

Klickitat County
Board of Commissioners
Minutes – Meeting of Tuesday, August 31, 2021

Agenda Item - Comment/Disposition

Call to Order/Roll Call

Chairman David M. Sauter called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. Commissioners present: David M. Sauter, Jacob L. Anderson, and Dan Christopher.

Executive Session: Annual Performance Evaluation:

At 9:30 AM Chairman David M. Sauter 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. Chairman Sauter noted that the session would last fifteen (15) minutes.

The Board convened back into Regular Session at 9:45 AM.

Workshop Session Agenda

9:45 AM – Public Works Department Update

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

Public Works Deputy Director Jeff Hunter reported on the VR&R vehicle fleet trucks; rental rate and what the services include; a discussion continued regarding the replacement and rotation schedule.

A discussion was held about the creation of a vehicle maintenance fund which would save the County money, it would also remove the budget line item out of each department's budget and create a pool; a discussion was held about the necessary maintenance and different types and uses of county vehicles.

Public Works Director Gordon Kelsey reported on the completed and ongoing road construction projects, followed by a discussion about the road grindings that can be used to improve other roads in the county.

Director Kelsey stated the Courtney Road Safety Project will be advertised this winter, followed by an update on the Klickitat Path.

A report was given on the east and west end crews projects; the construction in the new Klickitat County Services Building and the concrete work that has been completed in preparation for the new road to be constructed.

Director Kelsey reported the bid opening on September 7th for the foundation work with moving annex 5 to the Fairgrounds; the Courthouse Entrance Project and the meeting with Public Health Director Erinn Quinn to discuss Fairground preparations to restart the vaccination clinic at the Fairgrounds.

A discussion was held regarding the parking layout on Court Street.

10:30 AM – Department Update/Report Human Resources/Administrative Services Update.

Attendance: Human Resources/Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave, HR Manager KC Sheridan, Information Technology Manager Jeff Roe, Fiscal Manager Jenn Bartley, Clerk Renea Campbell, Assessor Crista Schroder, Treasurer Greg Gallagher, Auditor Brenda Sorensen, Chief Deputy Auditor Heather Jobe in the Chambers, various county employees and residents via Zoom.

Human Resources/Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave reported on the significantly large Information Technology items that were scheduled to be replaced in the IT Department, noting when the consolidation of the departments was done there was no budget allocated. Director Van Cleave stated he will address this further during the budget process.

Fiscal Manager Jenn Bartley reported on the American Rescue Plan report and the lost revenue from the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Fiscal Manager Bartley provided and reported on 2021, budget to actuals. Fiscal Manager Bartley reviewed budgets that she has revised, followed by a request for direction on the revision of the Building and Code Compliance Department's Budget due to the Code Compliance Office's relocation to the Commissioner's Office. The Board requested to continue the conversation later today under Board Pending.

Director Van Cleave reviewed 2022, Budget Schedule with Departments and Offices. The Board was in support of the calendar as proposed.

A discussion was held regarding the budget presentation, noting Fiscal Manager Bartley provided each department and office a target number including their 3% budget reduction as requested by the Board.

HR Manager KC Sheridan reported on the Employee Salary Survey process and results; followed by an update on Union Negotiations from Director Van Cleave.

HR Manager Sheridan reviewed the Public Employee Benefits insurance program, noting the employees will see also see a 4% increase in their contribution requirement.

HR Manager Sheridan requested and received approval to proceed with the advertising process for an Office Manager II at steps 1 through 5 in the Public Works Department, followed by a discussion about posting the jobs at higher steps depending on qualification. The Board agreed to post the Office Manager position at steps 1 through 3.

HR Manager Sheridan inquired if the Board was in support of adding the Juneteenth Holiday to the County's holidays observed calendar. The Board expressed support.

Clerk Renea Campbell provided a letter that was written by Dr. Nathan Armerding addressed to Governor Inslee and Brown stating his concern with implementing a COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate, Clerk Campbell stated as an Elected Official she is opposed to a mandatory vaccine, stating it will cause devastation to each office. Clerk Campbell reported the County has done quite a few measures that have protected employees and citizens.

Clerk Campbell stated if there are further discussions regarding mandatory County Employee vaccines that the Board includes the Elected Officials, Clerk Campbell emphasized how strongly she feels that the Elected Officials be recognized.

The Board stated there has not been a discussion about mandatory vaccinations and they will include all partners in the discussion if there is one regarding county staff.

Chief Deputy Auditor Heather Jobe advised of MRSC's article regarding Governor Inslee's Vaccine Mandate and overreach of power.

At 11:20 AM, Chairman David M. Sauter announced that the Board would be convening into Executive Session with Human Resource and Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave and HR Manager KC Sheridan in accordance with RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) to discuss the performance of a public employee. Chairman Sauter noted

that the session would last fifteen (15) minutes. The Board convened back into Regular Session at 11:35 AM. No action was taken.

At 11:35 AM Chairman Sauter announced that the Board would be convening into Executive Session in accordance with RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss pending litigation with Prosecutor David Quesnel. It was noted the session would last ten (10) minutes. The Board convened back into Regular Session at 11:45 AM. No action was taken.

The Board recessed for lunch at 11:53 AM.

Commissioner's Business Meeting

Chairman Sauter reconvened the meeting at 1:00 PM. Opening with the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman David M. Sauter, Commissioner Jacob Anderson, and Commissioner Dan Christopher were present.

Agenda:

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

Approval of Commissioner Meeting Minutes

No Minutes for Approval.

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

Goldendale resident Susan Kelsey stated there is a COVID-19 vaccine injection mandate and King County and the City of Seattle has implemented the mandate. Ms. Kelsey urged the Commissioners to not implement the mandate for Klickitat County employees.

Danielle Clevidence stated her opposition to the vaccination mandate and if there are mandatory vaccines many employees will be losing their jobs, Ms. Clevidence stated there will be no one to service the citizens. Ms. Clevidence stated some employees who cannot have the vaccine due to medical reasons are especially at risk. A discussion followed about medical doctors who grant an exemption are treated unfairly.

Sheri Bousquet inquired about the appeal filing timeline and the SEPA appeal process for the Under-Canvass Project in Husum.

Chairman Sauter responded to Ms. Kelsey and Ms. Clevidence regarding the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccine mandate in Klickitat County. Chairman Sauter stated Governor Inslee can mandate the vaccine for medical workers and State employees but does not believe he has the ability to mandate local County Government.

A discussion followed about the location of the local protests that are taking place on the Courthouse lawn.

Denice Lee reported the vehicles parked on the sidewalk on the west side of the Courthouse are negatively impacting the pedestrians trying to walk on the sidewalk.

Klickitat resident Benjamin Ell requested Senior Services fixed-route bus add a stop in Klickitat. Mr. Ell stated there is no local transportation in the area. Commissioner Christopher stated he has some questions for the Senior Service Director on this afternoon's agenda, noting the stop is a budget concern and will be working towards changes in the budget process.

Rociel Demmick from Goldendale reported on the Douglas County Ordinance which Commissioner Christopher spoke to on the KLCK Radio interview. Ms. Demmick requested the Board review Douglas County's Ordinances.

Goldendale citizen Elaine Harvey reported on the endangered species listed in Klickitat County and the mitigations process for these species. Ms. Harvey stated we are living in the wildlife's habitat and the green energy projects are impacting the native habitat. Ms. Harvey stated all wildlife in the County should get to live. Ms. Harvey stated large developers should not be able to come to the County and write a large check to build projects and remove the wildlife's habitat.

Ms. Bousquet stated she believes the SEPA appeal for the Under-Canvass Project is the citizens against the County.

Chairman Sauter stated he is not interested in developers writing checks to offset the impacts to the wildlife, there is a mitigation that needs to take place. Chairman Sauter stated the mitigation needs to take place in the area of the project.

Public Meetings/Public Hearings/Bid Openings

Public Hearing - To review SEPA appeal SEPA2021-20 and preliminary approval of Short Plat SPL2021-19 to divide 21. Applicants: Gary & Judy Gottschalk.

Attendance: Associate Planner Denise Lee in the Chambers, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Chairman Sauter opened the Public Hearing stating it is a "Closed Record" hearing of a SEPA appeal by Friends of the White Salmon River related to a 2-lot short plat; to be followed by an open record hearing on the short plat proposed by Gary and Judy Gottschalk and request a staff report.

Assistant Planner Denise Lee, stated the Consolidated Public Hearing is to review an appeal submitted by Patricia Arnold of Friends of the White Salmon River to SEPA threshold determination SEPA2021-20 and preliminary approval of Short Plat SPL2021-19 to divide 21. 39 acres into 2 lots. The property is located within the Husum vicinity on Parcel No's, 04-11-3000-0007/00 and 04-10-2500-0007/00; Applicants: Gary & Judy Gottschalk.

Pat Arnold stated the SEPA checklist and Threshold Determination are inadequate in the Environmental Studies; the Environmental Elements; the Surface Water; Ground Water, Waste Material, and recreation. Clarification was requested whether the 100 or 200-foot setback was required from the riverbank.

Gary Gottschalk spoke to work they have done on the river bank and clearing the trees from the river; the intent of the short plat and their plans.

Chairman Sauter opened the public meeting for discussion.

Commissioner Christopher inquired about the dirt area down to the river and there are no meadow grasses or shrubs.

Chairman Sauter inquired about the buffer zone, is it the Shoreline 100-foot buffer or Critical Area 200-foot buffer. Assistant Planner Lee stated the shoreline master plan does override the critical area ordinance and it is a 100-foot setback is in effect for this parcel. A brief discussion followed regarding the various setbacks for buildings.

Planning Director Mo-chi Lindblad provided additional clarification regarding the setbacks and buffers for the Shoreline Management Plan and Critic Area Ordinance.

Chairman Sauter closed the Public Hearing,

(M/Anderson.): Proposed to hold the hearing over to next week as there are critical pieces of information that are conflicting and there are new comments that have been brought to light. The motion died due to a lack of a second.

Assistant Planner Lee advised the hearing was closed to further comments and the most recent comments provided are in regards to the Short Plat Public Meeting to follow.

The Board discussed clarity on the setback implementation; Chairman David Sauter stated he has consistently had applied the 100-foot Shoreline Master Plan setback. The Board stated they will defer s decision on the SEPA Appeal until after the Short Plat discussion.

Public Meeting - Short Plat SPL202 1-19; Parcel No.s, 04-11-3000-0007 /00 and 04-10-2500-0007 /00; Applicants: Gary & Judy Gottschalk.

Assistant Planner Denice Lee provided a staff review of Short Plat SPL202 1-19; stating the proposal is to divide 21.39 acres into 2 lots. The property is located within Husum vicinity on Parcel No.s, 04-11-3000-0007 /00 and 04-10-2500-0007 /00; Applicants: Gary & Judy Gottschalk.

Chairman Sauter opened the public meeting requesting Mr. Gottschalk provide comment.

Mr. Gottschalk stated they have followed all the guidelines and still need to follow up with the Public Works Road Department and the State Highway Department.

Chairman Sauter opened the comment period for two (2) minutes per individual.

White Salmon resident Lisa Hamerlynck stated she is in opposition to the proposed short plat.

Resident Lane Smith stated he has lived on the river for 50 years and does not like the obstructionist and the Shoreline Management Plan

Resident Ryan Kreps was in support of the short plat and stated the fire mitigation and the stewardship of the land that Mr. and Ms. Gottschalk have done.

Resident Sheri Bousquet stated she was made aware of the situation today and stated this is a wild and national scenic area and she believes there is damage that will be caused by the allowance of the short plat.

Mr. Gottschalk stated there is an existing set of rules that need to be followed. Mr. Gottschalk stated they will be good stewards of the land.

Commissioner Christopher inquired about the construction of the house and when the short plat of the current parcel was done.

Commissioner Anderson stated the Shoreline and Critical Management Plans need updating and there are others in the area that have had projects granted under these rules and support the request.

Commissioner Christopher stated The riparian area (within 50 feet of the river) looks to have been cleared to provide better river access. This does not show good stewardship of the land or respect for the current law on riparian areas that protect critical resources like the White Salmon River and the fish in it, Commissioner Christopher stated he will not support the SEPA Officials Determination on this Short Plat.

Chairman Sauter stated this application follows the past applications and the current Shoreline Management Plan and is in favor.

Commissioner Anderson stated the application follows the guidelines and the current rules but to not grant the SEPA Officials Determination and the Short Plat is not following the process, the concerns of the natural vegetation need to be addressed in the Shoreline Management Plan update.

Assistant Planner Denice Lee reported an administrative review of this boundary line adjustment has been completed. Signatures have been obtained from the Road, Health, and Planning Departments, and the Treasurer's Office. All conditions attached to the preliminary approval have been met.

Approved (M/Anderson. S/Sauter. Passed by majority): Commissioner Christopher was opposed. granting preliminary approval for Short Plat SPL2021-19 and moving to deny the appeal, and uphold the SEPA Responsible Official's determination for SEPA2021-20 and direct staff to prepare findings based on today's discussion and documents in the file.

Department Update/Report - Senior Services Update

Attendance: Senior Services Director Sharon Carter in the Chambers, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Senior Services Director Sharon Carter reported on the current fixed-route stops and the request to add a stop in Klickitat, followed by a discussion of the dial-a-ride versus the fixed route schedule.

Director Carter reviewed the cost of the routes, followed by an In-Home Care Providers report. Director Carter stated there are training requirements for the in-home aids and there are no local trainers in the area, Director Carter expressed frustration with the lack of training, noting there is an online training that the In-Home Aides have been using at a cost.

Director Carter stated the licensed In-Home Care service is quite a large budget item and inquired whether the Board is interested in encouraging In-Home Aids to become State Contract Aids.

Director Carter requested guidance on how to continue to support the program financially, a brief discussion was held about the upcoming Senior Advisory Meeting, Commissioner Christopher will be in attendance instead of Commissioner Anderson due to a meeting conflict.

The Board recessed for 5 minutes at 3:25 PM

Consent Agenda:

Approved (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously): The Consent Agenda with eight (8) items.

- 1) **Resolution No. 09021** in the matter of scheduling a public hearing to be held on Tuesday, October 5, 2021, beginning at 2:15 PM to consider an application for classification or reclassification of property as Open Space Farm and Agricultural Conservation Land for Current Use Classification program.
- 2) Proclamation in support of the American Legion Post #116 for their efforts to ensure that our communities don't forget the lives lost on 9/11 or those lost while fighting the global war on terrorism by hosting a 20th Anniversary Commemoration of 9/11 dinner for first responders and their families.
- 3) Amendment No. 4 (**C17021**) to the Agreement between the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) and Klickitat County (Auditor's Office) to extend the current WDVA Contract No C20316 established to provide information, referral services, and assistance to veterans and their family members in processing claims applications for the various veteran's benefits to which they may be entitled.
- 4) Innerconnection Standards (**C17121**) for Net Energy Metering with Electrical Generating Facilities of 100 Kilowatts or less between Klickitat County (Public Works Department) and the Public Utility District No. 1 of Klickitat County for the purpose of following the P.U.D's requirements for the net metering and technical requirements of the Photovoltaic System, (Solar Panels), located on the roof of the new Klickitat County Services Building.

5) **Resolution No. 09121** in the matter of declaring one (1) 2010, Dodge Grand Caravan, VIN #2D4RN4DE3AR297044; one (1) 2006, Ford E450, VIN #1FDXE45SX6DB29782, and a Ford E450, VIN #1FD4E5SS88DA92284 as surplus to be removed from the Senior Services Department's inventory to be disposed of through public sale or auction by the Klickitat County Treasurer.

6) Personnel Authorization to advertise for a Casual Nurse Practitioner position at a set rate, within the Public Health Department.

7) **Resolution No. 09221** in the matter of adding an additional temporary casual Public Health Nurse Position to assist in COVID-19 response efforts extending the timeframe for the current temporary positions.

8) Memorandum of Understanding (**C17221**) between Klickitat County (Public Health Department) and the Washington State Department of Health and the Washington State Department of Ecology for the purpose of proving a program to offer loan assistance to citizens of the participating local jurisdictions to address failing or malfunctioning on-site sewage systems to protect public health and water quality. This updates and replaces the MOU dated August 2018.

Payment Approvals:

Approved Warrants (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously): Accounts Payable: (#308180 - 308313), \$259,787.50, DOR Electric Transfer (#937), \$2,654.90 for a total of \$262,442.40.

Payroll Warrants: (#222463 - 222749), Combined Payroll, (#308117 - 308125), Electronic Transfer (#936), \$1,293,083.32.

For a combined total of \$1,293,083.72, for the date ending August 30, 2021.

Board Pending - Issues as determined by the Board of Commissioners

The Board agreed the issues of concern to address with the Legislators in the upcoming session are the Hood River Bridge replacement and the taxation of the wind and solar farm depreciation schedule.

The Board continued a discussion regarding the Building and Code Compliance Department Budget and the transfer of the Code Compliance Officer under the Board.

Clerk of the Board Lee Snell stated the Commissioners are signed up for the Washington State Association of Counties Leaders Conference

An update was given on the Stonehenge restroom funding request.

A discussion was held regarding the mobile homes that are in the area being brought into the area from other locations and the safety risk that runs, Commissioner Christopher requested if there could be further discussion including the Building and Code Compliances Department Director Lynn Ward.

A discussion was held regarding the outdated/surplus items and ensuring the items are going into the auction and back to the taxpayers.

Elected Official – Treasurer's Report/Update:

Attendance: Treasurer Greg Gallagher, Fiscal Manager Jenn Bartley in the Chambers, various county employees, and residents via Zoom.

Treasurer Greg Gallagher reported on the Finance Committee meeting last Friday, followed by a report on what the Treasure's Office will be doing to meet the Labor and Industries COVID-19 requirements. Treasurer Gallagher stated he will not lock the Treasure's Office door but will also be encouraging the public to continue using the dropbox placed outside the Courthouse, also a drop box will be installed in the wall of the Courthouse hallway outside the Treasure's Office to allow citizens easier access when making payments.

Treasurer Gallagher reported on the County Fair, followed by an update on the upcoming tax title auction.

A discussion was held regarding the auction process and what the platform allows.

A report was given about the State Auditor's audit, followed by a reminder about the State's Administrative Payment for the Forest's State Excise tax that will be paid this month.

An update was given on the County-owned tax title properties in the area, noting he is still working on getting the proper ownership paperwork.

Approved (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously): There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:06 PM.

* 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 Board of County Commissioners Meeting 8-31-2021.



Approved: David M. Sauter
Chairman of the Board



9.14.2021

Date