

**Klickitat County  
Board of Commissioners  
Minutes – Meeting of Tuesday, October 4, 2022**

**Morning Workshop Session**

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

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

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

Director Kelsey provided a review of consent agenda items, and updates on construction projects, road crew maintenance assignments, and facilities repairs and upgrades. Director Kelsey reported that the Courtney Road contractor would like to close the road until November 18<sup>th</sup> to finish paving, which will be a cost savings. The Board agreed.

Director Kelsey reported that maintenance crews will be working on the parking lots and replacing culverts. Mr. Hunter reported on the status of the Satus Pass radio site. Mr. Hunter provided an overview of a capital improvement project for improvements at the Wishram Park.

Mr. Hunter requested and received Board authorization to move forward to advertise for temporary winter snowplowing positions.

**10:15 AM – Public Health Department Update/Report:**

Attendance: Public Health Director Erinn Quinn, and various County elected officials, employees, and members of the public present in person and via Zoom.

Director Quinn provided a Public Health Department report and updated the Board on the Health Officer position, advising that the State Department of Health has indicated that the rate of reimbursement is too low. The current Health Officer will continue to support the Health Department until a replacement is hired.

**10:30 AM – Human Resources (HR) & Administrative Services Department Update/Report:**

Attendance: Human Resource and Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave, HR Manager KC Sheridan, Fiscal Manager Jenn Bartley, various County elected officials, employees, and members of the public present in person and via Zoom.

Director Van Cleave provided an update on the Information Technology Division, noting that the help desk position has been filled. An update on fleet management software followed with Mr. Van Cleave advising that the Sheriff no longer wishes to participate in the program. Director Van Cleave requested and received verbal authorization to move forward with a Personnel Authorization to fill a vacant Payroll Analyst Position within the Auditor's Office.

Fiscal Manager Bartley reported that consent agenda item # 5 is a resolution to rename Department 27 Chemical Dependency to Behavioral Health, and creating Fund 145 Behavioral Health. Ms. Bartley advised that the American Rescue Plan has additional dollars that the County is eligible to receive.

Mr. Van Cleave provided a brief update on the Solid Waste Department and Horse Thief Landfill post-closure requirements.

Commissioner Christopher provided a brief update on the Washington Rural Counties Insurance Pool conference he recently attended. The Board continued a previous discussion regarding proposed amendments to the Republic Services contract.

**Motion (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously):** To recess for lunch at 11:02 AM.

**Commissioner's Business Meeting**

Chairman Anderson reconvened the Regular Meeting for Tuesday, October 4, 2022, at 1:00 PM, opening with the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners Anderson and Christopher were present, Commissioner Sauter was absent due to a previous commitment.

**Agenda:**

**\*Approved (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously):** with one (1) Add-on under New Business: Agreement for Provision of Services by and between Beacon Health Options, Inc. and Klickitat County (Public Health Department) for the purpose of providing \$345,629 in funding to support Klickitat County in the development of a local crisis response program.

**Approval of Commissioner Meeting Minutes**

**Approved (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously):** the Klickitat County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes for September 20, 2022.

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

Sheri Bousquet commented on industrial solar and the need to have solar ordinance in place to protect the County. She also requested that a solar moratorium be put in place and asked for protections on the siting of solar projects.

Pat Arnold invited the Board to attend the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the removal of Condit Dam from the White Salmon River. Ms. Arnold reported that the Trout Lake Community Council met with Mid-Columbia Economic Development District to discuss broadband, noting that rural centers are not well served.

Del Eldred asked the Commissioner's what they have done to improve the County, stating that you are spending more than the County is receiving in revenues.

Greg Wagner commented on a letter regarding the dangers of lithium batteries.

Commissioner Christopher agreed with Ms. Arnold that the County is not well served when it comes to broad band. Mr. Christopher in response to comments received on lithium batteries, noted that he will be attending a University of Washington course on Lithium Batteries. Commissioner Christopher pointed out numerous economic development projects, added jobs, and employment training opportunities. Commissioner Christopher noted that he does have concerns about lithium battery safety.

Chairman Anderson stated that the County is building economic development opportunities every time a road is built, when money is spent that is economic development, the County employees are people who are paid and who are spending money for goods and services.

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

**Public Hearing: Establishing the 2023-2028 Capital Improvement Plan for Klickitat County, noting that the hearing may be continued as needed to reach a final budget.**

Chairman Anderson open the public hearing to establish the 2023-2028 Capital Improvement Plan and called for a staff review. Fiscal Manager Bartley provided an overview of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and clarified that levy certification will be done at a later date.

Chairman Anderson open the public hearing to public testimony both in favor of and opposed to the proposed 2023-2028 CIP.

Del Eldred commented in opposition to the proposed CIP.

Commissioner Christopher clarified what a CIP plan is for Mr. Eldred. Sheri Bousquet stated that she did not understand the plan. Ms. Bartley directed Ms. Bousquet to the table of contents and explained the plan, noting that the CIP is funded by REET funding and can only be used for capital improvements.

Chairman Anderson asked if there was anyone else wishing to comment, hearing none, he closed the hearing to public comment and called for Board discussion. Commissioner Christopher stated that he would put off painting the Courthouse and fix the Jail roof.

No written comments were received.

**Motion (M/Sauter, S/ Christopher. Passed unanimously):** to continue the hearing to October 11, 2022 at 1:30 PM/open to written comment until Friday, October 7, 2022 at 5:00 PM.

**Public Hearing: Adopting the 2023 Preliminary Klickitat County Budget; noting that the hearing may be continued as needed to reach a final budget.**

Chairman Anderson declared the public hearing open, advising that the purpose of the hearing is to accept public testimony both in favor of and opposed to the proposed 2023 budget, and called for a staff overview.

Fiscal Manager Jenn Bartley provided an overview of the 2023 budget process. Chairman Anderson opened the hearing to take public testimony both in favor of and opposed to the proposed 2023 budget.

Sheri Bousquet stated that she is opposed to the 2023 budget, the board has a lot of work to do.

An Unidentified person commented that there are no Medicare Advantage Plans available in the County and asked if there is a way to include it in the budget.

Chairman Anderson asked if there was anyone else wishing to comment, hearing none he called for Board discussion.

Commissioner Christopher provided an overview of the way insurance coverage works in the State, and advised that you need to contact your State representatives. Chairman Anderson explained how the budget process works pursuant to the law and advised that the Board does look for revenues wherever they can. The Board looks at priority, which are determined through testimony from staff and the public. Commissioner Christopher offered further clarification regarding how property tax levies are determined.

Ms. Bartley clarified that the shortfall that was referenced in Board discussion is in the General Fund, which is mostly unfunded mandates from the State.

**Motion (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously):** to continue the hearing to October 11, 2022 at 1:30 PM/open to written comment until Friday, October 7, 2022 at 5:00 PM.

**Unfinished Business: Building Director Lynn Ward: Budget Workshop to review the Building Department's proposed 2023 Budget.**

Attendance: Building Director Lynn Ward, Building Office Manager Cindy McHarque, Director Robb Van Cleave, Fiscal Manager Jenn Bartley, and various County elected officials, employees, and members of the public present in person and via Zoom.

Director Ward reviewed the Building Department's proposed 2023 budget and answered questions from the Board. Director Ward asked for and received clarification regarding budgeted benefits for the Code Compliance Offer position.

**Findings, Conclusion, and Decision in support of Board decision of Tuesday, September 27, 2022, in the matter of Klickitat County Code Chapter 2.72 relating to Land Development Fees.**

**Motion (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously):** to accept the Findings, Conclusion, and Discussion in support of Board decision of Tuesday, September 27, 2022, to approve **Ordinance #O100422** in the matter of revision of the Klickitat County Code Chapter 2.72 relating to Land Development Fees.

**Department update: Senior Services Director Sharon Carter.**

Attendance: Senior Services Director Sharon Carter, Director Robb Van Cleave, and various County elected officials, employees, and members of the public present in person and via Zoom.

Director Carter provided an update on the Human Service Transportation Plan discussion.

Director Carter advised of a grant opportunity to place a bus shelter at Klickitat Valley Health. Director Carter provided an overview of current transportation services that the department has the resources to provide. The department gets requests for afterhours service, transportation on call and expanded fixed routes.

Director Carter advised there are currently two (2) openings on the Senior Advisory Board and provided a brief history of the Board's membership. Further discussion followed about the makeup of the board and challenges in finding members.

The Board expressed their support for Director Carter to move forward and apply for the bus shelter grant. Further discussion followed regarding services provided by other regional transportation agencies.

**New Business:**

**\*Approved (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously):** Agreement (**C17422**) for Provision of Services by and between Beacon Health Options, Inc. and Klickitat County (Public Health Department) for the purpose of providing \$345,629 in funding to support Klickitat County in the development of a local crisis response program, effective September 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023.

Attendance: Sheriff Songer, Deputy Erik Beasley, Chief Jail Deputy Carman Knopes, Chief Civil Deputy Karen Elings, and various County elected officials, employees, and members of the public present in person and via Zoom.

Deputy Erik Beasley reported that he has been advised that the Sheriff's 2022 vehicles ordered at the beginning of the year may not arrive before the end of the year and he proposed to order the 2023 vehicles now, noting that the dealer has three (3) Tahoe's on the lot that are available now. The 2022 vehicles would be received in 2023.

Following discussion, the Board decided to pull item #7 and table the matter until next week.

**Consent Agenda:**

**\*Approved (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously):** Consent Agenda, pulling item #7 for further discussion and review, leaving eight (8) items.

- 1) \*Washington Counties Risk Pool Membership Compact and Interlocal Agreement (**C17322**) between Klickitat County and the Washington Counties Risk Pool for the purpose of providing programs of joint self-insurance, joint purchasing of insurance and joint contracting for or hiring of personnel to provide risk management, claims handling, and administrative services to member counties.
- 2) \***Resolution No 08622** in the matter of continuing relationships with the Washington Counties Risk Pool and the related appointments and designations of/for each member county.
- 3) \*Purchase Authorization request from the Public Health Department to purchase one (1) Dell Latitude 7420 laptop and 130W Docking Station to support the Behavioral Health program for a total cost of \$3,590.67.

- 4) \*Request from Adult Probation Officer Courtney Cooke for Adult Probation Counselor Steve Crow to be allowed to carry over 50 additional vacation hours into 2023 with the commitment of using the additional vacation hours by June 30, 2023.
- 5) \***Resolution No. 08722** in the matter of renaming Department 27 Chemical Dependency to Behavioral Health, creating Fund 145 Behavioral Health and requesting the County Auditor to create said fund and rename said department.
- 6) \*Reimbursable Work Agreement (**C17422**) between Klickitat County (Public Works Department) and the Lyle School District No. 406 for the purpose of reimbursing the County for the costs of the work performed by the County and its workers.
- 7) (**Pulled**) Authorization for the Sheriff's Office to purchase from State Bid/Contract three (3) 2023 Chevy Tahoe PPVs at a total cost of \$154,294.39 and necessary equipment at a cost of \$36,005.43 per vehicle for a total cost for the three (3) vehicles of \$263,825.48 from the Commissioner's Vehicle Rental and Replacement Fund.
- 8) \*Personnel Authorization to begin the advertising process to fill a vacant Payroll Analyst position at Grade 39, Steps 1-3 (\$22.93-\$24.34 per hour) within the Auditor's Office.-
- 9) \***Resolution No. 08822** in the matter of approving position description and salary placement at Grade 67 for the Designated Crisis Responder Therapist position within the newly designated Behavioral Health Department.

#### **Voucher Certification and Approval**

\***Approved Warrants (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously):** Accounts Payable: (#316940 - 317017) and Direct Deposit #977 for a total of \$185,281.65 for the date ending October 3, 2022.

#### **Elected Official Report/Update: Treasurer Greg Gallagher: Finance Committee Update.**

Treasurer Gallagher provided a Finance Committee update, reviewing the items that the committee discussed. Further Board discussion followed.

#### **Board Pending:**

Commissioner Christopher encouraged County employees to sign up for Life flight, advising that it is a valuable insurance policy should you or your family need to be airlifted to a hospital.

**(3:26 PM) (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously).** There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned until 9:00 AM on Thursday, October 6, 2022, for scheduled workshops.

#### **Thursday, October 6, 2022 - Regular Meeting Extension: Workshops.**

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

Attendance: Treasurer Greg Gallagher, 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.

#### **9:00 AM - Republic Services: Update on the Roosevelt Landfill.**

Republic Services Municipal Relationship Manager Steve Gilmore provided an update on operations at the Roosevelt Landfill, solid waste tonnage and revenues generated from solid waste contracts.

#### **9:30 AM - Finance Team: 2023 Budget review and discussion:**

Fiscal Manager Bartley reviewed the 2023 preliminary budget expense summary and general purpose revenues. Ms. Bartley also provided a breakdown of wages and benefits and landfill allocations to the various funds. Discussion and review of historical landfill revenues followed.

The Board had a discussion regarding Landfill requests from departments/offices which total 9.3 million dollars. There were also discussions regarding Timber Patrol expenses, Fleet software and fleet management, and shifting Public Work's focus from building roads to maintaining roads.

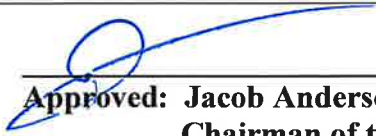
Commissioner Christopher proposed to budget \$150,000 from Cumulative Reserve to be used by each Commissioner for economic development projects in each of the Commissioner District. The Board agreed.

Ms. Bartley reported that she has been advised by the Prosecutor that due to adding the Behavioral Health Program to the 2023 budget, the public hearings for the 2023 preliminary budget & Capital Improvement Plan should be canceled and reposted for December 5, 2022. Director Van Cleave provided a brief update on insurance requirements for the Behavioral Health Program.

The Board discussed the Solid Waste contract and proposed amendments and agreed that Commissioner Christopher would move forward with negotiations on behalf of the Board to reach a final addendum with Republic Services.

**(M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously):** The workshop was adjourned at 12.18 PM.

\* Reference Document on File. The Board of Commissioners' minutes are action minutes. A digital recording is on file as part of the official record and available on file 10.04.2022 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**



11-1-22  
Date