

**Minutes
Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners
Regular Meeting
December 20, 2011**

Call to Order

Vice Chair Daniel Cothren called the regular meeting of the Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners, on December 20, 2011, at 9:30 a.m. in the public meeting room of the Wahkiakum County Courthouse.

Present: Vice Chair Daniel L. Cothren, Commissioner Blair H. Brady, Clerk of the Board Marsha LaFarge, Payroll Clerk Kim Tracy, Auditor Diane Tischer, Public Works Director Pete Ringen, Assessor Bill Coons, HHS Manager Chris Holmes, Sheriff Jon Dearmore, Undersheriff Mark Howie, and DEM Coordinator Beau Renfro. Chair Lisa Marsyla was excused.

Honored Employees: Larry Hendrickson, Danny Eaton, Carol McNally and Helen Coubra.

Others Present: *Wahkiakum County Eagle* Publisher Rick Nelson, Cowlitz Sheriff Mark Nelson, Kelso Police Chief Andy Hamilton, Longview Police Department Captain Robert Huhta, and Jerry & Kathleen Hogan.

Flag Salute

Vice Chair Cothren led the flag salute.

Regular Meeting Agenda

It was M/S by Commissioners Brady and Cothren to approve the regular meeting agenda for December 20, 2011. Carried.

Consent Agenda

It was M/S by Commissioners Brady and Cothren to approve the consent agenda for December 20, 2011. Carried. The consent agenda contained the following items:

- A. Minutes of December 13, 2011
- B. Resolution No. 169-11. A resolution authorizing the expenditure of \$889.69 per month from the contingent liabilities cumulative reserve fund for payment of claims related to health care insurance premiums for retired LEOFF Plan 1 members.
- C. Resolution No. 170-11. 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 \$100.98
- D. Resolution No. 171-11. 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 \$22,031.28
- E. Resolution No. 172-11. 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 \$1,866.32.

F. Voucher Approval - \$92,791.71

New BusinessLetter of Notice

Commissioner Brady stated he had asked that this matter be placed on the agenda; however, with Commissioner Marsyla absent, wanted to wait and discuss this matter at the next meeting when she will be in attendance.

Purchasing Co-op Membership

It was M/S by Commissioners Brady and Cothren authorizing the vice chair's signature on the Assignment of Intergovernmental Agreement, Amendment No. 1 to State of Washington Department of General Administration No. 2010-WPC-355 for state purchasing cooperative. Carried.

Liquor License Renewal

Vice Chair Cothren announced Bain Enterprises dba Cathlamet Chevron & RV Park has renewed their liquor license. The board had no objections to the renewal.

Auditor2012 Budget

It was M/S by Commissioners Brady and Cothren approving Resolution No. 173-11 adopting the 2012 budget. Carried.

Premium Only Plan Agreement

It was M/S by Commissioners Brady and Cothren authorizing the vice chair's signature on the Adoption Agreement to participate in the premium only plan and engaging Benefit Solutions, Inc. to provide services related to the plan. Carried.

Health Savings Account

It was M/S by Commissioners Brady and Cothren authorizing the vice chair's signature on the Cafeteria Plan for Wahkiakum County Health Savings Account. Carried.

Public WorksEquipment Rates and Rental

Public Works Director Pete Ringen reported the equipment rental rate worksheets have been updated to reflect cost experience. These rates have been adjusted to assure the ER&R fund does not over-collect or under-collect for the vehicles and equipment in the county fleet. The Commissioners agreed to review the rates and take action at their next board meeting.

Elochoman Valley Road

Public Works Director Pete Ringen reported a slide has occurred at mp 10.3 on the Elochoman Valley Road and he is concerned about the stability of the hillside hanging over the road. Ringen further stated he has a geo-technical engineer who will be in the area Wednesday and he will have him look at the slide.

Assessor

Contract Amendment Agreement

Assessor Bill Coons explained the county has a contract with Wahkiakum Title & Escrow for services that are mostly provided to the Treasurer for foreclosure matters. Coons discussed with them services they could provide to his office. Coons presented an agreement updating their fees to include services to his office. The board agreed to review the agreement and take action at their next board meeting.

Index #206

Revision to Purchase Agreement

Assessor Bill Coons explained True Automation no longer wishes to provide mapping licenses as originally contacted as recent updates within the GIS industry have made other solutions preferable. Coons and GIS Tech Dave Nixon have been researching other solutions for making maps available on-line. Coons asked the board to consider approving a revision to their purchase agreement removing this option resulting in a \$7,026 credit to the county. The board agreed to review this agreement and take action at their next board meeting.

LPS/True Automation Final Payment

Assessor Bill Coons stated the final payment, according to the PACS purchase contract, has been withheld pending resolution of issues with functionality with the Assessor's and Treasurer's offices. Coons stated he did not have an opinion one way or the other regarding the payment. Brady asked Coons if he felt True Automation was providing the support services they needed. Coons felt they have been somewhat delinquent in their response times. It was agreed to review this matter further before making the final payment in the amount of \$14,196.65.

Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Drug Task Force

Sheriff Jon Dearmore introduced Cowlitz Sheriff Mark Nelson, Kelso Police Chief Andy Hamilton and Longview Police Department Captain Robert Huhta who is also the Task Force Commander. Dearmore gave a brief background about the task force. He stated it was developed in 1987 and serves as a multi-jurisdictional agency dealing with high level drug crimes.

Cowlitz County Sheriff Mark Nelson stated the task force is primarily made up of law enforcement agencies in Cowlitz and Wahkiakum Counties. This task force deals with major drug dealers, those who supply to the local street dealer. He further stated it is their responsibility to provide a sense of peace and security to our citizens. Nelson stated it is imperative to keep Wahkiakum County a partner in the task force.

Kelso Police Chief Andy Hamilton, who is now on the executive board of the task force, is a 25 year veteran with the Kelso Police Department. In 1992 - 1995 Hamilton worked in Wahkiakum County dealing with drug crimes. Hamilton stated this task force is rated very well at the state level and the state has issued a state patrol detective to this task force. He stated the task force comes into play when someone needs to go undercover and blend into the community, which is difficult for Wahkiakum County Deputies because of the close knit community here.

Longview Police Department Capt. Robert Huhta, Commander of the Task Force, reported their investigations are generally lengthy. They look at the hierarchy of drug dealers. Last year they started looking at gang nexus. These gang members run drugs from other states into our area. Because of this, our task force works with other state and federal drug enforcement agencies.

Sheriff Jon Dearmore reported the Mexican cartels are moving into our area and growing marijuana. These groups are armed and they are booby-trapping their grow areas. Our task force has been working with the National Guard to eradicate these plants. These partnerships are developed through the task force. Dearmore stated the county owes the task force approximately \$150,000 and he is negotiating with them to work out some sort of payment as we have not paid our fair share for a long time.

Commissioner Brady acknowledged the task force has been beneficial to our community; however, the county's finances have not allowed us to pay our share. Commissioner Cothren suggested a work session with the sheriff's and prosecuting attorney's office in January to figure out a way to contribute to the task force.

Recess/Reconvene

Vice Chair Cothren recessed the regular meeting at 10:45 a.m. to reconvene at 11:00 a.m.

Employee Recognition for Years of Service

Vice Chair Cothren acknowledged each of the following employees and their years of service to the county:

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Larry Hendrickson | 30 years |
| Danny Eaton | 30 years |
| Carol McNally | 20 years |
| Elizabeth Dufek | 15 years |
| Helen Coubra | 5 years |

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Vice Chair Dan Cothren adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Attest: Marsha LaFarge
Marsha LaFarge
Clerk of the Board

Approved: Lisa M. Marsyla
Lisa M. Marsyla
Chair of the Board