



Wahkiakum Board of County Commissioners

District No. 1 Commissioner: Lee Tischer

District No. 2 Commissioner: Daniel L. Cothren

District No. 3 Commissioner: Mark Letham

MINUTES

Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners

Regular Meeting

February 3, 2026

Chair Dan Cothren called the regular meeting of the Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners to order on February 3, 2026, 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 Mark Letham, Commissioner Lee Tischer, Clerk of the Board Beth Johnson. Sheriff John Mason, Undersheriff Gary Howell, Auditor Nicci Bergseng, Treasurer Tammy Peterson, Deputy Treasurer Marissa Longtain, Assessor Drew Jenkins, DEM Coordinator Austin Smith, Public Works Director Chuck Beyer, Healthy Communities Specialist Minnette Smith, Public Health Nurse Stacy Wynn, Fairgrounds Manager Patty Dursteler.

Flag Salute

Chair Dan Cothren led the flag salute.

Regular Meeting Agenda

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Letham and Tischer approving the regular meeting agenda for February 3, 2026, with moving up the Board of Health topic. Vote: Aye – Tischer, Letham and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Consent Agenda

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Tischer and Cothren approving the consent agenda for February 3, 2026. Vote: Aye – Tischer, Letham and Cothren. Unanimously approved. The consent agenda contained the following items:

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2026
- B. Resolution No. 21-26 a resolution authorizing the expenditure of funds from the County Properties Cumulative Reserve Fund for the payment of vouchers chargeable to said fund in the amount of \$229.30
- C. Voucher Approval - \$98,851.22
- D. Holiday Closure: President's Day – Monday, February 16, 2026

Public Comment

A Grays River resident commented on his concerns regarding the Grays River Flood Control District, including concerns that the district tried to assume authority that was not theirs and concerns about improperly assessed properties.

Dan Turner, Cathlamet Library, commented on library programs.

Board of Health

Chris Bischoff, HHS Director, advised that Community Health Advocates (CHA) are high school students that are employed to provide an informal peer network. Several of the Community Health Advocates were present to discuss their new campaign called 'Find Your Good February'.

New Business

Agreement with the Town of Cathlamet for the Swimming Pool

The 2026 agreement provides up to \$25,000 in matching funding for operation costs for the swimming pool. It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Tischer and Letham to approve of Resolution No. 22-26 a resolution adopting the Cooperative Funding Agreement with the Town of Cathlamet to assist the town in operating and maintaining the Julia Butler Hansen Swimming Pool in 2026. Vote: Aye – Tischer, Letham and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Agreement with the Town of Cathlamet for the Library

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Letham and Tischer to approve Resolution No. 23-26 a resolution authorizing an Interlocal Agreement between Wahkiakum County and the Town of Cathlamet for funding to assist the library. Vote: Aye – Tischer, Letham and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Fair Board

Grant Agreement with the WA State Department of Ag. Fairs Program – Youth Building Doors & Arena Groomer

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Tischer and Letham to approve of the two grant agreements with the Washington State Department of Agriculture Fairs Program, K6438 and K6439. Vote: Aye – Tischer, Letham and Cothren. Unanimously approved. The Board advised that the Fair would need to have adequate funding to pay first for these reimbursable grants.

Treasurer

Report of Annual Tax Refunds Paid

Tammy Peterson, Treasurer, and Marissa Longtain, Chief Deputy Treasurer, presented the annual report of tax refunds paid. Per RCW 84.69.020, the county Treasurer shall provide a report to the county legislative authority of all refunds made during the previous year. The total amount of refunds was \$7,128.32.

Auditor

Contract with TDJ CPA, Inc. for CPA Services

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Tischer and Letham to approve of the engagement letter between Wahkiakum County and Teresa Johnson CPA for assistance and preparation of the 2025 annual report. Vote: Aye – Tischer, Letham and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Public Works

Acceptance of 2026 Rock Products Quotes

Quotes for rock products were received from Naselle Rock & Asphalt and from Burns Construction.

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Letham and Tischer to accept both of the 2026 rock products quotes. Vote: Aye – Tischer, Letham and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Acceptance of 2026 Asphalt Products Quotes

Quotes for asphalt products were received from Naselle Rock & Asphalt and from Lakeside Industries.

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Letham and Tischer to accept both of the 2026 asphalt product quotes. Vote: Aye – Tischer, Letham and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Grays River Covered Bridge Sign Replacement

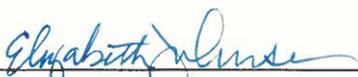
The Grays River Grange is trying to raise funding for the sign project and Auditor Nicci Bergseng advised that the Tourism Fund can also be used for the sign expenses. The sign is expected to cost roughly \$2,500, plus additional costs for the posts and the lighting. Following discussion, the Board requested firmer cost estimates and will continue moving forward with the project.

Commissioner Reports

The Board discussed their work over the past week. Topics included the hiring of a new Noxious Weed Control Manager, the legislative Session and several pending bills, the first Common Ground meeting and the future timber sales.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Attest: 
Elizabeth Johnson
Clerk of the Board

Approved: 
Daniel L. Cothren
Chair of the Board