

**Klickitat County  
Board of Commissioners  
Minutes – Meeting of Tuesday, September 13, 2022**

**Morning Workshop Session**

Chairman Jacob Anderson called the meeting to order at 9:45 AM. Commissioners Anderson, Christopher, and Sauter were present. Note: Due to technical difficulties the morning session was not recorded.

**Executive Session: Annual Performance Evaluation:**

At 9:46 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. At 10:01 AM Chairman Anderson announced the Executive Session would be extended for five (5) minutes.

The Board convened back into Regular Session at 10:06 AM. No action was taken.

**10:06 AM – Public Works/Road Department Update:**

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

Director Kelsey provided an overview of the resolution before the Board on the Consent Agenda that temporarily places speed limit restrictions on various County roads by reducing speed limits to 35 mph until all major construction activities at the Lund Hill Solar farm project have been completed. Director Kelsey advised that the construction workforce for a solar farm is much larger than a wind farm, noting that there are approximately 300 electricians commuting to the Lund Hill site for work per day compared to normal traffic of around 15 vehicles.

Director Kelsey updated the Board on construction projects, road crew maintenance assignments, Satus Pass radio site, and facilities repairs and upgrades.

The Board discussed road conditions, speeding and other related issues due to increased traffic during the construction of the solar farms. Director Kelsey provided a brief overview of the penalties and consequences related to speeding. Director Kelsey advised that Mr. Hunter is in the process of negotiating the Blue Bird Solar project road haul agreement, which will address increased traffic and the developers responsibility for maintaining the road conditions.

Fire District #2 Fire Chief John Jensen addressed issues the Fire District is experiencing on emergency medical services calls due to poor road conditions. Chief Jensen stated there needs to be a fix not just a band aid, he appreciates the grading of the roads but that doesn't work. There are hazards and liability risk due the road conditions not being able to handle the volume of traffic from the renewable energy developments. Commissioner Christopher stated that he wants teeth put into all future road haul agreements.

Director Kelsey updated the Board on the new FEMA Flood map meeting dates.

**10:30 AM – Department of Emergency Management Update:**

Attendance: Emergency Management Director Jeff King, Accounting Administrative Assistant Debi Stover, Dispatch/E911 Chief of Operations Filiberto Ontiveros, various County elected officials, employees, and members of the public present in person and via Zoom.

Director King provided updates on the performance and maintenance of the public safety radio system, and radio site lease agreements. E911 Chief of Operations Ontiveros reported on E/911 Dispatch calls and staffing, advising that staffing remains critical, however Communications Officers are in good spirits. Director King advised that a supplemental budget request has been submitted to cover additional overtime.

Further updates followed concerning operations, training and exercise, user agreement renewals, the notification system and Emergency Management Program grants. The Board discussed the railroads request to close the existing railroad crossing at the Bingen Point/Port of Klickitat access and new technologies being used in cattle grazing and fuels reduction in the forest.

**Motion (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously).** To recess for lunch at 11:45 AM.

**Commissioner's Business Meeting**

Chairman Anderson reconvened the Regular Meeting for Tuesday, September 13, 2022, at 1:00 PM, opening with the Pledge of Allegiance. All three (3) Commissioners were present. Note: During the afternoon meeting there were still technical difficulties, however the meeting was recorded.

**Agenda:**

**\*Approved (M/Christopher, S/Sauter. Passed unanimously).** Business Agenda with one (1) Add-on under New Business: MOU with Klickitat County Cemetery District #1, to provide \$10,000 in Community Project grant funding to perform tasks or purchase materials as it relates to tree trimming, and cemetery maintenance.

**Approval of Commissioner Meeting Minutes**

**\*Approved (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** the Klickitat County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes for August 30, 2022 and September 6, 2022.

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

Dallesport residents Leo Walton and David McNeal presented a Notification of Intent from the Dallesport Community Deliberative Assembly with the purpose of researching alternatives available to the Dallesport Urban Growth Boundary Communities and Dallesport Waste Water rate payers for negotiating a pathway towards the sale of ownership of the Dallesport Wastewater Treatment Plant and Collection System. They also submitted public records requests for related Dallesport Wastewater Treatment Plant documents to assist them in their research with the intent of the wastewater treatment plant being owned by the Dallesport Water District and/or the Dallesport area rate payers. The Commissioners commended the group for their efforts.

Greg Wagner commented on zoning and questioned how Chairman Anderson can operate an Airbnb without going through the Conditional Use Permit process. Mr. Wagner also asked what training the Commissioners have that qualifies them to supervise the Code Compliance Officer position.

Sheri Bousquet commented on the Code Compliance Officer and the complaints filed on Commissioner Anderson's Airbnb. Ms. Bousquet asked why the Commissioners think our County does not need solar ordinances.

Commissioner Christopher responded to Mr. Wagner and Ms. Bouquet's comments regarding Code Compliance, noting there is no conflict of interest when it comes to investigating a complaint on property owned by a commissioner, and he advised that this board and past boards have chosen to not regulate compliance on short term rentals until the code has been updated. Commissioner Sauter concurred with Commissioner Christopher's comments.

Chairman Anderson thanked the Dallesport residents for their presentation on the Dallesport Wastewater Treatment Plant. Chairman Anderson stated that his home is a permitted structure and is being used as a single family dwelling in accordance with the zoning ordinances. He also mentioned that short term rentals go through a licensing process rather than a conditional use permit process in areas where ordinances have been implemented. Chairman Anderson noted that the County has been working on an ordinance the past year and a half which has been stalled due to other demands from the citizens.

**Adult Probation Department Update/Report: Chief Adult Probation Officer Courtney Cooke.**

Chief Adult Probation Officer Cooke advised that probation cases have increased even after changes in legislation removed some drug cases. Ms. Cooke advised that staff has been actively trying to convert the data to the new database system.

Update and discussion on mental health services for Adult Probation clients followed. Officer Cooke advised that it has been a struggle to find mental health therapists on staff in Klickitat County. Public Health Director Erinn Quinn joined the meeting for the behavioral health discussion. Director Quinn provided an update on efforts to develop and implement a behavioral health program within Klickitat County, which would also benefit Adult Probation clients.

Ms. Cooke provided a graph of cases by jurisdiction with the County, 77.1%, Goldendale 12.7%, Bingen 2.8% and White Salmon 5.6% and 1.8% labeled as other and a caseload by officer graph, excluding cases on warrant status.

Ms. Cooke stated that the Adult Probation staff are very dedicated employees and their work is not just a job, it is their career and passion.

**Miscellaneous Reports/Comments: Mid-Columbia Housing Authority/Columbia Cascade Housing Corporation Executive Director Joel Madsen: Project update.**

Mid-Columbia Housing Authority/Columbia Cascade Housing Corporation Executive Director Joel Madsen provided an overview and history of the housing authorities mission which seeks to promote adequate, affordable housing, economic opportunities, suitable living environments for lower income households in the Columbia Gorge region. Director Madsen provided updates on programs offered to Klickitat County residents such as assisted housing, housing vouchers, temporary rental assistance, Shelter Plus, and the home repair program.

Director Madsen stated that their goals are to expand the supply and improve the quality of assisted housing, increase assisted housing choices, promote self-sufficiency and asset development of assisted families, and ensure equal opportunity.

Director Madsen provided updates on the planned assisted living facility in White Salmon, noting that there is still a gap in the needed funding. Further discussion followed with questions and clarification.

**Consent Agenda:**

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

- 1) **\*Scheduling public meetings to be held Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 1:30 PM as follows:**
  - To consider approval of Boundary Line Adjustment BLA 2022-05, Parcel No's 06-10-2657-0004/00 and 06-10-2618-1503/00 in the Trout Lake vicinity; Applicants: Woodruff Properties & White Wave Maritime Consultants & Navigation.
  - To consider approval of Boundary Line Adjustment, PLA 2022-12, Parcel No's 05-16-3317-2102/00 & 05-16-3317-2103/00 in the Goldendale vicinity; Applicants: Buddy Kolander and Lauralyn Abeytann.
- 2) **\*Resolution No. 07622** in the matter of transferring one (1) 2012 Ford Escape vehicle, VIN #1FMCU9D79CKC09559, License # 99814C from the Planning Department to the Public Health Department.
- 3) **\*Resolution No. 07722** in the matter of reappointing Kelly Clothier, representing the Underwood Conservation District, to the Klickitat Citizen's Review Committee to an unexpired three (3) year term, expiring June 30, 2025.
- 4) **\*Resolution No. 07822** in the matter of temporary speed limit restrictions on the following County roads pursuant to RCW 47.48.010 by reducing speed limits to 35 mph until all major construction actives at the Lund Hill Solar farm project are completed, effective date September 19, 2022:
  - Middle Road, #42000, from MP 0.12 to MP 15.23
  - Schrantz Road, #42390, from MP 0.00 to MP 5.29
  - Van Noster Road, #42400, from MP 0.00 to MP 2.81
  - Hooker Road, #42550, from MP 0.00 to MP 1.01
  - Naught Road, #42710, from MP 0.00 to MP 3.95
- 5) **\*Personnel Authorization** to begin the advertising process to fill a Clerical Administrative Assistant II position at Grade 35, Steps 1-3, within the Department of Licensing Division in the Auditor's Office.

**Voucher Certification and Approval**

**\*Approved Warrants (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** Accounts Payable: (#316497 - 316558), \$202,739.93. Payroll Warrants: (#232181 - 232438), Co. Benefit Warrants: (316486 – 316495), Electronic Transfer (#975), in the amount of \$797,573.05, for a combined total of \$1,000,312.98 for the date ending September 12, 2022.

**New Business:**

Request from the Alder Creek Pioneer Museum to change the focus of the original “Scope of Work” in their Historic Preservation Grant Agreement (C11622) from printing the Pioneer Story Book to ongoing textile and paper preservation projects to preserve items from the Bickleton area for generations to come. The original grant award is \$2,000.

The Board considered Alder Creek Pioneer Museum’s request to change the "Scope of Work" in their Historic Preservation grant due to circumstances beyond their control. Following a brief discussion, the Board unanimously approved the request. **Approved (M/Christopher, S/Sauter. Passed unanimously):**

**Approved (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** Memorandum of Understanding (C16322) between Klickitat County and Klickitat County Cemetery District #1, to provide Community Project grant funding not to exceed \$10,000 to perform tasks or purchase materials as it relates to tree trimming, and cemetery maintenance, effective September 13, 2022 and expiring December 31, 2022.

**Treasurer Greg Gallagher: Finance Committee Update.**

Treasurer Gallagher provided a brief update on the Finance Committee meeting and the Treasurer’s Office activities, noting that the office will be closed to the public on October 10<sup>th</sup> for a staff meeting and training. Treasurer Gallagher reported that the Finance Committee discussed the Dallesport Wastewater Treatment plant.

Commissioner Sauter asked if the Treasurer felt that interest rates on investments were going up. Treasurer Gallaher indicated that he felt investment interest rates were starting to rise.

**(3:17 PM) (M/Christopher, S/Sauter. Passed unanimously).** There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned until 9:15 AM on Thursday, September 15, 2022, for scheduled 2023 Budget workshops.

**Thursday, September 15, 2022 - Regular Meeting Extension: Workshop Extension.**

Chairman Anderson called the workshop to Order at 9:15 AM. All three (3) Commissioners were present.

**2023 Budget Workshop Schedule**

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

Public Works Director Gordon Kelsey and Senior Engineer Seth Scarola provided a County Road Administration Board Summary of the 2020 County force work to show the allowable limits of road construction work County crews can do and how much was done. The summary also limited all Washington Counties for a comparison.

The Board discussed the proposed Annual and Six (6) Year Road Improvement Plan. Commissioner Christopher stated that Finn Ridge culvert replacement should be pushed back and the Bickleton Highway repairs should be moved up due to the volume of traffic on both roads. Director Kelsey provided a brief history of repairs needed on Finn Ridge Road, and explained that culvert replacement is an agreement with Washington Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) because the stream is classified as fish bearing. Following further discussion Commissioner Christopher recommended having the stream reclassified as non-fish bearing. Director Kelsey noted that he would work with the WDFW biologist to get a time extension.

Fiscal Manager Bartley presented a spreadsheet showing budgeted expenses for all funds, which highlighted the budgets that were not status quo, which was followed by discussion.

**Treasurer's Office:**

Treasurer Gregg Gallagher provided an overview of the Treasurer's Office 2023 budget beginning with anticipated revenues and expenditures, which was followed by Board discussion.

**Senior Services Department:**

Senior Services Director Sharon Carter reviewed the Senior Services 2023 budget, advising that there should be no use of fund balance due to COVID funding. A review of expenses for the various Senior programs followed. Director Carter stated that frozen meals and PPE expenses are still high and it is challenging to forecast expenses for 2023.

The Board asked several questions about specific line items, which Director Carter explained. Discussion followed concerning vehicle purchases, which are grant funded but also require a match from the County.

Following further discussion, the Board made adjustments and changes based on the discussion.

**Auditor's Office:**

Auditor Brenda Sorensen noted that Chief Deputy Heather Jobe prepared the Auditor's Office 2023 budget proposal. Ms. Jobe reviewed the Auditor's various budgets, which was followed by discussion, questions and clarification.

**(M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** Motion to recess for lunch at 11:12 PM until 1:00 PM.

**Public Health Department:**

Public Health Director Erinn Quinn and the Board reviewed public health grant revenues and expenses for Public Health Department programs. There was discussion about setting up a separate budget for the Mental Health program.

Director Quinn advised that the main funding source for the Mental Health program will be from Beacon Health.

**Fair Board:**

Attendance: Fair Board Present Ron Ihrig, Treasurer Cindy Bruce and Board member Helen Rolfe. Mr. Ihrig presented a report of fair attendance, noting that numbers were up for 2022.

Building Director Ward was absent due to illness and the Board asked the Clerk to reschedule the workshop for next Tuesday afternoon.

**Code Compliance:**

Code Compliance Officer Jorge Sendejas reviewed the 2023 proposed budget for code compliance. Discussion followed regarding the shortage of 40 yard garbage containers to be used to clean up properties.

**Prosecuting Attorney's Office:**

Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel advised that due to legislative changes effective in 2023 the County will be required to either appoint or elect a Coroner separate from the Prosecutor's Office, which will require its own budget and office. Following discussion about new legislation and options for setting up a Coroner's Office Prosecutor Quesnel reviewed his proposed 2023 budget and updated the Board on staffing.

**West District Court**

Judge Jeff Baker presented the 2023 budget for West District Court, noting that the only change is an expense for a new recording system.

Commissioner Sauter excused himself and left the workshop at 3:52 PM.

The Board had a discussion regarding District Court Judicial services. Chairman Anderson reported that he met with the City of White Salmon to discuss the city's share of the cost for probation services, court salaries and other court costs should be. The judicial services discussion continued with Prosecutor Quesnel explaining how legislation has changed how cases are prosecuted. Prosecutor Quesnel suggested that the Board consider changing the ordinance and base the cost on criminal filings for 2023.

Following further discussion, Chairman Anderson directed the Clerk to bill the cities for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of District Court services based on the current procedure.

The Board discussed the Republic Services proposed contract amendment.

**(M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously):** The workshop was adjourned at 4:13 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 request. 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**



9-27-22  
**Date**