



## Wahkiakum Board of County Commissioners

District No. 1 Commissioner: Lee Tischer

District No. 2 Commissioner: Daniel L. Cothren

District No. 3 Commissioner: Gene Strong, Chair

### MINUTES

#### Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners

#### Regular Meeting

January 25, 2022

Chair Gene Strong called the regular meeting of the Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners to order on January 25, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. in the third-floor public meeting room of the Wahkiakum County Courthouse located at 64 Main Street in Cathlamet, Washington.

Present: Chair Gene Strong, Commissioner Dan Cothren, Commissioner Lee Tischer, Clerk of the Board Beth Johnson, Public Works Director Chuck Beyer, IT Manager Josh Holt, Undersheriff Gary Howell, Auditor Nicci Bergseng.

#### Flag Salute

Chair Gene Strong led the flag salute.

#### Regular Meeting Agenda

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Cothren and Tischer approving the regular meeting agenda for January 25, 2022. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

#### Consent Agenda

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Tischer and Cothren approving the consent agenda for April 20, 2021 (with the removal of the excusal for Dan Cothren, as he was in attendance). Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved. The consent agenda contained the following items:

- ~~A. Excuse Commissioner Dan Cothren~~
- B. Regular Meeting Minutes of January 18, 2022
- C. Resolution No. 10-22 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 \$4,758.02
- D. Resolution No. 11-22 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 \$2,478.21
- E. Resolution No. 12-22 a resolution authorizing the expenditure of \$1,949.35 from the Contingent Liabilities Cumulative Reserve Fund for the payment of claims related to Long Term Care Insurance

- F. Resolution No. 13-22 a resolution authorizing the expenditure of \$6,302.46 from the Contingent Liabilities Cumulative Reserve Fund for payment of Workers Compensation Services
- G. Resolution No. 14-22 a resolution authorizing the expenditure of \$340.20 from the Contingent Liabilities Cumulative Reserve Fund for payment of claims related to medical expenses for a LEOFF member
- H. Resolution No. 15-22 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 \$15,492.83
- I. Resolution No. 16-22 a resolution authorizing the expenditure of \$500,000.00 from the Criminal Justice Cumulative Reserve Fund for transfer to the Current Expense Fund for payment of criminal justice expenses
- J. Resolution No. 17-22 a resolution authorizing the expenditure of \$15,000.00 from the Criminal Justice Cumulative Reserve Fund for transfer to the Drug Buy Fund for payment of criminal justice expenses
- K. Voucher Approval – 186,262.66
- L. Voucher Approval – Transfer Batch - \$500,000.00
- M. Voucher Approval – Transfer Batch - \$15,000.00

### **Public Comment**

Poul Toftemark, Commissioner for Grays River Habitat Enhancement District, advised that after 15 years of service on the board, he is retiring. He has found a candidate that is willing to serve on the board. The Board thanked Mr. Toftemark for his long service on the GRHED board.

An East Valley Road resident thanked the commissioners for their concern and their action last week regarding the flooding damages.

### **Public Works**

#### Update on East Valley Road

Chuck Beyer advised that the consensus from the meeting on Friday was to reconnect the creek to its original culvert.

### **IT Report**

Josh Holt, IT Manager, reviewed the status of recent IT projects. He discussed the new Avaya voicemail phone server and upgraded phone server. New Scale servers were purchased to replace our outdated servers. Holt then reviewed the phish training program that began in January 2021. The county's initial stats with the training program were poor, with a 34% failure rate. However, the county ended with a 9.5% failure rate, which exceeded expectations. The next goal is to get down to a 5% failure rate. Other topics reviewed were the pending Core switches which have been ordered and shipped and the topic of Windows 11.

### Public Comment (cont.)

Maury Mooers, Diking District No. 4 Commissioner, commented on the inability of the Diking District to raise enough funds for proper maintenance, since there is only about 300 acres left in the district. Emergency repairs were recently completed on the dike and the district does not appear to have enough funding in the budget to pay for all the needed repairs. Mr. Mooers advised that he personally would pay for the repairs on his stretch of property. Chuck Beyer, Public Works Director and de facto member of the Diking District, advised that an emergency repair was done, but the dike still needs to be repaired. The final repair will likely exceed the amount left in the Diking District Fund. The Board will revisit this topic in the future.

### Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Dan Cothren apologized to East Valley residents for not viewing the road damage sooner. Commissioner Lee Tischer discussed the Salmon recovery bill that is currently in the legislature; the bill is controversial and will require plantings along all rivers that are fish bearing. Furthermore, Tischer advised that the Long Term Care Tax will likely be delayed until July of 2023. Commissioner Gene Strong reviewed the status of the personnel transitions at Washington Counties Insurance Fund.

### Adjournment

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

Attest:

  
Elizabeth Johnson  
Clerk of the Board

Approved:

  
Gene Strong  
Chair of the Board