



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

September 22, 2020

Chair Dan Cothren called the regular meeting of the Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners to order on September 22, 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, Clerk of the Board Beth Johnson, HHS Director Chris Bischoff, Public Works Director Chuck Beyer, Sheriff Mark Howie.

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 September 22, 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 September 22, 2020. Vote: Aye – Strong, Backman and Cothren. Unanimously approved. The consent agenda contained the following items:

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes of September 22, 2020
- B. Resolution No. 119-20 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 \$1,144.46
- C. Resolution No. 120-20 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 \$14,879.69
- D. Voucher Approval - \$ 74,576.30

New Business

Local Coronavirus Relief Grant Contract Amendment

This amendment increases funding by up to \$64,250.00 through November 30, 2020. It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Strong and Backman to approve of the Chair's signature on Amendment A to the Coronavirus Relief Fund for Local Governments, Contract #20-6541C-035. Vote: Aye – Strong, Backman and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Recommendation to the Great Rivers Behavioral Health Advisory Board

Sandi Benbrook-Rider has served for a long time on the Great Rivers Behavioral Health Advisory Board; however, she has requested to step down from her position this fall. Sandi and the Health and Human Services Department recommend Alexandra Augustine to fill her position on the Board. It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Strong and Backman to approve of the letter recommending that Alexandra Augustine take Sandi Benbrook-Rider's place on the Great Rivers Behavioral Health Advisory Board. Vote: Aye – Strong, Backman and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Public Works

Bid Acceptance for Columbia Overlay Project

Three bids were received for the Columbia Street Overlay project. The bids were all a minimum of \$70,000 over the consulting engineer's estimate; they are recommending to not award the bid contract at this time. Paul Lacy, Wahkiakum County Engineer, advised that the contract will be amended, with county crews completing some of the work, and the revised bid specs will be sent out again in the spring. No action taken.

Department of Enterprise Services Interagency Amendment – State of Washington Energy Program

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Strong and Backman to approve of the Interagency Amendment for the Courthouse HVAC System and Controls Improvement Project outlined in the Willdan Abacus Energy Services Proposal. Vote: Aye – Strong, Backman and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Commissioner Reports

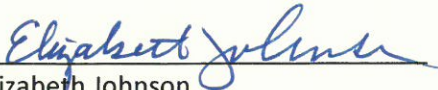
Commissioner Gene Strong participated in the Legislative Steering Committee meeting, where they are developing their legislative priorities for 2021, as well as discussing how remote testifying will be conducted this year. Strong also reported on the Washington State Association of Counties meeting where discussion included the CARES Act funding changes.


Commissioner Mike Backman continued to work on food bank issues; this included attempting to acquire supplemental food for the food banks, as well as working towards acquiring two food coolers, one for each end of the county. Backman also discussed his work regarding economic development and economic recovery.

Commissioner Dan Cothren viewed the county's 2021 timber sale in the field. Cothren advised that the Timber Excise Tax should be increasing for fourth quarter as harvests are occurring. He also reported on working with the Department of Natural Resources to find ways to supplement the 2021 harvest, which is anticipated to be below \$1M. The Board then discussed the risks and hazards of wildfires within the county.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the board, Chair Dan Cothren adjourned the meeting at 10:07 a.m.

Attest: 
Elizabeth Johnson
Clerk of the Board

Approved: 
Daniel L. Cothren
Chair of the Board