



## Wahkiakum Board of County Commissioners

District No. 1 Commissioner: Lee Tischer, Chair

District No. 2 Commissioner: Daniel L. Cothren

District No. 3 Commissioner: Gene Strong

### MINUTES

#### Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners

#### Regular Meeting

April 4, 2023

Chair Lee Tischer called the regular meeting of the Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners to order on April 4, 2023, 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 Lee Tischer, Commissioner Gene Strong, Commissioner Dan Cothren, Clerk of the Board Beth Johnson, HHS Director Chris Bischoff, Building Inspector/Planner Dave Hicks, Auditor Nicci Bergsens, Treasurer Tammy Peterson, Sheriff Mark Howie, Undersheriff Gary Howell, Coalition Coordinator Minnette Smith.

#### Flag Salute

Chair Lee Tischer led the flag salute.

#### Regular Meeting Agenda

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Cothren and Strong approving the regular meeting agenda for April 4, 2023. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

#### Consent Agenda

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Strong and Cothren approving the consent agenda for April 4, 2023. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved. The consent agenda contained the following items:

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes of March 28, 2023
- B. Leave Share Request for up to 180 hours
- C. Resolution No. 49-23 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 \$2,379.01
- D. Resolution No. 50-23 a resolution authorizing the expenditure of \$164.90 from the Contingent Liabilities Cumulative Reserve Fund for the payment of claims related to medical expenses for a LEOFF member
- E. Resolution No. 51-23 a resolution authorizing the expenditure of funds from the Inter Local Cooperation Cumulative Reserve Fund for the payment of vouchers properly chargeable to said fund in the amount of \$2,499.85
- F. Resolution No. 52-23 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 \$119.98

### Public Comment

Ron Wright, adviser for the Wahkiakum Mecha Mules robotics team, commented that the SeaPerch qualifier tournament was recently hosted in Cathlamet. The Wahkiakum Mecha Mules won, with the Naselle robotics team taking second place. Both teams will head to Maryland for the final competition.

### New Business

#### Proclamation: Fair Housing Month

Debi Trull, Wahkiakum Realty West, discussed Fair Housing Month. It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Strong and Cothren to proclaim the month of April 2023 as Fair Housing Month. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

#### WSAC Special Assessment Supporting the National Center for Public Land Counties

The Washington State Association of Counties is requesting a one-time voluntary assessment of \$1,000 to support the National Center for Public Land Counties. Following discussion, The Board was in consensus to decline the voluntary assessment.

#### Designation of Associate Development Organization (ADO)

Every two years, the Department of Commerce requests the county to designate an ADO. Shannon Britt, Chamber President and Dan Lorenzen, Assistant Director, were present; they discussed the current status of the Chamber and requested to be designated ADO.

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Cothren and Strong to designate the Wahkiakum Chamber of Commerce as the Associate Development Organization for Wahkiakum County for the 2023-2025 biennium. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

#### Shoreline Master Program Update: Public Comment Summary / Dept. of Ecology's Public Comment Period

The WA State Department of Ecology held a public comment period for the Locally Approved SMP from January 23 through February 23, 2023. Eight parties responded to the comment period, including two organizations. Chuck Hendrickson and Nick Nikkila, members of the Real Property Rights Advisory Board, prepared the response to the public comments and are seeking the Board's approval to submit it to Ecology.

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Strong and Cothren to authorize that the Public Comment Summary for the Locally Approved SMP be submitted to the Department of Ecology as presented. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved. The Board spoke in appreciation of the work by Nikkila and Hendrickson.

### Building & Planning

#### Change of Use Shoreline Permit: Peterson Alternative Fishing Gear – From Research to Commercial

This Shoreline Permit is for a change of use from research to test commercial; permit number 2023-2003. The Wahkiakum Planning Commission recommends approval of the permit. The applicant, Blair Peterson, discussed the permit; the purpose of the permit is to test to determine if the fishery is feasible for commercial uses.

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Strong and Cothren to approve of the permit for the Peterson Alternative Fishing Gear, Change of Use from Research to (test) Commercial. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

### **Superior Court**

#### Increase Part-Time Hours

Kay Holland, Clerk, requested to increase the part-time hours from 20 hours per month to 60 hours per month, resulting in an increase of \$8,200 for the year. It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Cothren and Strong to approve of the Clerk's request to increase the part-time employee to 60 hours per month. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

### **Fair Board**

#### Electrical Installation at the Fairgrounds Park

The fair requested county funds to pay for the costs to add power to the fairgrounds park to provide more options for RV use. The estimate from the PUD is \$2,441.54, all excavation would be done by volunteers and any further electrical costs would be paid for by the fair.

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Strong and Cothren to approve of the estimate from the Wahkiakum PUD (\$2,441.54), with the funding coming from the County Properties Fund. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

#### Horse Barn Concrete

The Fair received a grant of \$10,350 to complete the final row of concrete in the horse barn, however, the sole quote that was received is for \$18,614.80. The fair requested that the county pay for the difference of \$8,264.80.

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Cothren and Strong to approve the bid from BTN Homes, LLC for the horse barn concrete project with the balance (\$8,264.80) being paid by the county, from the County Properties Fund. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

### **Board of Health**

Chris Bischoff, HHS Director, and Minette Smith, Coalition Coordinator, provided updates on several public health topics. There will be a free used tire take-back event scheduled in September at the fairgrounds. Smith discussed the Wahkiakum Community Network (WCN) which provides prevention services for youth. Other topics included the Guiding Good Choices parenting class, youth mentoring program, quarterly community resources events and the medication take-back box which is located at the pharmacy.

## Bid Opening

### Landscape Maintenance

The Clerk of the Board opened and read aloud the sole bid that was received. The bid was from Elochoman Valley Partners, and it included a price of \$323.40 each time for the regular landscape maintenance of all sites, \$700.70 for the special landscape work for all applicable sites and an hourly emergency call-in charge of \$26.95.

### Inmate Communications System

The Clerk of the Board opened and read aloud the sole bid that was received. The bidder complied with all line items on the proposal.

## Commissioner Reports

The Board provided their weekly updates; topics discussed included the status of the Encumbered Lands funding in the legislature, as well as regional road repairs this summer.

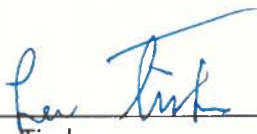
## Public Comments

Two comments were heard regarding the Peterson Change of Use permit and fisheries management.

## Adjournment

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

Attest:   
Elizabeth Johnson  
Clerk of the Board

Approved:   
Lee Tischer  
Chair of the Board