



## *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**

**February 22, 2022**

Chair Gene Strong called the regular meeting of the Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners to order on February 22, 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, Sheriff Mark Howie, Undersheriff Gary Howell, Auditor Nicci Bergseng, HHS Financial & Budget Manager Michelle Collupy, Elections Coordinator Kaelee Dearmore, Treasurer Tammy Peterson, Public Works Director Chuck Beyer.

#### **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 February 22, 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. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved. The consent agenda contained the following items:

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes of February 15, 2022
- B. Resolution No. 28-22 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 \$273.50
- C. Resolution No. 29-22 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 \$57.55
- D. Voucher Approval - \$48,886.73

## Public Comment

A Puget Island resident spoke in opposition to the potential Nuisance Solid Waste Ordinance revision.

A second Puget Island resident also spoke in opposition to the Nuisance Solid Waste Ordinance revision.

A Cathlamet resident spoke in opposition of general government overreach.

## New Business

### Liquor License Renewal

Logan Britt doing business as the Duck Inn has applied for a Liquor License Renewal permit. The Board unanimously had no objection to this license renewal.

### Appointment to the Johnson Park Board

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Tischer and Cothren to appoint Pam Hageman to the Johnson Park Board, effective through December 31, 2024. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

## Treasurer

### Resolution for Authorization of HVAC Loan Payoff

The total cost is \$631,41.87, which includes a fee of \$4,300.

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Cothren and Tischer to approve of Resolution No. 30-22 a resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Wahkiakum County to approve of early repayment of county indebtedness. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

## Auditor

### Request to Keep Auditor III / Payroll for Additional Two Months

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Tischer and Cothren to keep the Deputy Auditor III/Payroll on staff with a retirement date of May 31, 2022. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

### Order of Incorporation: Fire District No. 3 Annexation

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Cothren and Tischer to approve of the Order of Incorporation for Fire District No. 3 Annexation. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

## Commissioner Excusal

Commissioner Cothren left the room at 9:55 a.m.

## Public Works

Notice: Request for Proposals for Comprehensive Solid Waste and Moderate Hazardous Waste Mgmt. Plan  
The last plan was adopted around 2005. The county has received grant funding for the plan update.

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Tischer and Strong to issue a request for proposals to obtain consulting services for an update to the Comprehensive Solid and Moderate Hazardous Waste Management Plan. Vote: Aye – Strong and Tischer. Unanimously approved.

## Health & Human Services

Agreement with Coordinated Care for Rate Increase

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Tischer and Strong to approve of the Chair's signature on the Coordinated Care Letter Agreement. Vote: Aye – Strong and Tischer. Unanimously approved.

## Commissioner Reports

Commissioners Tischer and Strong gave their reports. Commissioner Tischer advised that the three counties of Wahkiakum, Cowlitz and Clark have agreed to forgo the grant funding the Epidemiologist position. He also reported that February 24 is the Point in Time program to count the homeless population. Commissioner Strong participated in the Birthday celebration for the Town of Cathlamet and the Canvassing Board.

## Recess / Reconvene

The Board recessed for ten minutes at 10:07 and reconvened at 10:17. Commissioner Cothren rejoined the meeting at this time.

## Workshop

### Compensation for County Commissioner Position

The Board discussed the compensation issues with the County Commissioner position. The responsibilities and time commitment for the position have increased over the years, however, the County Commissioner salary has not changed since approximately 2004. The current salary for the position is about \$33,500. County Commissioners cannot set their salary during their term in office; any increases approved would not go into effect until the next term for each seat. Following discussion, the Board was in favor of tying the Commissioner's salary to the Superior Court Judge's position, at 25% of the Superior Court Judge's salary.

## Adjournment

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Elizabeth Johnson  
Clerk of the Board

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Gene Strong  
Chair of the Board