

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

**Agenda Item - Comment/Disposition**

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

Vice-Chairman Dan Christopher called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Commissioners David Sauter and Dan Christopher were present, Chairman Jacob Anderson was in Washington D.C. to speak with legislators as the County's representative on the Bi-State Bridge Replacement Working Group.

**Workshop Session Agenda**

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

Attendance: Public Works Director Gordon Kelsey, Public Works Deputy Director Jeff Hunter, Auditor Brenda Sorensen in the Chambers, various county employees, and county residents via zoom.

Director Kelsey reported on items on the consent agenda for approval, which was followed by a brief update from Director Hunter on the State Historic Courthouse Rehabilitation Grant funded Superior Court remodel project. Director Kelsey reported on construction projects throughout the county, followed by an update on east and west end road crew maintenance projects.

Deputy Director Hunter reported on Satus Pass Radio Tower site progress, followed by Director Kelsey reporting on upcoming events at the Fairgrounds.

Director Kelsey provided a follow up to a previous discussion about traffic counters on Harms Road and Horseshoe Bend Road. Director Kelsey reported that he will be meeting with a representative from the Klickitat Historical Society the second week of August to select a group of historic photos to bring back to the Board to select photos to hang in the County Services Building. Commissioner Christopher requested to be included in the meeting.

Director Kelsey provided an update on FEMA's outreach process to communities regarding new FEMA flood maps, noting that FEMA is working on a Klickitat County story map which will be added to the County website. FEMA is planning to hold a community zoom outreach & educational meeting in September or October to inform the public and answer questions concerning the new flood maps.

Director Kelsey reported that FEMA is working with the Yakama Nation and they will do a similar educational roll out of the new FEMA flood maps, which will include Tract D.

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

Attendance: Auditor Brenda Sorensen, Human Resources & Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave, Public Health Director Erinn Quinn in the Chambers, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Auditor Sorensen reported on the current election, noting there have been quite a few questions about congressional redistricting. Auditor Sorensen reported the State Auditor will begin the annual County audit of the on August 8<sup>th</sup>.

Auditor Sorensen provided updates on Licensing, Recording and Veteran's Services, advising that several applications have been received for the Veterans Services Officer position and interviews will be scheduled next week.

**10:45 AM - Department Update/Comment: Public Health Director Erinn Quinn**

Attendance: Public Health Director Erinn Quinn, Human Resources & Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave in the Chambers, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Director Quinn reported on clinical services currently being offered in the Public Health Department, followed by a grant update. Director Quinn provided an update on Environmental Health services as well as an update on disease exposures. Director Quinn provided a staff report, followed by an update on the Board of Health applications that have been received.

A discussion was held regarding mental health crisis services, Director Quinn advised that Skamania County will not be able to provide interim services beyond 90 days. Director Quinn stated that Beacon Health has been a huge resource during this transition process. Director Quinn recommended hiring a consultant to develop a mental health crisis program for Klickitat County, noting that funding will be provided by Beacon Health to cover the cost. Following further discussion, the Board expressed support to move forward with Director Quinn's recommendation.

**Approved (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** The Board recessed for lunch at 11:10 AM.

**Call to Order/Roll Call:**

Vice Chairman Christopher reconvened the Regular Meeting for Tuesday, July 19, 2022, at 1:00 PM, opening with the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners Sauter and Christopher were present, and Anderson was absent.

**Agenda:**

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

Susan Kelsey asked why it takes so long for some meeting minutes to be approved and posted. Ms. Kelsey asked about accuracy and if there was a requirement for when minutes had to be available to the public.

Sheri Bousquet stated Yakima County enacted a solar moratorium to allow the County to develop ordinances for the siting of solar projects and she asked that Klickitat County also enact a solar moratorium and write solar ordinances to protect the County from foreign entities. Ms. Bousquet pointed out that Texas is having energy issues due to extreme heat and their renewable energy sources can't keep up. In her opinion solar is not the best renewable energy source and she asked again for a town hall meeting to discuss these types of projects. Ms. Bousquet also asked the Commissioners to review and change the method of how renewable energy projects are taxed, noting that the Commissioners can encourage the Assessor to change the taxing method to the highest and best use.

Delmar Eldridge inquired if Tract D is in Commissioner District #2. Commissioner Christopher confirmed that it is in Commissioner District #2, advising that Tract D is still part of Klickitat County and is included in the Yakama Nation Reservation, the property owners still own their property as they did a year ago.

Greg Wagner raised issue with a comment Commissioner Christopher made on a radio interview regarding how wind farms are taxed. Mr. Wagner indicated that wind farms were not being taxed properly and the County has been losing tax revenue for the last 15 years. Mr. Wagner asked Commissioner Sauter why citizens were not allowed to vote on a Bond issue for the County Services Building and raised issue with the stated cost of the building. Mr. Wagner also commented on the question about meeting minutes, stating the Commissioners do edit the minutes, which they should not be doing.

Commissioner Sauter responded to Ms. Kelsey's meeting minutes questions, stating that we do try to complete the minutes as quickly as possible, reminding that minutes are not transcripts of what was said, they are action minutes and they are reviewed by each Commissioner and they have to agree that they are accurate before being approved. Commissioner Sauter responded to Mr. Eldridge, concurring with Vice-Chair Christopher and stating Tract D is still within the jurisdiction of Klickitat County.

Commissioner Sauter responded to Mr. Wagner, advising the County did not use a bond process to construct the County Services Building, existing revenues were used in addition to a State loan. Commissioner Sauter stated the building cost \$16.8 million, to remove old annexes and build parking lots the entire project cost \$20-\$22 million, which was anticipated and always disclosed. Commissioner Sauter stated the County had a public process and invited public input and support was overwhelming supportive, noting this was a 3-4 year process.

Commissioner Christopher stated the Commissioners do edit the minutes for sentence structure, spelling and accuracy and we are currently working to improve timeliness. Commissioner Christopher stated the assessment of and how renewable resource projects are taxed is not within the authority of the Commissioners, that would be a question for the Assessor.

Susan Kelsey requested and received further clarification regarding Commissioner meeting minutes and recordings.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

Attendance: Public Health Director Erinn Quinn and various County elected officials, employees, and members of the public in person and via Zoom.

Director Quinn reported on the terms and time period that Skamania County Community Health will serve as Klickitat County's provider of county designated crisis responders. Ms. Quinn advised it will be necessary to enter into an Inter-Local Cooperation Agreement for crisis intervention services with Skamania County, which she plans to have before the Board next week.

**Approved (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously): Resolution No. 06522** in the matter of designating Skamania County Community Health as Klickitat County's provider of County Designated Crisis Responders, and that the individuals meet the requirements of Mental Health professionals, effective August 6, 2022.

#### **Miscellaneous Reports/Comments: Request for a variance to the County's burn ban.**

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

Clerk of the Board Lee Snell provided an overview of the burn ban variance request and Fire Protection District #3's conditions and requirements. The motion followed a brief discussion, questions and clarification.

**Approved (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** the request for a variance to the County's burn ban within Zone 3, Klickitat County Fire Protection District #3, on behalf of Michael Seliga. Mr. Seliga will be hosting a sweat lodge and blessing ceremony event for the birth of a baby on the property located at 715 Aplin Road, White Salmon, Washington on July 20, 2022. The property owners Jerome Seliga Trustee, *Paula, and Jerry Seliga* have provided written approval for this event to take place on their property.

Emergency Management Director Jeff King advised the Board that E/911 Dispatch is extremely short-staffed due to illness and he is working with Human Resources to hire former employees/experienced dispatchers as casual employees.

#### **Consent Agenda:**

**\*Approved (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** The Consent Agenda with ten (10) items, pulling item No. 7 for further discussion.

- 1) **Resolution No. 06622** in the matter of appointing Laurel Harper to serve as Klickitat County's second representative to the Columbia Gorge Housing Authority; and Certificate of Appreciation to Rosemary Hoyt.
- 2) Columbia Gorge Regional Airport Personal Services Contract (**C13922**) between the City of The Dalles, Klickitat County, and Nolan Young for the purpose of assisting the Airport Manager with the Columbia Gorge Regional Airport's FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Sub-Application.

- 3) Scheduling a Public Meeting to be held Tuesday, July 26, 2022, at 1:30 PM to consider approval of Boundary Line Adjustment BLA2022-06; parcel numbers 02-13-2112-1401/00, 02-13-2112-1402/00, and 02-13-2157-0001/00 in the Murdock vicinity. Applicants: Gabriel and Mitzi Moore and Karl Moore.
- 4) Washington Counties Risk Pool 2022-2023 renewal application presented for the Chairman's signature.
- 5) Professional Services Agreement (**C14022**) between Klickitat County (Human Resource and Administrative Services Department) and HDR Engineering Inc. for the purpose of HDR Engineering conducting a staffing and structure review of the Solid Waste Department.
- 6) Personnel Authorization to begin the internal advertising process to fill a vacant Maintenance Technician position at a Union Grade, within the Public Works Department.
- 7) ~~Pulled Memorandum from the Public Works Department changing the work schedule for the Public Works Office Staff to four (4), ten (10) hour days per week, Monday through Thursday, effective August 1, 2022.~~
- 8) Fairgrounds partial fee waiver request from the Goldendale Rodeo Bible Camp facilitators for the use of the Fairgrounds and arena for the purpose of hosting an annual Christian Cowboys youth camp for ages 12-18.
- 9) Supplemental Agreement (**C14122**) No. 1 between Klickitat County (Public Works Department) and Felton Fire Services LLC for the annual inspection, service, documentation and to verify the proper fire alarm system operation including duct detectors listed on Contract (C02820).
- 10) Letter of support addressed to the Washington State Historic County Courthouse Rehabilitation Grant Program to remodel the Superior Court Courtroom, in the amount of \$550,000.
- 11) Reimbursable Work Agreement (**C14222**) between Klickitat County Fire District No. 14 and Klickitat County (Public Works Department) for the purpose of reimbursing the County for the cost of the work performed by the County and its workers.

#### **Payment Approvals:**

**\*Approved (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** Final Pay Estimate to Thompson Brothers Excavating, Inc. in the total amount of \$170,378.57, for the Countywide Guide Posts & Signing Project CRP 358.

**\*Approved (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** Pay Estimate No. 3 to James Dean Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$553,122.51 for the Courtney Road Project, CRP 342 & CRP 353.

**\*Approved Warrants (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** Accounts Payable: (#315218 - 315331) in the amount of \$198,289.67, for the date ending July 18, 2022.

#### **Board Pending:**

The Board had a discussion concerning Landfill Gas Improvement Funds (LGIF) and anticipated funding requests from Klickitat PUD. Vice-Chairman Christopher asked if the Goldendale Waste Water Treatment Plant Improvement project would qualify for LGIF funding. Commissioner Sauter indicated that he thought it would qualify because it is public municipal infrastructure. Vice-Chairman Christopher suggested the County submit a LGIF application on behalf of the City of Goldendale to the LGIF Committee for funding and redirect the .09 dollars for another propose. Commissioner Sauter agreed.

#### **Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel Elected Official Report/Update:**

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

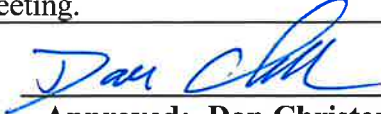
At 1:47 PM, Vice-Chairman Dan Christopher announced that the Board would be convening into Executive Session with Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel in accordance with RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). Vice-Chairman Christopher noted that the session would last fifteen (15) minutes. At 2:02 PM it was announced the Executive Session would be extended ten (10) minutes.

The Board convened back into Regular Session at 2:12 PM. No action was taken.

Commissioner Christopher clarified his legal opinion request regarding the Title 12 Road Standards.

**Approved (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:19 PM. No scheduled workshops.

\* Reference Document on File. Please Note: The Board of Commissioners' minutes are action minutes. A recording is on file as part of the official record and available online, 7.19.2022, Board of County Commissioner's Meeting.

  
Approved: Dan Christopher  
Vice-Chairman of the Board



7/26/2022  
Date