



Wahkiakum Board of County Commissioners

District No. 1 Commissioner: Lee Tischer

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

District No. 3 Commissioner: Mark Letham

MINUTES

Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners

Regular Meeting

February 10, 2026

Chair Dan Cothren called the regular meeting of the Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners to order on February 10, 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, DEM Coordinator Austin Smith, Emergency Technology Coordinator Beau Renfro, Deputy Treasurer Marissa Longtain, Auditor Nicci Bergseng.

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 10, 2026. Vote: Aye – Tischer, Letham and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Consent Agenda

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Letham and Tischer approving the consent agenda for February 10, 2026. Vote: Aye – Tischer, Letham and Cothren. Unanimously approved. The consent agenda contained the following items:

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes of February 3, 2026
- B. Resolution No. 24-26 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 \$1,170.87
- C. Resolution No. 25-26 a resolution authorizing the expenditure of \$202.90 from the Contingent Liabilities Cumulative Reserve Fund for the payment of claims related to medical expenses for a LEOFF member
- D. Resolution No. 26-26 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 \$15,536.99
- E. Resolution No. 27-26 a resolution authorizing the expenditure of funds from the Public Works Cumulative Reserve Fund for transfer to the Wahkiakum Solid Waste Fund in the amount of \$60,000.00

- F. Voucher Approval - \$895,331.93
- G. Voucher Approval – Transfer Batch - \$60,000.00
- H. Voucher Approval – Transfer Batch - \$40,000.00

Public Comment

A Grays River resident requested to make a public comment later in the meeting.

Nicci Bergseng, Auditor, advised that today is the February special election; she commented on the current collection status and election procedures.

Dan Turner, Cathlamet Library, commented on library programs.

A Puget Island resident commented on assessment procedures.

New Business

Grays River Flood Control District

Judy Johnson, Director from the Grays River Flood Control District (GRFCD), spoke on issues brought up in a public comment at the prior County Commissioner meeting; she advised that the GRFCD collectively disagrees with the complaints that were stated.

Johnson discussed the purpose of the district and that they are elected volunteers. She reviewed the assessment levels within the district and commented on some of the recent expenditures of the district, which may include emergency expenses and helping with tide gates, dike breaches and culvert collapses.

The district's priorities are to rectify the issues with the current base map, which they have been doing over the past several years. There were a dozen parcels outside of the district that were being inadvertently assessed; they were offered refunds. In addition, there were about 50 parcels inside the district that were not assessed; those have now all been added. However, there are still some parcels that are split and they are still working on solving that issue. Johnson also discussed the procedures for a landowner to opt out of the district.

The Board then heard public comments regarding this issue:

Jon Thompson, Grays River, commented that there are still multiple parcels that are being assessed improperly. Some of his further comments included that the GRFCD meeting minutes are not accurate, that property owners upstream are paying for repairs downstream and that the district does not own any of the flood control facilities and he questions if the funds can be spent in the manner that they are now.

Jo Schnotala, Grays River, commented that the Flood Control District is now taxing full parcels, which she thinks is an illegal practice. She questions what the Flood Control District is doing for them as their property still floods.

Carol Larson, Grays River, commented on the goals of the GRFCD and spoke in support of the work of the current board.

Chair Dan Cothren advised that the county Prosecuting Attorney will be reviewing the issues.

IT Committee

More Power Quotes for the Four VLAN Project Segments

This project is broken up into four milestones, with the grand total for all four segments being \$16,655.10.

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Tischer and Letham to approve of the four project segments (for the VLAN project) to be paid out of the Electronic Communications Cumulative Reserve Fund. Vote: Aye – Tischer, Letham and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Sheriff

Agreement for the Update of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Letham and Tischer to approve of the acceptance of the Incident Management Partners quote for updating the Wahkiakum County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan in the amount of \$7,500.00. Vote: Aye – Tischer, Letham and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

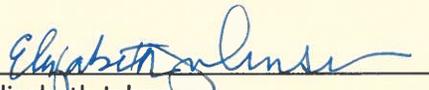
Commissioner Reports

The Board discussed their work over the past week. Topics included the error in the state fuel tax distribution; counties will receive a partial refund for this. In addition, a \$500,000 Congressional appropriation was recently awarded for the Upper Grays River Community Forest.

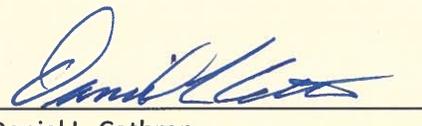
Adjournment

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Attest:


Elizabeth Johnson
Clerk of the Board

Approved:


Daniel L. Cothren
Chair of the Board