

**Klickitat County  
Board of Commissioners  
Minutes – Meeting of Tuesday, August 23, 2022**

**Morning Workshop Session**

Chairman Jacob Anderson called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Commissioners Anderson and Sauter were present, Commissioner Christopher was absent.

**Executive Session: Annual Performance Evaluation:**

At 10:00 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 10:15 AM. No action was taken.

**10:15 AM – Public Works/Road Department Update:**

Attendance: Public Works Director Gordon Kelsey, Public Works Deputy Director Jeff Hunter, various County Elected Officials, employees, and members of the public present in person and via Zoom.

Director Kelsey provided an update on construction projects, road crew maintenance assignments, and facilities repairs and upgrades.

Public Works Deputy Director Jeff Hunter reported on the status of the Satus Pass radio site.

Director Kelsey reviewed grant-funded projects, followed by an update on the various projects and funding needed from Deputy Director Hunter.

A brief discussion was held about the timeline for the Courtney Road Safety Project.

Chairman Anderson reported on the leases at the Dallesport Regional Airport.

**10:30 AM – Elected Officials Update/Report:**

Attendance: Auditor Brenda Sorensen, various County Elected Officials, employees, and members of the public present in person and via Zoom.

Auditor Brenda Sorensen provided updates on licensing, recording, finance, and on the primary election, noting that her office is gearing up to mail ballots for the November General Election.

Auditor Brenda Sorensen stated there will be a delay in the State Audit that was scheduled to begin on August 8<sup>th</sup>, followed by noting the car plates and mailing envelope shortages are still an issue for the State Department of Licensing.

Auditor Sorensen reported on staffing, advising that she is still working to fill the Senior Accountant, Elections Administrator, and Veteran's Services Officer positions.

Commissioner Sauter reported on the draft hosting amendment offer from Republic Services, a discussion will continue on the upcoming Thursday's workshop sessions.

Human Resources & Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave reported the dates on the current Republic Services contract need to be updated.

Commissioner Sauter reported on the Opioid Settlement and discussed if Klickitat County was going to participate.

**Motion (M/Sauter, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously).** To recess for lunch at 10:59 AM.

**Commissioner's Business Meeting**

Chairman Anderson reconvened the Regular Meeting for Tuesday, August 23, 2022, at 1:00 PM, opening with the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners Anderson and Sauter were present, Commissioner Christopher was not.

**Agenda:**

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

**Approval of Commissioner Meeting Minutes**

**Approved (M/Sauter, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously):** the Klickitat County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes for August 9, 2022, and August 16, 2022, as presented.

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

Kathy Moco stated the Klickitat County Fair was very full and seemed to be very successful, noting it was a very good fair.

Susan Kelsey inquired about the written minutes versus what is said in the recorded meetings. Ms. Kelsey inquired how long the videos are kept. Clerk of the Board Lee Snell advised the videos are saved forever and will be archived with the State.

Greg Wagner read into the record a portion of the Energy Overlay Zone regarding green energy projects in Klickitat County; Mr. Wagner inquired if Commissioner Sauter was not running for re-election due to other job opportunities.

Dan Christopher thanked the Klickitat Valley Health Hospital and stated he is feeling much better.

Sheri Bousquet requested the County enact another moratorium not allowing industrial solar projects, Ms. Bousquet requested that the County write solar ordinances.

Commissioner Sauter responded to comments inquiring about him not running for re-election, Commissioner Sauter stated he has been a commissioner for 16 years and enjoyed many of them and enjoyed serving the public, he has lived here his whole life and it was a pleasure to serve. Commissioner Sauter responded to the inquiries about solar farms regulations that will be followed, followed by stating he has reviewed ordinances passed in other counties, noting the ordinances will not hold up against the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC), noting the EFSEC process will allow solar farms into the county with few regulations. Commissioner Sauter stated he would like to ensure the local county processes are followed, the citizens have a voice and there are regulations in place.

Chairman Anderson stated there are solar farms in the east part of the county and they are benefiting the county. Chairman Anderson stated the alternative to having a moratorium is the solar farms will go through the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council process and there will be no local regulations, noting projects will be site-specific and the current local county government guidelines are much more restrictive.

**Miscellaneous Reports/Comments: Nicole Lundin, Executive Director of the Greater Goldendale area Chamber of Commerce: Update on a grant opportunity.**

Attendance: Goldendale Chamber of Executive Director Nicole Lundin, Economic Development/Natural Resource Director Dave McClure, Economic Development Specialist Richard Foster, various County Elected Officials, employees, and members of the public present in person and via Zoom.

Director Lundin reported that the Chamber is working with the City of Goldendale and Klickitat County Economic Development Department to explore options for a grant application through the State Commerce Small Business Innovation Fund to, directly and indirectly, assist small businesses.

Director Lundin stated that Potential projects will include Feasibility Studies for a Tourism Loop & Business incubator, Business Signage, Accessibility, and Repair Improvements, Business Accelerator, and a Direct consulting program for small businesses.

The grant application is due September 2nd with all funds to be spent by May of 2023.

Economic Development Specialist Richard Foster reported on the guidelines, noting it is a one-time grant opportunity.

**Consent Agenda:**

**\*Approved (M/Sauter, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously).** Consent Agenda with five (5) items.

- 1) \*Letter in the matter of appointing Jason Hartmann to serve as the incorporated cities' representative to the Mid-Columbia Economic Development District Board, And Certificate of Appreciation to Jan Brending for her years of service as the incorporated cities' representative to the Mid-Columbia Economic Development District Board.
- 2) \***Resolution No. 07122** in the matter of appointing Sunday Sutton to serve as a member of the Klickitat County Board of Health.
- 3) \*Scheduling a public meeting to be held Tuesday, August 30, 2022, at 1:30 PM to consider approval of Boundary Line Adjustment BLA2022-09, Parcel #s 04-11-3120-1301/00 and 04-11-3108-0102/00, in the Husum vicinity; Applicants: Edward Tyson Cross, and Jaime Pulido & Christine Douglas.
- 4) \***Resolution No. 07222** in the matter of setting a public hearing to be held Tuesday, September 20, 2022, at 1:30 PM to review the proposed amendment to Klickitat County's Model Decommissioning Plan and receive public testimony on the same.
- 5) \***Resolution No. 07322** in the matter of appointing William Muir and Laurie Wilhite, both representing environmental interests, to the Klickitat Citizen's Review Committee, And Certificates of Appreciation to Jay Letto and Jason Gray for their service as a member of the Klickitat Citizen's Review Committee.

**Voucher Certification and Approval**

**\*Approved Warrants (M/Sauter, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously).** Accounts Payable: (#316015 - 316134), in the total amount of \$188,329.70, for the date ending August 22, 2022. There were no payroll warrants requiring approval at this time.

**Board Pending:**

The Board had discussions about determining a fair and equitable cost for providing District Court services to the three (3) cities.

A discussion was held regarding the Public Defender Services contract for 2023-2024.

The Board was in support of moving forward with the State Opioid Settlement Agreement and with approving the draft ordinance revising Code 8.24 Burn Ban Procedure, amending Ordinance # OØ41194 by adding 8.24.070 Variances to Outdoor burning restrictions within unincorporated areas to include statutory authority for the Board of Commissioners to grant a variance to the County burn ban

A discussion was held regarding the Dallesport Water District, and water rights.

**Board Correspondence for the Record:**

Letter in support of Columbia Land Trust's Mt. Adams Forest FY2024 Forest Legacy Project to the Washington Department of Natural Resources, Conservation Transaction Unit Supervisor Mark Reed.

**(2:35 PM) (M/Sauter, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously).** There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned until 9:30 AM on Thursday, August 25, 2022, for scheduled 2023 Budget workshops.

**Thursday, August 25, 2022 - Regular Meeting Extension: Workshop Extension.**

Chairman Anderson called the workshop to Order at 9:30 AM. All three (3) Commissioners were present.

**2023 Budget Workshop Schedule**

Attendance: Auditor Brenda Sorensen, Chief Deputy Auditor Heather Jobe, Human Resources & Administration Services Director Robb Van Cleave, Fiscal Manager Jenn Bartley and a member of the public were present throughout the budget workshops.

**Noxious Weed Department:**

Noxious Weed Coordinator Marty Hudson and Office Manager Elizabeth Taylor presented an overview of the 2023 proposed budget for the Noxious Weed Department. Coordinator Hudson advised that he plans to retire next year sometime after training his replacement.

The Board discussed procedure and strategies for developing the 2023 budget and the discussion they planned to have with each County department and office. The Board indicated they would not support new hires or the use of reserves without justification.

**Juvenile Department:**

Attendance: Juvenile Court Administrator Tom Adkins and Juvenile Probation Counselor Candy Wing.

Juvenile Court Administrator Adkins provided a brief overview of Juvenile's 2023 budget which is an 11% reduction from the 2022 budget.

Discussion followed regarding Norco costs to house juveniles and details of the contract. Commissioner Christopher asked for and received clarification for budgeted expenses in line item repairs and maintenance.

The Board discussed debt service expenses, and financing for the Pioneer Center, indicating they needed clarification from the Treasurer. Further discussion followed regarding intergovernmental services to the cities and special taxing districts, Landfill Funding requests, Landfill Gas Funded projects, and Commissioner Christopher's proposal to restart community grants. Commissioner Sauter provided a brief history of community grants and how communities have mostly used them to benefit Fire Districts.

**Planning Department:**

Planning Director Mo-chi Lindblad presented a review of the Planning Department's proposed 2023 budget. Director Lindblad proposed to revise the Planning Department organizational chart to add a Project Coordinator position to begin doing community outreach to work toward updating the Comprehensive Management Plan by using funding budgeted for the vacant Senior Planner position. Director Lindblad advised that she will be transferring the department's only vehicle to the Public Health Department since Planning rarely uses a vehicle and when needed they can arrange to use another departments.

Discussion followed with Director Lindblad providing clarification on various questions asked by the Board.

**Emergency Management Department:**

Attendance: Emergency Management Director Jeff King, Accounting Administrative Assistant Debi Stover, and Dispatch/E911 Chief of Operations Filiberto Ontiveros.

Director King started his 2023 budget review by discussing anticipated phone excise tax and grant revenues in Fund 107, revenues from user fees and EMP grants in Fund 127, and Fund 135 Communications, which funds E911/Dispatch.

Discussion continued concerning dispatch services provided to the cities, fire districts, and emergency medical services and the possibility of going out to the voters to ask for an increase in the Emergency Communications tax levy by either .1% or .2%. Director King advised that voters and the cities have been very supportive of public safety needs. The Board discussed implementing a revolving fund for the replacement of the radio system and 911 equipment when needed.

Director King addressed a question from Commissioner Christopher regarding an increase in budgeted fuel expenses and a decrease in insurance costs in 2023.

**(M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** Motion to recess for lunch at 12:20 PM until 1:30 PM.

**Sheriff's Office:**

Attendance: Sheriff Bob Songer and Chief Civil Deputy Karen Elings.

Chief Civil Deputy Karen Elings provided reviews of 2023 proposed budgets which was followed by discussion concerning the Road Patrol, Marine Patrol, K-9, Corrections, Timber Deputies and Search and Rescue.

Chief Civil Deputy Elings reported on estimated revenues for 2023. Ms. Elings advised that the daily rate for the jail is \$102.08, due to legislative mandates resulting in fewer drug convictions, jail revenues have decreased as well as revenues from the State Department of Corrections. Ms. Elings advised the Sheriff's Office continues to work to cut expenses where ever possible.

Discussion followed regarding Timber Deputies, the K-9 program, Posse, and overtime costs.

**3:30 - 3:45 PM - Break**

**Commissioner's Office:**

Clerk of the Board Lee Snell and Deputy Clerk Iby Coyne presented budgets for the Board of Equalization, Commissioner's Office, LEOFF I Disability Board, Non-Departmental Fund, Historical Preservation, Public Defense, Flood Control, and the Cumulative Reserve Fund.

While reviewing Non-Departmental revenues the Board increased the 2023 estimated sales tax revenue amount based on the mid-year point, which Fiscal Manager Bartley agreed with. Discussion continued regarding Superior Court Public Defender services and changes on how public defender attorneys are managed. The Clerk will gather more information from the Superior Court Administrator for further discussion.

Review of the 2023 budgets for Landfill Gas Improvement Fund and VR&R Fund were postponed to a later date.

**Civil Service Commission:**

Civil Service Commission Secretary/Examiner Melanie Osborne.

Ms. Osborne presented the Civil Service Commission 2023 proposed budget and thanked the Board for increasing compensation for the Civil Service Commission Secretary/Examiner position. Ms. Osborne provided an overview of the type of testing she oversees in order to build lists of qualified candidates for consideration for positions within the Sheriff's Office.

The Board had a brief discussion regarding 2023 estimated revenues and anticipated cost of living expenses.

**(M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** The workshop was adjourned at 5:05 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 8.23.2022 Board of County Commissioner's Meeting. Please Note: All Commissioner meetings and workshops are open to the public to attend. Meetings are recorded, Workshops are NOT recorded.

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



  
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**Date**