward stated that the public needs to understand that there will be different fees for various permits, noting that the building permit fee does not cover everything, there will be fees associated with installing a road approach, well, electric, septic, etc.

The Board discussed requirements for advertising public notices and meetings and agreed that notices only need to be advertised in the official newspaper of record.

Director Ward reported that due to inflation, fuel costs have doubled, and building permit fees are still behind other counties. Discussion continued on what the increase should be to cover eligible costs to run the department without charging the public more than needed.

Chairman Anderson stated that due to the economy, rising fuel costs, and inflation he believes there will be very limited building permits in the next 2 years and suggested increasing fees to \$110 per sq. ft. in addition to a 5% increase annually. Director Ward noted she will move forward with additional research to bring back to the Board for further discussion.

The Board had brief discussions regarding the Dallesport park property, the Airport well, and displaying historic pictures from the Klickitat County Historical Society on the walls of the County Services Building.

Commissioner Christopher stated that he would like to restart community grants, with each Commissioner District having an equal budgeted allotment to award in their districts related to economic development. A discussion followed concerning the Klickitat County Public Economic Development Authority Board.

The Board had a brief discussion regarding planning under the Growth Management Act (GMA). Commissioner Sauter advised that when you are a GMA county local control is taken away and you have to follow more stringent State timelines.

Republic Services representatives Josh Shaw and Don Tibbets joined the workshop and requested the Board's consideration to open the Host Agreement to negotiate an amendment due to the changing market. Mr. Tibbets noted that the original agreement was negotiated over 20 years ago and a lot has changed. Discussion followed regarding a possible time frame for negotiations with the intent of a fully executed agreement by mid-August.

**Motion (M/ Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** To adjourn for lunch at 11:20 AM.

**1:15 PM: Washington Small Business Development Center (WSBDC): Update on Childcare start-up businesses**

Attendance: WSBDC Business Advisor Lorena Lowell, Washington Gorge Action Programs Executive Director Leslie Naramore, Johanna Roe with the Skamania Klickitat Community Network, Economic Development Director Dave McClure, Economic Development Specialist Richard Foster, and Administrative Services & HR Director Robb Van Cleave.

Ms. Lowell provided a quarterly update on her work to assist small businesses within Klickitat County. Ms. Lowell reported that she has 55 clients in the county and has assisted with procuring 2.5 million dollars in loans for small businesses.

Ms. Lowell provided an overview of state requirements and regulations for the development and operation of daycare facilities. Discussion followed regarding daycare management/staff salaries, cost of daycare to clients, as well as the required space and number of staff needed per child. Ms. Lowell shared projected costs and income scenarios, noting that these models can work in Western Washington metro areas but not in rural Washington counties.

Ms. Lowell noted that she has a background in owning and operating a daycare facility and with the State licensing requirements and regulations she will be advising her client who is looking at running a daycare in Goldendale that it is not possible without being supplemented.

WAGAP Executive Director Leslie Naramore provided a brief update on the work that the Childcare Committee has done so far. Johanna Roe with the Skamania Klickitat Community Network pointed out that preschool daycare prepares children to be better students and adults in the long run.

Director Naramore reminded the Board of the \$500,000 state appropriation and Department of Commerce grant that can be applied for to be used for developing a daycare facility.

Following further discussion Chairman Anderson commented that costs, regulations and the numbers do not pencil out. Commissioner Christopher suggested researching options to help supplement the cost of providing childcare for the County workforce, including working remotely.

**2:45 PM: Presentation and discussion regarding consultant services relevant to the Solid Waste Department.**

Attendance: Solid Waste Consultant Wendy Mifflin and Administrative Services & HR Director Robb Van Cleave.

Director Van Cleave advised that with two (2) Solid Waste positions unfilled this may be a good time to look at restructuring the department, noting that maybe there is no reason to have a recycling coordinator or director.

Director Van Cleave stated that he and Commissioner Christopher met with Solid Waste Consultant Mifflin to discuss the County's Solid Waste Department, adding that Ms. Mifflin is well qualified in the Solid Waste field and she is the person who prepared the County's Solid Waste Management Plan.

The Board had a discussion regarding the Solid Waste Department structure and asked Ms. Mifflin if she could look at the department and make a recommendation moving forward. Ms. Mifflin suggested reviewing the Solid Waste Management Plan, job descriptions, and grants to develop options for the Board to consider.

Chairman Anderson left the workshop at 3:02 PM due to a previous commitment.

Following a brief discussion regarding the estimated cost range for Ms. Mifflin's services, the Board directed Director Van Cleave to work with Ms. Mifflin to develop a proposal and budget to bring back to the Board for further discussion.

**Motion (M/ Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** To adjourn the workshop at 3:18 PM.

\* Reference Document on File. The Board of Commissioners' minutes are action minutes. A digital recording is on file as part of the official record and available on file Zoom 6.14.22 BOCC 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 Anderson**  
Chairman of the Board



7-12-2022  
Date