



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 21, 2020

Chair Dan Cothren called the regular meeting of the Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners to order on April 21, 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 via phone, 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 21, 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 21, 2020. Vote: Aye – Strong, Backman and Cothren. Unanimously approved. The consent agenda contained the following items:

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2020
- B. Resolution No. 48-20 a resolution authorizing the expenditure of funds to the County Properties Cumulative Reserve Fund for the payment of vouchers properly chargeable to said fund in the amount of \$975.72
- C. Resolution No. 49-20 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 \$3,763.55
- D. Voucher Approval - \$ 75,935.43

New Business

Support Letter for Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Backman and Strong to approve of the letter supporting the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (for grant proposal to the Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative). Vote: Aye – Strong, Backman and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Letter to Governor Inslee Requesting Re-Classification of Construction as Essential

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Strong and Backman to approve of the letter to Governor Inslee, (requesting to list construction as an essential service during the pandemic). Vote: Aye – Strong, Backman and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Public Works

Resolution Authorizing Closure of Steamboat Slough Road

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Backman and Strong to approve of Resolution No. 50-20 a resolution closing Steamboat Slough County Road (from April 27, 2020 to May 18, 2020). Vote: Aye – Strong, Backman and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Landscape Maintenance Contract

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Backman and Strong to enter into a Landscape Maintenance Contract for 2020 and 2021 with Elochoman Valley Partners, LLC. Vote: Aye – Strong, Backman and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Sheriff's Office

Revised Interlocal Agreement to Provide Shared 911 Equipment and Services

This contract was originally signed by the Board of County Commissioners on March 10, 2020; however, it required a few minor changes and correction of scrivener's errors.

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Strong and Backman to approve of the final version of the Interlocal Agreement to provide shared 911 equipment and services. Vote: Aye – Strong, Backman and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

District & Superior Courts

Memorandum of Understanding for Temporary Staff Reassignments

To avoid cross-contamination between Superior and District Court staffs and meet workload requirements in both courts, it was necessary for the shared Clerk to work only in District Court and to reassign the District Court Chief Clerk to Superior Court.

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Backman and Strong to approve of the Memorandum of Understanding between Wahkiakum County and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees regarding temporary staff reassignments in Superior Court and District Court in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Vote: Aye – Strong, Backman and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Gene Strong reported on responding to many citizen calls regarding COVID; many of which were regarding construction and landscaping being closed. Strong also has continued working with CAP and the Seattle based Food Bank Lifeline to get more food and supplies for the Johnson Park Food Bank. In addition, he participated in several COVID related webinars and updates.

Commissioner Mike Backman has been working with WorkForce to be prepared for the next step to get Wahkiakum County residents back to work. Loans for small business were discussed at the Chamber meeting; our county was fortunate in that everyone that applied was able to move forward in the process, unlike in larger counties. Lastly, Backman reported on working on obtaining better internet capabilities for the community.

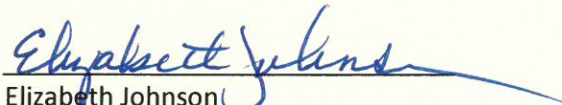
Commissioner Dan Cothren discussed a message from the Columbia Land Trust; they are working in conjunction with the Cowlitz Tribe to purchase a tract of land over 1,000 acres in the West Fork area.

The Board then discussed Cowlitz County's proposed resolution requesting that the Governor begin re-opening certain things that his emergency proclamations have closed. Commissioner Strong will work with the Sheriff and HHS Director to draft a similar item for the Board to consider next week.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Attest:


Elizabeth Johnson
Clerk of the Board

Approved:


Daniel L. Cothren
Chair of the Board