

Minutes
Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners
Regular Meeting
November 8, 2011

Call to Order

Chair Lisa M. Marsyla called the regular meeting of the Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners, on November 8, 2011, at 9:30 a.m. in the public meeting room of the Wahkiakum County Courthouse.

Present: Commissioner Lisa M. Marsyla, Commissioner Daniel L. Cothren, Clerk of the Board Marsha LaFarge, HHS Deputy Director Chris Weiler, Public Works Director Pete Ringen, Emergency Management Coordinator Beau Renfro, Assessor Bill Coons, Auditor Diane Tischer, and Prosecuting Attorney Dan Bigelow. Commissioner Blair Brady was excused.

Others Present: *Wahkiakum County Eagle* Publisher Rick Nelson, Al George, Frank Loomans, Maureen Zacher-Bockius, Mike Mouliot, Michael Linn, Nick Nikkila, Pat Dennis, and Art Hyland.

Flag Salute

Chair Marsyla led the flag salute.

Regular Meeting Agenda

It was M/S by Commissioners Cothren and Marsyla to approve the Regular Meeting Agenda for November 8, 2011. Carried.

Consent Agenda

It was M/S by Commissioners Cothren and Marsyla to approve the Consent Agenda for November 8, 2011. Carried. The Consent Agenda contained the following items:

- A. Minutes of October 25, 2011 and October 31, 2011.
- B. Resolution No. 152-11. 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 \$88.35.
- C. Voucher Approval - \$98,089.09

New Business

Agreement for Consultant Services

It was M/S by Commissioners Cothren and Marsyla approving the Agreement for Consultant Services between William J. Weiss and Wahkiakum County effective January 1, 2012 and terminating on December 31, 2012. Carried.

CRAB Ferry Funding

It was M/S by Commissioners Cothren and Marsyla authorizing the chair's signature on the Project Prospectus which will provide \$1 million in funding from the County Road Administration Board for the new ferry. Carried.

Risk Road

Public Works Director Pete Ringen announced that a local logging company plans to fall timber adjacent to Risk Road on November 16, 17 and 18 and has asked the county to close Risk Road on those days from milepost 1 to milepost 1.3 for safety reasons. It was M/S by Commissioners Cothren and Marsyla authorizing the closure of Risk Road on November 16 through November 18 from mp 1 to mp 1.3 for timber falling and authorizing the publication of a notice of road closure. Carried.

Health & Human ServicesDept. of Ecology Grant

It was M/S by Commissioners Cothren and Marsyla authorizing the chair's signature on the Washington Department of Ecology Grant Agreement #G1200182 with Wahkiakum County Health & Human Services effective January 1, 2012 and terminating on June 30, 2013. Carried. HHS Deputy Director Chris Weiler noted this grant is a renewal and covers the cost of solid waste investigations and enforcement by the county's environmental health specialist.

Medicaid Administrative Match Contract

It was M/S by Commissioners Cothren and Marsyla authorizing the chair's signature on the Medicaid Administrative Match Contract #1163-35274 between Washington State Health Care Authority and Wahkiakum County effective July 1, 2011 and terminating on September 30, 2014. Carried.

Other/Unfinished Business2012 Budget Issues

Assessor: Assessor Bill Coons requested the board allow him to use funds from the REET fund to fund an 89.5 hour a month employee. This employee will start loading parcel data into the assessor's computer program so he is able to move towards annual revaluations by January 1, 2014. Both Commissioners Marsyla and Cothren felt they were not in a position to make an informed decision on this matter and asked that it be placed on the December 6 agenda so they will have time to further research whether or not the REET fund can be used in this manner.

Weed Board: The board instructed Auditor Diane Tischer to take the labor line items for the weed manager and extra help back to the 2010 levels.

District Court: The board instructed Tischer to take the line items for the Judge Pro Tem and extra help back to the 2010 levels.

Law Library: Prosecuting Attorney Dan Bigelow stated he was able to renegotiate with Westlaw to reduce his law library expenses to \$8,000 for 2012. However, Bigelow warned the board if he is involved in another major lawsuit, like the biosolids or marbled murrelet issue, this expense will go over the \$8,000 budgeted.

Prosecuting Attorney: Bigelow and the board reviewed and reduced his expenses to the 2010 non-labor levels.

Chair Marsyla stated that after taking all of the departments back to their 2010 expenses, the county has a deficit of \$310,488. Marsyla stated she felt the county had three options to fund the shortfall: 1) A levy shift of funds from county roads; 2) Budget \$400,000 from the potential forest board money; however, there is no guarantee the county will receive the money; and 3) Raise property tax. Both commissioners stated they were not ready to raise property taxes at this time and in this economy.

It was M/S by Commissioners Cothren and Marsyla to shift \$300,000 from County Road Fund to current expense to cover the deficit in the 2012 annual budget. Carried. Marsyla stated if the county receives the anticipated forest board money, she would like to revisit the possibility of refunding some of these diverted funds back to the county road fund.

Congresswoman Beutler's Letter

Chair Marsyla announced the county received a copy of a letter that Congresswoman Jaime Herrera Beutler wrote to the Postmaster General in response to the county's letter asking for her support in keeping the Skamokawa post office open.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Chair Lisa M. Marsyla adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Attest: Marsha LaFarge
Marsha LaFarge
Clerk of the Board

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