



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

January 16, 2024

Chair Gene Strong called the regular meeting of the Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners to order on January 16, 2024, 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 Lee Tischer, Commissioner Dan Cothren, Clerk of the Board Beth Johnson, HHS Operations Manager Duncan Cruickshank, Undersheriff Gary Howell, Sheriff Mark Howie, Sgt. John Mason, Auditor Nicci Bergseng.

Flag Salute

Chair Gene Strong led the flag salute.

Regular Meeting Agenda

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Dan Cothren and Lee Tischer approving the regular meeting agenda for January 16, 2024. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Consent Agenda

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Lee Tischer and Dan Cothren approving the consent agenda for January 16, 2024. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved. The consent agenda contained the following items:

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2024
- B. Resolution No. 04-24 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 \$9,652.68
- C. Resolution No. 05-24 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 \$4,944.11
- D. Resolution No. 06-24 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 \$9,693.74
- E. Voucher Approval - \$186,047.63
- F. Voucher Approval / Transfer Batch - \$15,985.11
- G. Voucher Approval / Transfer Batch - \$87,015.60

- H. Voucher Approval / Transfer Batch - \$3,628.50
- I. Voucher Approval / Transfer Batch - \$12,792.00
- J. Voucher Approval / Transfer Batch - \$35,933.32

Public Comment

Cathlamet Mayor Dave Olson commented that local legislators have introduced bills to create a State Parks Heritage Site at the Julia Butler Hanson House. The legislation initially proposed the use of the county owned Johnson House to help facilitate a visitor center, however, Mayor Olson spoke in support of the Johnson House being a separate issue, with the initial focus and funding to be on preserving the Butler house.

Karen Bertoch also spoke in support of preserving the Julia Butler Hanson House. In addition, she spoke in appreciation of the PUD crews during the recent extreme weather event.

New Business

Re-appointment to the Wahkiakum County Planning Commission

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Dan Cothren and Lee Tischer to reappoint Scott Anderson to the Wahkiakum County Planning Commission for a new four-year term, effective January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2027. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Annual Contract for Technical Assistance with the Chamber of Commerce

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Lee Tischer and Dan Cothren to approve of the 2024 Annual Contract for Technical Assistance with the Wahkiakum County Chamber of Commerce. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Lease Agreement for the Clinic Building with the Cowlitz Family Health Center

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Lee Tischer and Dan Cothren to approve of the Lease Agreement with the Cowlitz Family Health Center for the clinic building, effective January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2025, with a monthly rental amount of \$200.00. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Sheriff's Office

Request to Solicit Public Proposals to Upgrade the Wahkiakum County Emergency Responder Radio System

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Dan Cothren and Lee Tischer to approve of the publication of the Request for Proposals packet in an effort to collect proposals to upgrade the Wahkiakum County Emergency Responder Radio System and infrastructure. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Health & Human Services

Contract - Washington State Health Care Authority / Criminal Justice Treatment Account


It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Dan Cothren and Lee Tischer to approve of the Chair's signature on the Health Care Authority, Criminal Justice Treatment Account contract K7107 allowing for up to \$148,384 in expense reimbursement over the next two years. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Commissioner Reports

The Board reviewed their work over the past week. Sheriff Howie Spoke in opposition to recently proposed legislation regarding county sheriffs.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Attest: 

Dianna Adsero
Acting Clerk of the Board

Approved: 

Gene Strong
Chair of the Board