

Wahkiakum Board of County Commissioners

District No. 1 Commissioner: Mike Backman

District No. 2 Commissioner: Daniel L. Cothren, Chair

District No. 3 Commissioner: Gene Strong

MINUTES

Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners

Regular Meeting

April 14, 2020

Chair Dan Cothren called the regular meeting of the Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners to order on April 14, 2020, 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 Dan Cothren, Commissioner Mike Backman, Commissioner Gene Strong (remotely), Clerk of the Board Beth Johnson.

Flag Salute

Chair Dan Cothren led the flag salute.

Regular Meeting Agenda

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Backman and Strong approving the regular meeting agenda for April 14, 2020. Vote: Aye – Strong, Backman and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Consent Agenda

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Backman and Strong approving the consent agenda for April 14, 2020. Vote: Aye – Strong, Backman and Cothren. Unanimously approved. The consent agenda contained the following items:

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes of April 7, 2020
- B. Resolution No. 47-20 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 \$169.16
- C. Voucher Approval - \$ 42,106.79

Public Comment

Chuck Beyer, Public Works Director, advised that the Public Works Department will be requesting to close Steamboat Slough Road effective April 27 to May 18th for paving work and signage installation. The resolution will come next week for approval. In addition, Beyer reported that the Washington State Department of Natural Resources coordinated a regional burn ban for several Southwest Washington counties until April 21st.

Department of Natural Resources
Timber Update

Padraic Callahan, DNR District Manager, provided an update on current and future timber harvests. The 2020 Powder House Sorts sale was originally estimated at approximately \$1M, however, the sale is over halfway completed and the current estimated revenue to the county is \$1.3M. These sorts are under contract, so the prices should not change.

Due to COVID, mills are full of inventory and demand is not keeping up with the supply. Mills are curtailing operations due to social distancing and other factors.

The 2021 Irish Coffee Sorts sale has a conservative estimate of just shy of \$900,000 in revenue to the county. While the 2022 Elochomotive Sorts sale is estimated at about \$1.3M.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Mike Backman advised that he had talked with Kessina Lee, WDFW Regional Director, regarding the reopening of fishing and hunting seasons. Backman then discussed the food bank at Johnson Park; stating that commodities are still going only to the east end food bank. He requested that CAP take some commodities to the west end food bank as well. Commissioner Strong will contact CAP regarding this; Strong has been in contact with Food Lifeline, as well. Lastly, Backman reported on the Weed Board meeting where they discussed beginning to focus on the milfoil project.

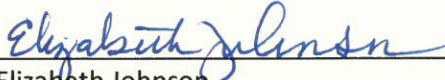
Commissioner Gene Strong reported on attending several COVID update remote meetings. Strong also commented on the burn ban that was just issued.

Commissioner Dan Cothren reported working on Fish and Wildlife issues as well as working on scheduling the next Encumbered Lands remote meeting. In addition, he advised that the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board requested a letter of support for the county for their grant application regarding fish habitat improvement.

The Board then discussed the detrimental effects of closing the construction industry and agreed to prepare a letter to send to the Governor, requesting him to open the construction field.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the board, Chair Dan Cothren adjourned the meeting.

Attest: 
Elizabeth Johnson
Clerk of the Board

Approved: 
Daniel L. Cothren
Chair of the Board