

**Klickitat County**  
**Board of Commissioners**  
**Minutes – Meeting of Tuesday, September 7, 2021**

**Morning Workshop Session**

Chairman David Sauter opened the morning session at 10:00 AM with Commissioners Dan Christopher, Jacob Anderson and David Sauter present. Through out the meeting there were various members of the public, staff and elected officials present via zoom.

**Workshop Session Agenda**

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

Attendance: Public Works Director Gordon Kelsey and Deputy Director Jeff Hunter.

Director Kelsey provided a review of a consent agenda item and updates on road projects and maintenance work and various facilities work. Deputy Director Hunter provided brief updates on the Courthouse entry upgrade project and the Satus Pass radio site.

An update and discussion regarding the Health Department and hospital's plan to restart vaccinations at the fairgrounds the first week of November followed.

**10:20 AM - Economic Development/Natural Resource Department Update/Report:**

Attendance: Economic Development/Natural Resource Director Dave McClure, Natural Resources Specialist Whitney Reynier, Auditor Brenda Sorensen, Chief Deputy Auditor Heather Jobe and Senior Accountant Debbie Bridges.

Director McClure provided an economic development report which included discussion and updates on business recruitment, an Economic Development Summit, a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Update, buildable lands inventory, and the Federal EDA grant for the aviation training building at the Airport. Director McClure advised that FAA has requested a copy of a draft 20-year lease with the College by September 22, 2021.

The Board had a discussion regarding an issue with the number of available water hookups in the Dallesport and the Airport water right transfer to the Dallesport Water District which has been slowed by staff changes at the FAA. Commissioner Anderson provided an overview of the issues, noting that the County must get permission from the FAA before the water right can be transferred.

Director McClure advised that the Goldendale Chamber of Commerce is proposing to use a portion of County contracted funding to put up a mural on a building in Goldendale, noting that this project is within the scope of work in the contract.

The Board had a brief discussion about the Small Business Development Specialist's office space and schedule.

Director McClure reported that Natural Resources Specialist Whitney Reynier is reviewing the proposed revised critical habitat rules, comments are due September 20<sup>th</sup>. The Forest Resource Council is also reviewing the proposed revised rules and is developing a map showing land that is not suitable for critical habitat areas due to stand age and fire severity, Director McClure stated that the County can use the work produced from this study, and he asked if the Board was interested in contributing. The Board agreed to \$3,000 in support towards the study.

Discussion and further updates followed concerning endangered species, a fisheries project near the old Klickitat mill site, the Simcoe Unit preservation project, the Switzler Reservoir water project, and stream monitoring. NR Specialist Reynier advised the Board of an executive order the Governor signed regarding archaeological and cultural resources that is impacting how stream monitoring equipment is placed in streams. Further discussion followed.

Commissioner Christopher provided an update on the Senior Advisory Board (SAB) meeting. Discussion followed concerning transitioning in-home care clients to private care. The Board expressed their support for the SAB's recommendation to transition the program to new management.

The Board had a discussion regarding art work in the new County Services Building and letters of support for the Yakama Nation Housing Authority's grant application to construct houses for homeless veterans and for the Mt. Adams Forest Legacy project. An update and discussion followed regarding the Klickitat County Public Economic Development Authority's sub committee's task of determining how to use information from the buildable lands study to best support the county.

County Auditor Brenda Sorensen introduced her recently hired Senior Accountant Debbie Bridges.

The Board recessed for lunch at 11:19 AM.

#### **Commissioner's Business Meeting**

Chairman Sauter reconvened the Commissioner's meeting at 1:00 PM, which was followed by the pledge of allegiance. All Three Commissioners were present.

Chairman Sauter advised two (2) citizens in chambers that masks are required in County facilities via the Governor's order. Goldendale resident Ashley Cooper stated that she has a medical condition and is exempt but provided no legal documentation. Before leaving, Ms. Cooper handed the Clerk a petition and asked that the Board note this on the record.

#### **Agenda:**

**\*Approved (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. 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**

Goldendale resident Greg Wagner, (C.E.A.S.E.) indicated that the Commissioners are biased in favor of solar and they cannot make fair decisions, saying that they have abused their power.

Husum resident Sheri Bousquet agreed with Mr. Wagner's comments. Ms. Bousquet asked for information on the Planning Commission members and conditional use permits. Chairman Sauter stated that if you are talking about a conditional use permit, that would be the Board of Adjustment. Commissioner Christopher advised that the information is posted on the County website, all Boards, Commissions and Committees are listed with descriptions and appointees.

Ms. Bousquet asked if the Commissioners had approved any environmental studies off of the Knight Road area for any solar companies or wetland studies. The Commissioners indicated that they had not. Commissioner Anderson clarified that studies are not required to come to the Board for approval.

Goldendale business owner Gebera Coulber asked if the Board has the authority to mandate that all county residents be vaccinated. The Commissioners replied no.

The Board reviewed the petition from Ashley Cooper, which was signed by 88 people requesting the Board of Commissioners to support and pass resolutions supporting medical choice and freedom.

**Department Update/Report: Adult Probation/Juvenile Departments.**

Attendance: Adult Probation/Juvenile Court Administrator Larry Barker.

Director Barker provided a department update and an overview of the number of adult and juvenile clients they service. Discussion followed regarding the drug court program and recidivism rates for adults and juveniles.

**Miscellaneous Reports/Comments: Washington Counties Risk Pool Executive Director Derek Bryan: Overview of Washington Counties Risk Pool programs and services.**

Washington Counties Risk Pool (WCRP) Executive Director Derek Bryan provided a power point presentation that provided an overview of the history, mission and services provided by WCRP. Discussion followed with the Commissioners asking questions and receiving further clarification.

Following the presentation, the Board had a discussion regarding researching the withdrawal process from the current insurance provider and directed the staff to verify the County's options and timeline requirements.

**Unfinished Business:** Findings in support of the Board's decision on Tuesday, August 31, 2021, to deny the appeal and uphold the SEPA Responsible Official's determination for SEPA2021-20 and granting preliminary approval for Short Plat SPL2021-19 to divide 21.39 acres into 2 lots; Applicants: Gary & Judy Gottschalk.

**Approved (M/Anderson, S/Sauter. Passed with Christopher voting Nay): Resolution No. 09321** in the matter of adopting the findings pursuant to the Board's decision at the August 31, 2021 public hearing to deny the SEPA appeal filed by Friends of the White Salmon River and to uphold the threshold determination SEPA 2021-20, and approve preliminary Short Plat SPL2021-19 with condition; Applicants: Gary & Judy Gottschalk.

**Pre-Budget Preparation Update:**

Attendance: Human Resources & Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave and Fiscal Manager Jenn Bartley.

Director Van Cleave requested and received verbal approval to post a Communications Officer/Dispatcher position at Union Grade.

Director Van Cleave advised that all departments from the September 16<sup>th</sup> budget workshop schedule have been rescheduled. Director Van Cleave noted that interviews for the Code Compliance Officer position are scheduled for tomorrow. Discussion followed regarding when the Board would like a COLA discussion in the budget process. The Board agreed that those discussions should be done after the results from the wage survey are available.

The Board had a discussion regarding a petition submitted by Ms. Cooper during citizen comment asking the Commissioners to pass resolutions stating that the County will not require mandatory vaccinations for employees or citizens and that any businesses that do will be excluded from any County funding. Further discussion followed regarding vaccination requirements as specified by the Governor's Office and Labor & Industries. Commissioner Anderson asked Fiscal Manager Bartley to research how much state funding would be lost if the County did not enforce state mandated vaccinations, should they be ordered in the future.

**Discussion regarding renaming the Building Department:**

Attendance: Building Director Lynn Ward.

The Board continued a previous discussion whether it is required that Code Enforcement be housed in the Building Department. Director Ward provided further clarification that it is not. Discussion followed regarding naming the department now that code enforcement is no longer located within the Building Department and it was agreed that the department would be named the Building Department.

Discussion followed regarding the development of an ordinance related to permitting and placement of older mobile homes. Commissioner Christopher indicated that he would like to restrict the placement of old mobile homes that are being brought into the County. Commissioner Christopher noted that per the L & I inspector Klickitat County is the only Washington County that allows older mobile homes to come into the County.

Following discussion, the Board indicated that they were open to further discussion. Chairman Sauter asked Director Ward to verify if Klickitat County is the only Washington County that allows older mobile homes and whether the County has the authority to restrict specific mobile homes.

**Consent Agenda:**

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

- 1) Washington Rural Counties Insurance Pool 2021-2022 renewal application presented for the Chairman's signature.
- 2) Letters and **Resolution No. 09421** in the matter of reappointing Ron Gunkel and Tim Pitz to the Klickitat County Horticultural Pest and Disease Board to unexpired two (2) year terms, expiring June 30, 2022, and reappointing Alan Reitz and John Riggleman to the Klickitat County Horticultural Pest and Disease Board to unexpired two (2) year terms, expiring June 30, 2023.
- 3) Personnel Authorization to advertise for an Office Manager II position at Grade 38, Steps 1-3 (\$20.81-\$22.07 per hour), depending on qualifications within the Public Works Department.
- 4) Memorandum of Understanding (**C17321**) between the Washington State Traffic Safety Commission and Klickitat County (Sheriff's Office) for the purpose of invoicing overtime for Drug Recognition Expert Joe Riggers when on call for DRE activities between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2023.
- 5) **Resolution No. 09521** in the matter of Designation of County Crisis Responders to perform mental health investigations, initial detentions, and other duties and responsibilities by appointing Joshua Griffin and Jamela Mundell to the list, and removing Alecksana Mallory, effective September 7, 2021.
- 6) **Resolution No. 09621** in the matter scheduling a public hearing to consider the vacation of a portion of O'Brien Road, in the Centerville area, on September 28, 2021, at 1:30 PM.
- 7) Memorandum of Understanding (**C17421**) between Washington State University and Klickitat County for the purpose of providing funds in the amount of \$18,883 to provide an extension program.
- 8) **Resolution No. 09721** in the matter of revising the Solid Waste Department's Organizational Chart to reflect decreasing the Litter Crew Supervisor Position from a 1.0 FTE to a 0.875 FTE. at Grade 35.

**Voucher Certification and Approval**

**\*Approved Warrants (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously):** Accounts Payable: Warrants #308365 – #308504 for a total of \$159,683.75 for the date ending September 7, 2021. There were no Payroll warrants requiring approval.

**Board Pending:**

The Board had a discussion regarding surplus used bullet proof vests.

**Elected Official – Prosecutor’s Report/Update:**

Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel requested and received verbal authorization to post a Legal Administrative I/Victim Witness Assistant position at Grade 36, Step 1-3. Prosecutor Quesnel noted that the new Victim Witness Coordinator will be starting September 16<sup>th</sup>. Discussion followed concerning drug courts and drug treatment programs. Prosecuting Quesnel provided an overview of changes in legislation such as the Blake Decision, noting that the resources used for the number of people in Drug Court is not warranted.

At 3:40 PM 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 Quesnel. It was noted the session would last fifteen (15) minutes. AT 3:55 PM it was announced that the Executive Session would be extended five (5) minutes. The Board convened back into Regular Session at 4:00 PM. No action was taken.

The Board had a discussion concerning changes in the public’s interaction with public officials and how state and national issues filter down to local authorities.

**Board correspondence noted for the record:**

- Letter of support for the Yakama Nation Housing Authority’s grant application to the Housing Trust Fund for the construction of houses for homeless veterans in the Wishram development complex.
- Letter of support to the Washington Department of Natural Resources Conservation Transaction Unit Supervisor for the Mt. Adams Forest FY 2023 Forest Legacy project.

**(4:06 PM) (M/Anderson, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned until Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM for scheduled workshops. It was also noted that the Board will be interviewing candidates for the Code Compliance Officer position on Wednesday, September 8, 2021 beginning at 9:00 AM.

The Board of Commissions met in Executive Session on Wednesday, September 8, 2021 beginning at 9:00 AM in accordance with RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) to interview candidates for the Code Compliance Officer and discuss their qualifications. The Executive Session ended at 12:00 PM. No action was taken.

**Thursday, September 9, 2021 - Regular Meeting Extension: Workshop Extension.**

Call to Order: All three (3) Commissioners were present.

**8:30-9:30 AM Discussion regarding decommissioning of energy projects.**

Attendance: Treasurer Greg Gallagher, Planning Director Mo-chi Lindblad and Economic Development/Natural Resources Director Dave McClure.

Director Lindblad provided a brief overview of the structure and details of the current decommissioning plan. Treasurer Gallagher explained the decommissioning funding options available to renewable energy companies.

The Board discussed forms of security provided by energy companies, recycling of solar panels, State requirements, value of scrap materials and time lines of decommissioning plans. Following the Board’s discussion, direction was given to Director Lindblad to do further research on scrap metal percentages.

**2022 Budget Workshop Schedule**

Attendance: Treasurer Greg Gallagher, Auditor Brenda Sorensen, Chief Deputy Auditor Heather Jobe, Senior Accountant Debbie Bridges, Human Resources & Administration Services Director Robb Van Cleave and Fiscal Manager Jenn Bartley were present throughout the budget workshops.

**9:30-11:15 AM Sheriff:** Attendees Sheriff Bob Songer, Undersheriff Tim Neher, Chief Civil Deputy Carmen Knopes and Chief Civil Clerk Karen Elings.

Chief Elings presented a review of revenues and expenditures by line item for the Sheriff's Office Administration, Patrol, Marine, Corrections, K-9, Posse, Investigations, and Search and Rescue Divisions. Discussion followed with Sheriff Songer and his staff provided clarification and answered questions.

A discussion concerning surplus bullet proof vests wrapped up the Sheriff's budget workshop, with Sheriff Songer expressing liability concerns.

Chairman Sauter recessed the workshop at 11:15 AM for a 15-minute break.

**11:30-12:00 PM Building Department:** Attendees: Director Lynn Ward & Office Manager Cindy McHarque.

Director Ward reviewed the Building Department's proposed budget which included furloughing staff in order to achieve a 3% reduction. Director Ward noted that staff will also be doing any training on line.

Discussion followed regarding building and placement permit fees. Director Ward advised that the 2% annual increase was not implemented during 2020, due to COVID, and she recommended resuming the 2% increase for 2021 and increasing placement permit fees by \$25. The Board agreed with the recommendations and asked Director Ward to come back with a revised budget proposal with the permit fee increases and furloughs for further discussion.

Chairman Sauter recessed the workshop for lunch at 11:55 AM.

**1:00-1:30 PM Noxious Weed Department:** Attendees: Weed Coordinator Marty Hudson and Office Manager Elizabeth Taylor.

Weed Coordinator Hudson provided an overview of the Noxious Weed Departments services, responsibilities and budget proposal, noting that the department is totally funded by land assessments and contracts with federal, state and county agencies as well as private businesses and land owners.

Mr. Hudson advised the Commissioners that the Noxious Weed Board voted at their meeting last week to increase land assessments for private and timber lands which will increase revenues by approximately \$70,930 for 2023, which will allow the department to operate within their budget.

**1:30-2:00 PM Planning Department:** Attendee: Planning Director Mo-chi Lindblad.

Director Lindblad presented the Planning Department's proposed 2022 budget. Director Lindblad advised of necessary costs associated with required plan updates. The Board had a discussion regarding impact fees that many other counties charge for planning services to cover the cost of doing business. The Board agreed that Director Lindblad needed to come back for further discussion.

**2:00-2:30 PM Clerk's Office:** Attendee: County Clerk Renea Campbell and Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel.

Clerk Campbell provided a review of revenues, noting that there were corrections made to State grants. Commissioner Anderson asked about the On-base records recording system, which may be required by the State in the future. Ms. Campbell explained who and how different legal/law enforcement offices/departments access and use the system. Further discussion followed regarding efficiencies of e-filing court documents.

**2:30-2:45 PM Recess**

**2:45-3:15 PM Adult Probation Department:** Attendees: Adult Probation Director Larry Barker and Probation Officer Courtney Cox.

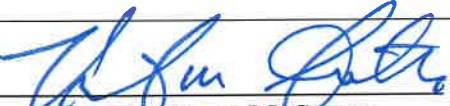
Director Barker advised that he will be retiring next year and hopes that Ms. Cox will be his replacement as the Director of Adult Probation. Director Barker noted that it was the original intent that when he retires Adult and Juvenile Projection return to being two (2) separate departments. Director Barker and Probation Officer Cox provided a review of Adult Probation's proposed 2022 budget.

Ms. Cox introduced a new domestic violence management treatment program that she is managing, noting that this program is paid for by the participants.

**3:15-4:00 PM Juvenile Department:** Attendees: Juvenile Court Administrator Larry Barker and Office Manager Debilyn Stover.

Office Manager Stover provided an overview of the Juvenile Department's proposed 2022 budget. Mr. Barker outlined the role and responsibilities of each of the juvenile counselors on staff.

\* 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 Zoom 9.7.21 BOCC Meeting.

  
Approved: **David M. Sauter**  
Chairman of the Board



9.21.21  
Date