

**Minutes
Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners
Regular Meeting
August 23, 2011**

Call to Order

Chair Lisa M. Marsyla called the regular meeting of the Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners, on August 23, 2011, at 9:30 a.m. in the public meeting room of the Wahkiakum County Courthouse.

Present: Commissioner Lisa M. Marsyla, Commissioner Blair H. Brady, Commissioner Daniel L. Cothren, Clerk of the Board Marsha LaFarge, Chief Civil Deputy Joannie Bjorge, HHS Director Judy Bright, HHS Manager Chris Holmes, HHS Operations Manager Chris Weiler, Assessor Bill Coons, Public Works Director Pete Ringen and GIS Tech Dave Nixon.

Others Present: *Wahkiakum County Eagle* Publisher Rick Nelson, Al George, Colleen Haley, Michael Linn, Jerry and Kathleen Hogan, and Art Hyland.

Flag Salute

Chair Marsyla led the flag salute.

Regular Meeting Agenda

It was M/S by Commissioners Cothren and Brady to approve the Regular Meeting Agenda for August 23, 2011. Carried.

Consent Agenda

It was M/S by Commissioners Brady and Cothren to approve the Consent Agenda for August 23, 2011. Carried. The Consent Agenda contained the following items:

- A. Minutes of August 16, 2011
- B. Resolution No. 121-11. A resolution authorizing the expenditure of funds from the county properties cumulative reserve fund for the payment of vouchers properly chargeable to said fund in the amount of \$2,688.95.
- C. Resolution No. 122-11. A resolution authorizing the expenditure of funds from the electronic communications cumulative reserve fund for the payment of vouchers properly chargeable to said fund in the amount of \$577.59.
- D. Voucher Approval - \$111,138.50.

New Business

Board of Equalization

It was M/S by Commissioners Brady and Cothren authorizing the Board of Equalization to reconvene for the purpose of hearing appeals that have been filed. Carried.

Amendment to Minutes

It was M/S by Commissioners Brady and Cothren amending the August 9 regular minutes on page 3 under the heading of "Continuity of Care Housing Group" to reflect that 16 to 20 "units of housing" could be built. Carried.

Unfinished BusinessE-911 Contract

It was M/S by Commissioners Brady and Cothren to approve chair's signature on the State Enhanced 911 fund contract no. E12-127 between the Washington State Military Department and Wahkiakum County to provide reimbursement to the county for approved eligible incurred expenses and E 911 policies. Carried.

Brittell Architecture Service Agreement

It was M/S by Commissioners Brady and Cothren to approve chair's signature on the professional services agreement between Wahkiakum County and Brittell Architecture, Inc. for design services to the Grays River Valley Center and the Family Health Clinic to be paid from professional fees line item in county properties cumulative reserve fund in an amount not to exceed \$14,000. Carried.

Health and Human ServicesWSDOT Contract

HHS Manager Chris Holmes presented a renewal contract between the county and Washington Department of Transportation to operate the Wahkiakum on the Move bus from July 2011 to July 2013. Holmes stated this grant contains an increase from last year's original grant and will allow the bus to add one extra round trip to Longview per day and an additional roundtrip from Naselle to Longview per week. Holmes also reported the county's request for capital funds to cover the purchase of a replacement bus was not granted and that purchase has been put on hold. The board agreed to review the contract and asked Holmes to return to the next board meeting for possible action.

HUD Contract

HHS Operations Manager Chris Weiler reported there is a current housing assistance payment agreement in place between the county and the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. This contract provides a rent subsidy on behalf of low income clients who reside in apartments A & B at 25 River Street. The present contract is set to expire in October. Weiler presented a new contract extending the services through October 2016. At the present time, the county receives \$1,134 each month in rental subsidy payments that is used to pay staff time to manage the apartments and to pay for maintenance and electricity. Chair Marsyla questioned Weiler regarding the background of this building and how it was funded. Marsyla also asked for the rate of subsidy on the prior contract and the monthly costs the county pays for electricity, sewer/water and garbage. Weiler did indicate the county receives around \$11,000 a year in revenue and estimates the annual expenses at \$9,500. The board agreed to review the contract and asked Weiler to return to the next board meeting to answer the board's inquiries and for possible action on the contract.

Other Matters

Census

The board reviewed the 2010 census numbers and map for each of the 3 Commissioner Districts. At this time, District 1 has 1,235 residents, District 2 has 1,506 and District 3 has 1,237. The board agreed to not make any changes to the district boundary lines.

Assessor

Extra Help

Assessor Bill Coons reported his Chief Deputy will be out for two weeks on sick leave and he is in need of extra help during her absence. Coons asked the board to transfer \$1,000 from his professional fees line item to extra help to pay for 10 days of help at 6 hours per day from August 22, 2011 to September 2, 2011. Commissioner Brady expressed his support for the transfer. Both Commissioners Marsyla and Cothren expressed their reservations. Marsyla stated she is not ready to authorize extra help until after Coons has met with the Department of Revenue to prioritize the 23 items his office is not in compliance with. Marsyla stated she would like to attend that meeting so she has a better understanding what staffing changes, if any, will be required in the Assessor's office.

Professional Fees

Coons stated his professional fees budget was set before he took office and viewed that line item as a resource for extra help and other services for his office. Marsyla reviewed her notes during the 2011 budget process and found that line item was budgeted to cover More Power and Ladytek's services to get the assessor's website up and running and to pay for True Automation's maintenance fees.

Staffing

Coons asked the commissioners to consider allowing him to staff his office with 2.5 employees plus himself in the 2012 budget. He feels this is the number of employees he needs to bring his office back into compliance. Marsyla indicated she was not willing to make any changes to his office until after the meeting with DOR.

Public Works

Notice of Work

Public Works Director Pete Ringen explained the legislature in 2009 amended a law that requires advertisement in our local paper of record when the board makes a determination to have county forces complete work over \$10,000 in value. It was M/S by Commissioners Brady and Cothren authorizing the advertisement of Notice of Work by County Forces for the Elochoman Valley Road project from milepost 10.7 to 11.2. Carried.

Resolution Closing Steamboat Slough Road

Ringen reported there is a failure in the rock revetment along Steamboat Slough Road. The rock protection along a length of the dike at milepost 2.1 is no longer in place, subjecting the dike to the erosive forces of the Columbia River. Steamboat Slough Road is supported by the dike and the east bound lane is now compromised. For safety of the traveling public, Ringen requested the closure of the east bound lane. Ringen stated funding assistance from FEMA and the Corp of Engineers has been sought and they indicated the problem does not fit within their program parameters for funds. Ringen will work with U. S. Fish and Wildlife and Diking District No. 4 to hire coastal engineering specialist to assist with conceptual plans for options and cost estimates. It was M/S by Commissioners Brady and

Cothren adopting Resolution No. 123-11 closing the east bound lane of Steamboat Slough road at milepost 2.1. Carried.

Recess/Reconvene

Chair Marsyla recessed the regular meeting at 11:15 a.m. to reconvene at 1:00 p.m. for a work session regarding Seal Slough.

Work Session

Seal Slough

Present: Chair Lisa Marsyla, Commissioner Dan Cothren, Commissioner Blair Brady, Clerk of the Board Marsha LaFarge, Steve West (WDFW), Dave Howe (WDFW), Delvin Frederickson and Poul Toftemark from Grays River Habitat Enhancement District, Ian Sinks with Columbia Land Trust and Chuck Wolfe. Also present was *Wahkiakum County Eagle* Publisher Rick Nelson.

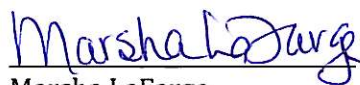
Chair Marsyla turned the meeting over to Ian Sinks of Columbia Land Trust. Sinks stated there were several issues he has been working on regarding the reduction in water velocity in Seal Slough by diverting the water through a new slough that would cross over CLT's property. First, Sinks reported he met with his Kandoll Road project funders and stated they were on board as long as there is no loss of fish benefit and the property will continue to function as a wetland.

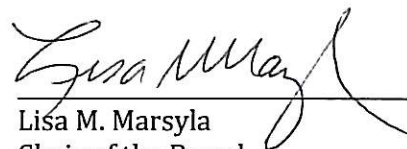
Sinks then reviewed the draft of scope of work prepared by Cardno Entek Engineers; however, it did not include a budget or timeline. Sinks stated he should have the final draft by the end of the week and will forward copies to all of the parties at the table along with the adjacent property owners. It was the desires of the group to have all interested parties review the scope of work and to address any concerns prior to our next work session so this project can move forward without delays. The board scheduled the next work session for September 27, 2011 at 1:00 p.m.

Sinks also presented revised engineered plans for the tide gates on Seal Slough and will be working with GRHD to obtain the permits. Their intention is to install two new tide gates and replace one existing one.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Chair Lisa M. Marsyla adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Attest: 
 Marsha LaFarge
 Clerk of the Board

Approved: 
 Lisa M. Marsyla
 Chair of the Board