

**Klickitat County**  
**Board of Commissioners**  
**Minutes – Meeting of Tuesday, September 6, 2022**

**Morning Workshop Session**

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

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

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

Director Kelsey provided updates on construction projects, road crew maintenance projects, and facilities repairs and upgrades. Director Kelsey advised that if the solar company does not start maintenance work on Middle Road, County crews will do the work which will be billed to the developer. Mr. Hunter reported on the status of the Satus Pass radio site, noting that the electrical rough in is completed.

**10:30 AM – Economic Development/Natural Resources Department Update:**

Attendance: Economic Development/Natural Resource (NR) Director Dave McClure, Economic Development Specialist Richard Foster, Natural Resource Specialist Whitney Reynier, various County elected officials, employees, and members of the public present in person and via Zoom.

NR Specialist Reynier provided updates on salmon recovery funding requests, and WDFW's Simcoe Unit CRM meetings. Ms. Reynier reported that NR continues to monitor wells and streams within Klickitat County. A discussion followed concerning thermal refuse areas within streams and rivers. Ms. Reynier reported on Wildfire defense grants for fuel reduction and comment letters on the Switzler Canyon project.

Economic Development Specialist Foster provided updates on the Federal Economic Development Grant funded project at the airport, Working Washington grants, Workforce Development and job skills programs, and the Cemetery District Community Development Funded project. A discussion followed concerning the grant amount, which Mr. Foster will research and verify.

Director McClure reported that he is finalizing draft EIS comments on the Pump Storage project, which he will provide to the Board for review. The Board had a brief discussion regarding tracking staff time when searching for public records documents while filling a request.

**10:30 AM – Code Compliance Officer Update:**

Attendance: Code Compliance Officer Jorge Sendejas, various County elected officials, employees, and members of the public present in person and via Zoom.

Compliance Officer Sendejas reported that he currently has twenty-seven (27) active cases, noting that he has been focusing on community outreach and education. Mr. Sendejas advised that his current vehicle is not suited for the type of terrain he travels to inspect code compliance properties and he would like Board approval to find a surplus vehicle from another department.

Mr. Sendejas requested and received direction from the Board on how to handle complaints concerning individuals living in tents on their own property, unless there is a health violation the cases will be closed.

Mr. Sendejas reported that he will be working with other county code compliance departments to improve codes to bring violators into compliance.

The Board had discussions regarding development of a lease for Public Works' use of their office space to go towards the purchase of the old Public Works Building from the Road Fund and about the selection of historical County pictures.

**Motion (M/Christopher, S/Sauter. Passed unanimously).** To recess for lunch at 11:15 AM.

**Commissioner's Business Meeting**

Chairman Anderson reconvened the Regular Meeting for Tuesday, September 6, 2022, 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 Commissioner meeting minutes requiring approval at this time.

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

Ken McKune asked why workshops were not being recorded.

Greg Wagner addressed comments made by Dave Barta during last Tuesday's citizen comment period and criticized the Commissioner's for not being proactive in developing solar ordinances like Yakima County is doing.

Delmer Eldridge stated that the Commissioners are ignoring the future impacts that industrial solar will have on the County and they are not doing their duty.

Ruby Irving commented on statements she heard during last Tuesday's citizen comment period, she clarified that she sent one (1) text to Chairman Anderson one (1) time, and to Mr. Wagner, she stated that she was not terminated for not doing her job.

Sheri Bousquet commented on the lack of solar ordinances and Under Canvas, noting that citizens are in a lawsuit with the County. Ms. Bouquet stated that the system doesn't work, it is broken, the Commissioners do not listen to the citizens.

Tracy McKune inquired about upcoming projects and asked why the Commissioners have not talked about them, (i.e. Underwood Conservation District turtle habitat restoration and U.S. Forest Service cleaning an area around a grove of pine trees near Major Creek).

Commissioner Christopher clarified that the projects that Ms. McKune mentioned are not Klickitat County projects. Commissioner Sauter agreed, noting that the Conservation District and US Forest Service are both government entities and they will be holding public hearings to receive comments.

The Board clarified for Mr. Eldredge that they have looked at possible impacts of industrial solar and have visited large industrial solar projects in Eastern Oregon.

Chairman Anderson addressed comments made by Mr. Eldredge, stating that he disagrees, the Commissioners have and are doing their duties as required.

**Public Meetings/Public Hearings/Bid Openings:**

**Public Meeting: to consider approval of Boundary Line Adjustment BLA2022-07, Parcel #s 05-15-2716-1604/00 and 05-15-2715-1503/00, in the Goldendale vicinity; Applicants: Lawton Creek LLC.**

Assistant Planner Alisa Grumbles reported that Boundary Line Adjustment BLA2022-07 is a proposal to adjust the common property line between Parcel #s 05-15-2716-1604/00 and 05-15-2716-1603/00 off of Pine Forest Road in the Goldendale vicinity.

Ms. Grumbles advised that an administrative review of the boundary line adjustment has been completed and all conditions attached to the preliminary approval have been met. If the Board finds that it is in the public's interest to approve this boundary line adjustment, a motion needs to be made to grant final approval.

**Approved (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously).** Motion granting approval to Boundary Line Adjustment BLA2022-07, which adjusts the common property line between Parcel #s 05-15-2716-1604/00 and 05-15-2715-1503/00 in the Goldendale vicinity; Applicants: Lawton Creek LLC.

**Public Meeting: to consider final approval of Subdivision, SUB 2019-02; Parcel No. 04-10-0219-1504/00 in the BZ Corner vicinity; Applicant: Matt Graves.**

Associate Planner Denise Lee reported in her staff review that Subdivision SUB2019-02 is a proposal to create 4 lots from Parcel No. 04-10-0219-1504/00, formerly Parcel No. 04-10-0217-0304/00 prior to boundary line adjustment BLA 2019-05. This project began as a simultaneous boundary line adjustment and subdivision, however; the boundary line adjustment was finalized on 9/15/2020, resulting in a new parcel number. Ms. Grumbles noted that the subdivision is located in the BZ Corner vicinity.

Ms. Lee advised that an administrative review of the subdivision has been completed and signatures have been obtained from the Road, Health, and Planning Departments, including the Treasurer's Office. All conditions attached to the preliminary approval have been met. If the Board finds that it is in the public's interest to approve this subdivision, a motion needs to be made to grant final approval of subdivision SUB2019-02.

**Approved (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously).** Motion granting final approval to Subdivision SUB2019-02, which creates 4 lots from Parcel No. 04-10-0219-1504/00, formerly Parcel No. 04-10-0217-0304/00 prior to boundary line adjustment BLA 2019-05; Applicant: Matt Graves.

**Consent Agenda:**

**\*Approved (M/Christopher, S/Sauter. Passed unanimously):** Consent Agenda with two (2) items.

- 1) **\*Delegated Lease Agreement (C16222)** between the City of The Dalles, Oregon, Klickitat County, Washington, and the State of Washington, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the purpose of leasing approximately 1,800 square feet of office and storage space located at 45 Airport Way, Dallesport, Washington (Columbia Gorge Regional Airport), plus 3,680 square feet of outdoor storage and ramp space to be used as a Wildfire Forward Operating Base.
- 2) **\*Resolution No. 07522** in the matter of scheduling a public hearing to be held at 1:30 PM on Tuesday, September 27, 2022, to consider supplemental appropriations and amendments to the 2022 Budget for various departments and funds in the amount of \$1,035,614, and to hear public comments in favor of and opposed.

**Voucher Certification and Approval**

**\*Approved Warrants (M/, S/. Passed unanimously).** Accounts Payable: (#316363 - 316443) in the total amount of \$356,334.14, for the date ending September 6, 2022.

**(1:54 PM) (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously).** There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned until 9:00 AM on Thursday, September 8, 2022, for scheduled 2023 Budget workshops.

**Thursday, September 8, 2022 - Regular Meeting Extension:** 2023 Budget Workshops.

Chairman Anderson called the workshop to order at 9:00 AM. All three (3) Commissioners were present.

Attendance: Auditor Brenda Sorensen, Chief Deputy Auditor Heather Jobe, Treasurer Greg Gallagher, Human Resources (HR) & Administration Services Director Robb Van Cleave, Fiscal Manager Jenn Bartley and a member of the public were present throughout the budget workshops in addition to various employees throughout the day.

**9:00 AM - Human Resources & Administrative Services, Information Technology & Solid Waste:**

Director Van Cleave and HR Manager KC Sheridan presented the HR Department proposed 2023 budget, which included a reduction of a .5 FTE. Ms. Sheridan reported that Professional Services reflects a 10% increase by adding the NeoGov software module for performance evaluations, and Linked-in for recruiting and advertising of open positions, and an increase in the cost of pre-employment drug screening and the Employee Assistance Program.

Following Board discussion regarding the benefits of the proposed software purchases, the Board expressed concerns whether the performance evaluation module would be used, and if Linked-in would be effective in recruitment due to the trend of employees moving away from public sector jobs. Further discussion followed concerning insurance claims management and L & I Safety and Risk Reduction training.

Director Van Cleave provided a brief overview of the Information Technology Division 2023 budget and a six (6) year rotation replacement plan for technology equipment. Discussion and a review of Capital Expenditures which included server and cameras for the Pioneer Center and cyber security software followed.

Director Van Cleave advised that the Solid Waste budget is a place holder at this point, noting that he would like to use funding from Landfill revenues towards Horse Thief Landfill post closure costs, which involves additional groundwater monitoring and methane monitoring.

**10:15 AM - Clerk's Office:**

Clerk Renea Campbell provide an overview of the Clerk's Office 2023 budget, indicating that not a lot has changed from the 2022 budget. The Board asked questions concerning wages, benefits, insurance costs and declining revenues. Clerk Campbell provided an update on legislative changes due to start January 1, 2023, which will allow community service in leu of fines to be paid.

Chairman Anderson provided a brief update on a meeting with Senator King to discuss legislative changes to sales tax revenue for renewable energy projects. Discussion followed regarding the potential railroad strike and how it could impact rail transport of solid waste to the Roosevelt Landfill.

Chairman Anderson left the workshop at 10:41 AM for a brief phone meeting and returned at 10:55 AM.

The discussion continued regarding Landfill revenues and how vulnerable the County is should the revenue stream end or decrease. Fiscal Manager Jenn Bartley explained the railroads plan to automate the train system and go to one (1) man crews, noting that there has been a mass loss of employees. Commissioner Christopher stated that he sees inflation causing purchases to decrease, which would free up more rail for transporting solid waste. Commissioner Sauter commented that solid waste revenue is less secure than it used to be.

The Board discussed consolidating payments for annual liability insurance. Chief Deputy Auditor Jobe advised that the State BARS manual does state that the expense should go to the department/office that uses the coverage.

**11:00 AM - East District Court (EDC):**

EDC Administrator Jane Edmonds presented the EDC 2023 budget, advising that it is the same as last year, except for step increases. Discussion followed regarding public defenders revenues, legislative changes affecting the Courts and declining revenues from fines and fees.

**11:30 AM - Auditor's Office:**

Auditor Brenda Sorensen advised that since she will not be the Auditor in 2023, Chief Deputy Auditor Heather Jobe prepared the Auditor's 2023 budget. Ms. Jobe started the review of the proposed 2023 with revenues and moved into expenses, covering Licensing, Recording, Elections, Financial, Payroll and Veteran's Services. Discussion continued concerning upgraded elections equipment and a new kiosk for customers to use in the lobby.

**(M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** Motion to recess for lunch at 11:59 PM until 1:00 PM

**1:00 PM - Superior Court:**

Superior Court Judge Randy Krog advised that the Court is starting to get back to pre-covid routine and the budget will remain the same as last year. Court Administrator Mary Hanson provided a review of the grant funded digital recording system that will replace the Court's current system in 2023, which is included in the 2023 budget proposal.

Judge Krog reminded that Superior Court will no longer be managing appointed public defender attorneys due to legislative changes. Discussion followed regarding potentially how many qualified attorneys there might be in the Gorge region and how to recruit them. Ms. Hanson provided an overview of the work involved in managing public defender services. Further discussion continued.

**1:45 PM - Public Works Department:**

Director Gordon Kelsey, Deputy Director Jeff Hunter, Deputy Finance Director Pam Beierle presented the 2023 Road budget. Director Kelsey provided an overview of Road Fund operations history and 2023-2024 revenue estimates, noting that the Road Fund is restricted and dollars can only be used on road related expenditures. A review of unrestricted revenue sources for non-road activities was also discussed as well as a comparison of materials, equipment, wages and revenues budgeted between 2011 and 2021 for road maintenance and winter weather response expenses.

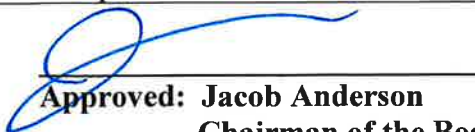
Director Kelsey provided a 10 year capital road construction cost summary, which broke down costs paid between the Road Fund, Landfill & Cumulative Reserve funding, and State and Federal Grants. The Board had a discussion regarding applying lease payments on Public Works office space in the new County Services Building to pay the Road Fund for Annex IV, which then would be owned by the County not the Road Fund.

Mr. Hunter provided an overview of the Annual and Six (6) Year Road Plan, which was followed by discussion.

The Board had a brief discussion regarding a draft amendment with Republic Services and considered different options to make a counter offer.

**(M/ Christopher, S /Sauter. Passed unanimously):** Motion to adjourn at 4:55.

\* 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 9.06.2022 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.

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



9-13-22  
Date