

**Minutes
Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners
Regular Meeting
January 17, 2012**

Call to Order

Vice Chairman Blair Brady called the regular meeting of the Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners, on January 17, 2012, at 9:30 a.m. in the public meeting room of the Wahkiakum County Courthouse.

Present: Vice Chairman Blair Brady, Commissioner Lisa M. Marsyla, Clerk of the Board Marsha LaFarge, Public Works Director Pete Ringen, Sheriff Jon Dearmore, and Fair Manager Becky Ledtke. Commissioner Dan Cothren was excused from the morning session.

Others Present: *Wahkiakum County Eagle* Publisher Rick Nelson, Duncan Cruickshank, Andrew Emlen, Michael Linn, and Al & Nancy George.

Flag Salute

Vice Chairman Brady led the flag salute.

Regular Meeting Agenda

It was M/S by Commissioners Marsyla and Brady to approve the regular meeting agenda for January 17, 2012. Carried.

Consent Agenda

It was M/S by Commissioners Marsyla and Brady to approve the consent agenda for January 17, 2012. Carried. The consent agenda contained the following items:

- A. Minutes of January 10, 2012
- B. Resolution No. 006-12. 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 \$389.90.
- C. Resolution No. 007-12. 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 \$2,272.91.
- D. Resolution No. 008-12. 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 \$982.74.
- E. Voucher Approval - \$653,386.95

Public Works

Run-off Road/Intersection Safety Project

Public Works Director Pete Ringen provided a quarterly update on the run-off road safety project. Ringen reported they are making good progress with both consultants, Lodestone Engineering and Skillings-Connolly, having submitted their project plans. Ringen reminded the board that Lodestone Engineering is working on the guardrail project and Skillings-Connolly is working on reflective signage, the Beaver Creek Road project and channelization markings on Altoona-Pillar Rock Road. Ringen expects to put these projects out to bid this spring. Ringen also informed the board that these projects equal two-thirds of the grant and feels the county has an opportunity to add additional work. Ringen has been working with WSDOT Local Programs Manager Ken Hash to add to the scope of work for this grant as the county must expend all funds by the end of 2013. Commissioner Marsyla asked that Ringen review all costs from his office so the county gets their reimbursement from the grant funds.

East Valley Road

Public Works Director Ringen stated in 2009, 300 feet of East Valley Road settled at milepost 6.1. The site was determined to be eligible for FEMA funds. FEMA required a civil engineer be hired and Ringen contracted with Skillings-Connolly to develop the design of the road repair. One of the issues Ringen is concerned about is dealing with the traffic by the residents who live beyond this point. Options Ringen has considered are: Full road closures, having the residents leave a car on both sides of the closure; a partial staged construction with a 2.5 mile detour using an existing logging road; and a fully staged construction with limited partial road openings every day. Ringen reported the last option, a fully staged construction limiting partial road openings, would cost over \$130,000 and would extend the duration of the project and hinder the most efficient construction methods. Ringen stated by staging a segment of the excavation and providing a 2.5 mile detour on logging roads could save the county \$30,000 costing the county \$100,000. Ringen added, if the logging road option is the direction the county would like to take, then county forces could work on detour improvements.

Commissioner Brady suggested postponing the work and Ringen responded that option is not favorable as there are costs associated with stopping and re-starting a project; permits that would need to be renewed and updated. Ringen also stated it would be likely that the road would experience additional settlements which could be hazardous to the traveling public when they occur.

Andrew Emlen, one of the residents who lives beyond this site, stated he has a seasonal business and depends on the summer months for most of his income and the road closure could be detrimental to his business. Emlen listened to the alternatives and asked Ringen to keep him and the other residents informed.

Loop Road

Commissioner Brady informed Ringen he met with the Grays River Habitat Enhancement Group and asked them for their thoughts regarding the Grays River erosion problem at Loop Road. GRHEG informed Brady they have a project for chum channel already designed and is willing to work with Ringen. Ringen advised he will contact the group to learn more.

Fair

Commissioner Brady stated he has received 15 applications for fair board members. Brady asked Commissioner Lisa Marsyla to review the applications and to strike 3 candidates as the board consists of 12 members. Brady asked that this matter be postponed until Commissioner Cothren has a chance to review the applications.

Unfinished Business

The board approved an ad to be published in the local newspaper for interested persons wishing to serve as a commissioner on Diking District 5 board.

Recess/Reconvene

Vice Chairman Brady recessed the regular meeting at 10:17 a.m. Chairman Cothren reconvened the regular meeting at 1:05 p.m.

Work Session

Health and Human Services Transition

Present: Chairman Daniel Cothren, Commissioner Lisa Marsyla, Commissioner Blair Brady, Clerk of the Board Marsha LaFarge, HHS Deputy Director Chris Weiler, HHS Manager Chris Holmes, Public Health Nurse II Connie Davis, *Wahkiakum Eagle* Publisher Rick Nelson, Duncan Cruickshank and Michael Linn.

Commissioner Lisa Marsyla explained the purpose of the work session was to provide for interim leadership during the process of hiring a new director. Marsyla suggested the following: Public Health Nurse Connie Davis, who is also a nurse practitioner, has the knowledge and background to manage public health. She suggested increasing Davis to five days a week so she can handle these additional duties. Having HHS Manager Chris Holmes manage mental health and chemical dependency; and HHS Deputy Director Chris Weiler continue serving as deputy director and making the financial and administrative decisions. Marsyla agreed to meet and work with this group to help keep matters progressing. All three department heads would determine who would represent the county at Region 4 meetings.

HHS Deputy Director Chris Weiler stated his vision is to have one person in charge and spread out the responsibility to the existing staff. Weiler is afraid of having three different decisions where ultimately someone has to make a decision that will be the best for the county. Weiler feels having one person in charge will bring predictability and continuity for the staff. Weiler expressed his concerns with working with Region 4 and the possible funding stream changes at the state level. Commissioner Brady assured Weiler the county will have a full seat at the table and did not feel there will be a problem while the county searched for a new director. Commissioner Cothren agreed that this would not be an issue.

HHS Manager Chris Holmes agreed the county needs to be more involved with Region 4 because of the governance issues and would want the most knowledgeable person involved. Holmes stated Judy Bright has relied on her staff during her illness and trusted them to handle matters in their respective departments. Holmes encouraged the board to find someone with a flexible knowledge, strong leadership, team building, and someone who has the trust in our community. Holmes stated he did not have a problem with Marsyla's scenario.

Brady stated he would like to see the board formalize the director's job description and be prepared to start recruitment by next week. The commissioners agreed the county needs to bridge the next three months until a director is hired and felt the joining of the three department representatives would be an effective way to handle this.

It was M/S by Commissioners Marsyla and Brady to increase Public Health Nurse II Connie Davis hours to five days a week effective immediately and to review her job description. Carried.

The board asked the clerk to contact Region 4 directors for their input regarding the director's job description and asked Weiler, Holmes and Davis for any suggestions or recommended changes that they may have.

Other Business

Present: Chairman Daniel Cothren, Commissioner Lisa Marsyla, Commissioner Blair Brady, Clerk of the Board Marsha LaFarge, Prosecuting Attorney Daniel Bigelow, Tim Hanigan, and *Wahkiakum Eagle* Publisher Rick Nelson.

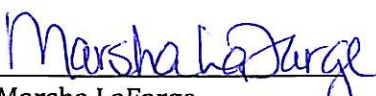
Hagen and Son Voucher


The board reviewed and considered the voucher submitted by Assessor Bill Coons for clerical and appraisal services he incurred between July 1 and December 31, 2011. Commissioners Marsyla and Cothren expressed their concern regarding the dates of the invoices and what services were actually performed. Marsyla questioned whether the clerical work performed met the statutory language under which the Assessor has authority to contract with an appraiser. Prosecuting Attorney Bigelow stated the statutory language allowing Coons to enter into a contract is loose and allows leeway in its interpretation. Marsyla also expressed her concern over the fact that the contract with Hagen was dated December 28, 2011, the day before Hagen become incorporated on December 29 and that the prosecuting attorney did not approve it as is required in Wahkiakum County Code 2.20.130. Attorney Tim Hanigan, representing the Assessor, stated the voucher is proper and should be paid.

It was M/S by Commissioners Brady and Cothren approving a voucher to Hagen and Son, LLC in the amount of \$7,720. Chair Cothren called for a vote and the motion passed 2 to 1 with Commissioner Marsyla dissenting.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Chairman Daniel L. Cothren adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Attest: 
Marsha LaFarge
Clerk of the Board

Approved: 
Daniel L. Cothren
Chairman of the Board