

**Klickitat County
Board of Commissioners
Minutes – Meeting of Tuesday, October 18, 2022**

Morning Workshop Session

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

9:30 AM - Miscellaneous Reports/Comments: Discussion regarding Superior Court public defender services.

The Board met with current contracted public defender attorneys Lori Hoctor and Chris Lanz to discuss their proposal to provide services for the 2023-2024 contract period.

Ms. Hoctor and Mr. Lanz provided a history of their work and an overview of their analysis on how they determined their proposed contract amount. Following discussion, the Board asked for an overall accounting of how many hours Ms. Hoctor and Mr. Lanz actually work. Following further discussion, the attorneys indicated they were open to a counter offer. The Board asked Commissioner Sauter to prepare a counter offer by Friday based on the Board's discussion.

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

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

Director Kelsey provided a brief review of pay estimates, and an update on the Roosevelt Grade paving project, updating the Board on defective material that does not meet specifications. Updates on Courtney Road and the Courthouse Parking lots followed. Director Kelsey advised due to not being able to secure a paving contractor Courtney Road will not be paved until next year. Director Kelsey reported on projects in the design phase, maintenance projects, and upcoming facilities work and events. Director Kelsey expressed his appreciation and thanked his staff who worked on the County Services Project.

The Board had a brief discussion regarding the cost of the County Services Building. Director Kelsey noted that if it were being built today the cost would be approximately 40% more. Discussion followed regarding converting the Carpenter position to a regular Senior Engineering Tech position and the Carpenter's Helper position to a casual Grounds Facilities Technician position. Director Kelsey stated that would be a 14,328.92 cost savings by converting the positions.

Mr. Hunter provided an update on the 6 year road plan specific to Sleepy Hollow Road, providing a map showing traffic counts. Mr. Hunter advised back in 2005 or 2006 the residents on Sleepy Hollow Road asked that no improvements be made to the road. Further discussion followed about a request during the 6 year road hearing asking for repairs to a ditch on Sleepy Hollow. Mr. Hunter stated that the repairs to the ditch would cost approximately \$30,000. The Board verbally approved the ditch repairs. Due to the time, the Board asked Public Works to finish the update on the 6 year road plan next Tuesday.

10:30 AM – Emergency Management Department Update/Report:

Attendance: Emergency Management Director Jeff King, and various County elected officials, employees, and members of the public present in person and via Zoom.

Director King provided updates on the Radio System, tower site repairs and upgrades. Director King stated that he is working on getting access to the Services Building security cameras for dispatch to monitor. Director King advised that mental health crisis services has improved and are much better than with the previous provider.

Director King reported that he is renegotiating user agreements with the cities, currently dispatch receives all of their afterhours and holiday calls, noting that dispatch should only be receiving emergency calls and calls for service, not general administration calls. Director King provided a brief update on Fund 107, advising that he has been told the grant reimbursement payment has been processed and should be received by the Treasurer's Office.

Director King reported on Emergency Management grants, training and exercises. A wildfire update followed. The Board had a discussion regarding the burn ban extensions in Burn Ban Zones I & II and the reinstatement of the ban in Zone III.

Motion (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously). To recess for lunch at 11:38 AM.

Commissioner's Business Meeting

Chairman Anderson reconvened the Regular Meeting for Tuesday, October 18, 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

***Approved (M/Christopher, S/Sauter. Passed unanimously):** the Klickitat County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes for September 27, 2022 and October 11, 2022 as presented.

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

Candy Magnuson asked if the Commissioners had ever read a solar property lease. Commissioner Christopher stated that he has seen a proposed solar lease agreement from 2018 provided to him by C.E.A.S.E. Chairman Anderson cautioned the Board and Ms. Magnuson, noting that the lease agreement would be a proprietary document.

Susan Kelsey stated that she heard the County was working on setting up a mental health program. Chairman Anderson provided an update on the work to create the new department and advised that the County is waiting for the State to authorize the County as a mental health facility.

Lynn Ward, 20 year County employee, commented on the accusations and bullying County employees are receiving from a select group of County residents. County employee Rebecca Hail, also commented on the treatment employees are receiving like being attacked on a daily basis through emails.

Del Eldred asked if the Commissioners believed that acres of glass solar panels are the best change for the County.

Commissioner Sauter, replied to Ms. Magnuson, no he has not read a solar lease. To Ms. Ward he stated that her comments summarized a lot of employees and elected Officials feelings. To Mr. Eldred, he stated that yes, he does believe renewable energy is in the best interest of the County

Commissioner Christopher responded to the County employees, stated that he appreciated their comments and that he is sorry for the abuse from the bullies. Mr. Christopher stated that he agrees with C.E.A.S.E. on a lot of issues, but they are acting like bullies.

Chairman Anderson thanked Ms. Ward and Ms. Hail for their comments, noting that employees don't deserve to be treated poorly.

Public Meetings/Public Hearings/Bid Openings: Request for Proposals Opening: for Electronic Healthcare Record System for Klickitat County Crisis and Behavioral Health Services.

Where were no responses received.

Public Meeting: to consider approval of Boundary Line Adjustment BLA2022-08, Parcel No's 06-12-1062-0001/00 and 06-12-1000-0024/00 in the Glenwood vicinity; Applicant: Jerald Dean & LI Dean Enterprises, LLC.

Assistant Planner Alisa Grumbles reported that Boundary Line Adjustment BLA2022-08 is a proposal to adjust the common property line between Parcel No's 06-12-1062-0001/00 and 06-12-1000-0024/00 off of Mt. Adams Hwy, which is located in the Glenwood vicinity.

Ms. Grumbles advised that an administrative review of the boundary line adjustment has been completed and signatures have been obtained from the Road, Health, and Planning Departments and the Treasurer's Office signifying that 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 BLA2022-08, Parcel No's 06-12-1062-0001/00 and 06-12-1000-0024/00 in the Glenwood vicinity; Applicant: Jerald Dean & LI Dean Enterprises, LLC.

Consent Agenda:

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

- 1) ***Resolution No. 09522** in the matter of considering and approving petitions requesting annexation of certain property into the boundaries of Klickitat County Fire Protection District No. 3. The property proposed for annexation is presently outside the boundary line of the fire district but contiguous to the present district boundary as required. The petitioner (1) represents 100% of the property acreage of the area to be annexed based on the Assessor's certification.
- 2) ***Landowner Agreement (C17722)** between Klickitat County (Landowner) and Mid-Columbia Fisheries (Grantee) for the purpose of identifying and confirming the terms, conditions and obligations agreed upon between the Grantee, who is undertaking a project funded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board and the Landowner, who owns the property on which the project will take place. The parties mutually agree to participate in conducting the salmon habitat improvement activities.
- 3) ***Add-on Sales Agreement 2022-CPx (C17822)** between Klickitat County (Public Health Department) and Patagonia Health Inc. for the purpose of providing additional services for Patagonia Electronic Medical telehealth services, which will allow the Health Department to do online scheduling and registration for clients, increase opportunities for telehealth visits, electronic consents and forms and staff training.
- 4) ***Amendment No. 8 (C17922)** to the 2022-2024 Consolidated Contract CLH31016 between Klickitat County (Public Health Department) and the Washington State Department of Health for the purpose of amending Statements of Work for the COVID-19 Mass Vaccination-FEMA Program, and WIC Nutrition Program, effective January 1, 2022 and increasing funding by \$9,413 for a revised maximum consideration of \$3,193,964.
- 5) ***Personnel Authorization** to begin the advertising process to fill a vacant Office Manager position at Grade 37, Step 1-3 within the Planning Department.
- 6) ***Personnel Authorization** to begin the advertising process to fill a temporary Snow Plow Operator position within the Public Works Department.
- 7) ***Resolution No. 09622** in the matter of setting a public hearing to be held on Tuesday, November 1, 2022 at 1:30 PM to consider a supplemental budget and amendments of various funds and departments to the 2022 budget expenditures in the sum of \$345,628.
- 8) ***Amendment #1 (C18022)** to the Agreement for provision of services by and between Beacon Health Options, Inc., and Klickitat County (Public Health Department), in which Exhibit B Insurance Requirements is removed in its entirety and replaced with Exhibit B.A1 Insurance Requirements, effective September 1, 2022

Voucher Certification and Approval

***Approved (M/Christopher, S/Sauter. Passed unanimously).** Pay Estimate No. 1 and final to Frank Gurney, Inc. in the amount of \$71,518.75, which contains retainage in the amount of \$3,575.94, for a total payment amount of \$67,942.81, for the Small Works Contract-2022 Guardrail Repairs.

***Approved (M/Christopher, S/Sauter. Passed unanimously).** Final pay estimate to Strip Rite, Inc. in the amount of \$68,199.00 which contains retainage in the amount of \$3,409.95, for a total payment amount of \$64,789.05, for the 2022 Annual Stripping Program RN642-2022.

***Approved Warrants (M/Sauter, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously).** Accounts Payable: (#317181 - 317327) for a total of \$308,541.43, for the date ending October 17, 2022.

Board Pending:

Department of Commerce Director Lisa Brown and Assistant Director Mark Barkley joined the Commissioner's meeting briefly. Director Brown advised that they had just met with community leaders in Goldendale to discuss Mid-Columbia River Basin economic development issues.

The Board discussed their joint partnership with the city of The Dalles as owners of the Columbia Gorge Regional Airport. The city has indicated they would like to review financial management of the airport, which the city has been providing. Chairman Anderson indicated that he would reach out to the City Manager for clarification. Commissioner Sauter provided an overview of past discussions, indicating the costs should be shared between the partners.

The Board discussed the 6 Year Road Plan and reviewed the cost of Courtney Road, which is 7.2 million dollars, of which 3.628 million is from state grants and 3.572 million from a mix between the road tax and landfill dollars.

Discussion concerning the morning meeting with the Superior Court public defenders followed. The Board decided that Commissioner Sauter would prepare a counter offer to their proposal to provide services for the next contract period.

Commissioner Christopher reported that Republic Services has advised that transfer station employees have asked to be allowed to take a 30 minute lunch break which requires verbal approval from the Commissioners. Following discussion, the Board supported employees taking a lunch break but indicated they would prefer that they stagger the lunch breaks to allow the transfer station to remain open.

The Board continued a previous discussion regarding proposed amendments to the Republic Services agreement. Commissioner Christopher stated that there are a few matters that he would like to seek legal counsel on and asked staff to prepare a PA Opinion request before further discussion. The Board agreed.

At 2:54 PM, Commissioner Christopher excused himself and left the room to attend another meeting.

(2:55 PM) (M/Sauter, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously). There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned until 9:00 AM on Thursday, October 20, 2022 for scheduled workshops.

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

Chairman Anderson called the workshop to order at 9:00 AM. Commissioners Anderson and Christopher were present in the room, Commissioner Sauter was present via telephone conference.

Attendance: Treasurer Greg Gallagher, Human Resources & Administration Services Director Robb Van Cleave, Fiscal Manager Jenn Bartley were present throughout the workshops.

9:00 AM Fiscal Manager Jenn Bartley: Budget update and VR&R discussion.

Fiscal Manager Bartley provided a review of 3rd quarter financials, noting that Landfill revenues were a little under budget but sales tax is higher than expected for the quarter. Ms. Bartley advised that most department budgets are well under budget. The Board discussed various department budgets and expenditures.

Discussion followed concerning updating Vehicles Rental & Rates for the purchase of vehicles.

9:30 AM Sheriff's Office

Attendance: Sheriff Bob Songer and Chief Civil Deputy Karen Elings.

The Board discussed the Range Deputy positions and Timber Patrol program. Commissioner Christopher stated that timber companies and ranchers need to continue contributing to the program and if they are not interested the program may be cut. Commissioner Sauter agreed.

Sheriff Songer clarified that they would be contacting timber owners as well as cattlemen to renew their contributions to the program. Sheriff Songer provided a brief history of the Timber Patrol program.

Chairman Anderson recapped the discussion, there will be one (1) Timber Deputy providing services in 2023, and the Sheriff will continue to figure out equitable contribution for participants which will determine the future of the program.

Discussion followed regarding Patrol and increased fuel costs and ways to manage increasing costs. The Board discussed Sheriff's vehicles. Ms. Bartley stated that rental rates for the Search and Rescue vehicles, and boat and water craft trailers should be removed. The Board agreed. Ms. Elings stated that she is working on putting together a surplus list. Further discussion followed regarding the Ford Interceptor vehicles.

10:00 AM Public Works- Buildings & Grounds

Attendance: Public Works Director Gordon Kelsey, Deputy Director Jeff Hunter, and Deputy Finance Director Pam Beierle.

Mr. Hunter provided an update of changes to the Capital Plan, which were projects that would not be completed in 2022, further discussion followed.

Commissioner Christopher stated that he would like to discuss pulling Oak Ridge Road off the 6 year plan. Director Kelsey advised that Oak Ridge Road is an alternate route in case something happens on State Hwy 141, and recommended that it should not be pulled. Commissioner Sauter suggested leaving it on the plan.

The Board reviewed and discussed the Capital Fund and Non Capital Plan. The Board discussed swapping the jail roof repair and Courthouse painting projects. Commissioner Sauter noted that there is a down side of delaying maintenance. Mr. Hunter explained how projects are determined and how the budget is set. The Board discussed what the budget should be. Director Kelsey explained reasons why projects may not be finished due to other projects taking priority.

Board discussion continued concerning the 2022 budget and 2023 proposed budget. There was discussion about items being doubly budgeted and the Board removed two (2) items from the Sheriff proposed 2023 budget that were included in the Non-Capital budget.

The Board reviewed utility expenses and anticipated expenses for 2023. Director Kelsey advised that they have not had a whole year of expenses to determine costs. Chairman Anderson raised concern over the increased budget for 2023. Following further discussion, the Board asked Public Works to look at utility costs and come back with new figures.

11:00 AM Assessor's Office.

Attendance: Assessor Crista Schroder, Chief Appraiser Billi Bare, and Chief Deputy Assessor Jessica Byers.

The Board and the Assessor reviewed reductions in the Assessor's proposed 2023 budget. Assessor Schroder asked what the reasoning was for not funding the FTE that she asked to be reinstated in her office. Commissioner Christopher simply stated that it is not in the Budget. Assessor Schroder reviewed the Assessor's history of fiscally responsible budgets, adding that their workload has increased greatly. Commissioner Sauter noted that he feels that the Assessor has made her case but is conflicted as to how we will pay for it.

Assessor Schroder stated that the Assessor's Office is not a revenue department but new construction values are up and the increase to the County would more than cover the cost. Chairman Anderson advised that revenues are not covering expenses and the Board is still working to cut expenses. Assessor Schroder asked the Board to assist Ms. Bare as the new Assessor and to help her be successful.

Commissioner Sauter left the meeting at approximately 12:00 PM.

(12:01 PM) (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously): Motion to recess for lunch.

11:30 PM Lunch: Note: Commissioner Sauter did not return to the meeting after lunch. Commissioners Anderson and Christopher were present.

12.30 PM Pending issues for Board discussion:

Director Van Cleave provided an update on the salary survey and the positions that were below market. The Board had supported increasing wages to the labor market and comparable counties. The Board discussed the Solid Waste Consultants recommendations for the Solid Waste Department. The Board indicated they supported keeping the department under Administrative Services for now including the Landfill Inspector and Recycling Coordinator positions.

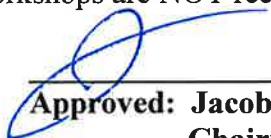
Director Van Cleave provided an update on post closure activities at the former Horse Thief Landfill.

The Board discussed fleet vehicles and talked about pulling two (2) vehicles from WSU, one (1) from Solid Waste and two (2) from Economic Development/Natural Resources. Commissioner Christopher stated that the Commissioner's Office would have oversight over the fleet vehicles and the vehicles would have the fleet software. Ms. Bartley suggested that all VR&R vehicles should have the fleet software. Commissioner Christopher agreed and suggested offering to pay for Sheriff's Office to equip their vehicles with the fleet software. Chairman Anderson stated that the expense should come out of the Sheriff's budget.

The Board discussed household hazard waste and the cost of disposal, and whether there would be funding available to have historical County pictures hung on the wall of the County Services Building. The Board also discussed The Dalles' City Manager's proposal for a large County contribution to cover its share of expenses at the Airport.

Commissioner Christopher indicated that the Board will be discussing short term rentals soon and suggested that Chairman Anderson should not be part of the discussion. Chairman Anderson disagreed, and stated that this matter should be going to the Planning Commission for an interpretation of the current code.

* 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 10.18.2022 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