

Minutes
Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners
Regular Meeting
August 9, 2011

Call to Order

Chair Lisa M. Marsyla called the regular meeting of the Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners, on August 9, 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, Building and Planning Dept. Manager Chuck Beyer, HHS Director Judy Bright, HHS Manager Chris Holmes, Community Outreach Coordinator Jackie Jones, and Undersheriff Mark Howie.

Others Present: *Wahkiakum County Eagle* Publisher Rick Nelson, WCRP Executive Director Vyrle Hill and Member Services Manager David Goldsmith, Beau Renfro, Nick Nikkila, Colleen Haley, Al & Nancy George and Frank Loomans.

Flag Salute

Chair Marsyla led the flag salute.

Regular Meeting Agenda

It was M/S by Commissioners Brady and Cothren to approve the Regular Meeting Agenda for August 9, 2011. Carried.

Consent Agenda

It was M/S by Commissioners Cothren and Brady to approve the Consent Agenda for August 9, 2011. Carried. The Consent Agenda contained the following items:

- A. Minutes of August 2, 2011
- B. Resolution No. 114-11. 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 \$2,749.58
- C. Resolution No. 115-11. A resolution authorizing the expenditure of funds from the emergency medical services cumulative reserve fund for the payment of vouchers properly chargeable to said fund in the amount of \$481.20
- D. Resolution No. 116-11. A resolution authorizing the expenditure of funds from the contingent liabilities cumulative reserve fund for payment claims related to injury to Harold Karlsvik in the Wahkiakum County Courtroom.
- E. Resolution No. 117-11. 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 \$4,777.44.
- F. Voucher Approval - \$41,513.93

New Business

Special Occasion Liquor Permit

Chair Marsyla announced the Blanche Bradley Memorial Library Foundation has applied for a special occasion liquor permit for an event on August 27, 2011. The board had no objection to this permit.

Building and Planning Department

Staff Report

Building and Planning Department Manager Chuck Beyer reported he has issued two new residence building permits this past month, bringing the total permits for new homes since the first of the year to six. Beyer has also been working on a shoreline permit for a test fishery site in the Cathlamet Channel. Regarding facilities, Beyer stated he has been working with an architect on the Grays River Valley Center projects along with repairs to the HHS shop door due to a break-in and new siding and windows for the clinic.

Shoreline Permit

Beyer presented a Shoreline Substantial Development/Conditional Use Permit issued to Richard Morris for a 10' x 20' parking area and private dock on West Birnie Slough Road. Comments were received from the Dept. of Ecology, Department of Natural Resources and Public Works. The Planning Commission reviewed the permit on July 28, 2011 and recommended approval of the permit with conditions. It was M/S by Commissioners Cothren and Brady authorizing the chair's signature on Shoreline Permit No. 2011-2-15 with the Planning Commission's recommendations and conditions which includes a written approval from Diking District No. 1 for the parking area. Carried.

Hanigan Building

Beyer affirmed the heat pump in the county's back office in the Hanigan Building is no longer working. Beyer received quotes for a ductless heat pump from three HVAC contractors on the small works roster. Renaud supplied the lowest estimate for a 1.5 ton heat pump in the amount of \$5,051.82. Beyer also requested bids for a heat pump with two indoor units and received a low bid from Entek in the amount of \$6,393.59. The commissioners considered the two alternatives. It was M/S by Commissioners Cothren and Brady accepting the bid from Renaud Electric for a ductless heat pump in the amount of \$5,051.82 including sales tax. Carried.

Health and Human Services

Olmstead Mini Grant

HHS Manager Chris Holmes presented a contract that would allow mental health to bill for certain items and services that assist clients to successfully maintain in the community to avoid re-hospitalization. All charges will be pre-approved by DSHS to avoid any non-reimbursable situations. Holmes noted this grant is state wide and expires September 30, 2011. It was M/S by Commissioners Brady and Cothren authorizing the chair's signature on the Olmstead Mini Grant Program Agreement #1163-30983. Carried.

Deputy Director

HHS Director Judy Bright brought back to the board her proposal for modifying her position to 89.5 hours a month for the next 18 months. Bright would also like to create a new position, a HHS Deputy Director and promote Operations Manager Chris Weiler into that position. Bright intends to leave the

Operation Manager position vacant while Weiler fills the new position. Bright will continue to oversee issues at policy level, prepare for the next Public Health Standards Site Visit, supervise the HHS management team and public health staff, and continue her development of community and state relationships. Bright pointed out that by reducing her hours to 89.5 per month, the county will save \$45,232. Bright also asked the board to set the annual salary of the Deputy Director at \$64,850 which is \$10,000 over Weiler's current salary. Weiler's additional duties will include filling in for her during her absences, the day-to-day emergency preparedness and response activities, and HHS strategic planning as they relate to the department's goals and objectives. It was M/S by Commissioners Brady and Cothren authorizing the reduction of the HHS Director position to 89.5 hours a month and creating a HHS Deputy Director position setting the salary at \$64,840 annually effective September 1, 2011 for 18 months. Carried. Marsyla stressed to Bright that should she return to full-time, the position of Deputy Director would terminate and Weiler, should he choose, would return to his previous position and salary.

Continuity of Care Housing Group

Present: HHS Manager Chris Holmes, Community Outreach Coordinator Jackie Jones, Suzanne Holmes, TRSN Director Bill Hardy, Town Councilman Steve McNicholas, Mike Reardon from SW Washington Agency on Aging and Disabilities, and Dan Freedman from Longview Housing Authority.

HHS Manager Chris Holmes presented a background on the Affordable Housing Bill created in 2006 by the Washington Legislature. This bill was aimed at increasing the stock of safe affordable housing for the very low income population with the particular focus on the disabled. This model was expanded in 2005 with the Ending Homelessness Bill allowing an additional recording fee to be placed into the Wahkiakum Housing Fund. The goal was to establish a 10 year plan to decrease homelessness by 50% by 2015. Development of strategies for achieving this goal was left to the local communities. Wahkiakum County formed a loose coalition around housing issues in the late 1990's to assess the local needs. This coalition found the most pressing need currently was to significantly increase the stock of affordable housing accessible to county residents with low income, and particularly those with disabilities. In 2010 the Department of Commerce began transitioning to a new way of contracting for housing services. In the new more flexible funding contracts, there will be a requirement for dollar for dollar cash match with local funds. This match can be paid from the County's Affordable and Homeless Housing Fund which has a current balance of \$100,939.60.

The committee feels this is a good time for our community to explore the beginning phases of a project as property costs are low and asked the board for their consensus to allow the committee to negotiate a non-binding agreement for the purchase of a piece property on which 16 to 20 affordable houses could be built. The board agreed by consensus to allow the negotiating of a non-binding agreement for real property for future use, but stressed the need to hold public discussions before they would consider the purchase of any property.

Washington Counties Risk Pool

Yrle Hill, Executive Director and David Goldsmith, Member Services Manager, discussed with the board the possibility of Wahkiakum County joining the Washington Counties Risk Pool. Goldsmith stated the pool's mission is to provide comprehensive and economical risk coverage, reduce the frequency and severity of losses; and decrease costs incurred in the managing and litigation of claims.

Marsyla indicated she would like to fully review the WCIP policy with the county's current policy with WCRIP prior to making any decisions.

At 11:35 a.m. Chair Marsyla excused herself from the meeting and Vice Chair Dan Cothren presided. Cothren continued the meeting with commissioners' reports.

Adjournment


There being no further business to come before the meeting, Vice Chair Daniel Cothren adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Attest:



Marsha LaFarge
Clerk of the Board

Approved:



Lisa M. Marsyla
Chair of the Board