



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 24, 2026

Chair Dan Cothren called the regular meeting of the Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners to order on February 24, 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. Assessor Andrew Jenkins, Deputy Treasurer Marissa Longtain, DEM Coordinator Austin Smith, HHS Operations Manager Duncan Cruickshank, County Engineer Paul Lacy, Public Works Director Chuck Beyer.

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 24, 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 24, 2026. Vote: Aye – Tischer, Letham and Cothren. Unanimously approved. The consent agenda contained the following items:

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes of February 17, 2026
- B. Resolution No. 30-26 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 \$47.30
- C. Resolution No. 31-26 a resolution authorizing the expenditure of \$529.90 from the Continent Liabilities Cumulative Reserve Fund for payment of claims related to medical expenses for a LEOFF member
- D. Resolution No. 32-26 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 \$880.00
- E. Resolution No. 33-26 a resolution authorizing the expenditure of funds from the Criminal Justice Cumulative Reserve Fund for transfer to the Current Expense Fund and for payment of criminal justice expenses, in the amount of \$800,000.00

- F. Voucher Approval - \$51,310.55
- G. Voucher Approval – Transfer Batch - \$800,000.00

Public Comment

Kay Walters, Fair Foundation member, commented on the Fair Foundation’s successful dinner fundraiser.

Treasurer

Resolution Authorizing an Interlocal Agreement with Fire District No. 3 for a Loan

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Tischer and Cothren to adopt Resolution No. 34 -26, a resolution authorizing the execution of an Interlocal Governmental Agreement between Wahkiakum County and Fire District No. 3 of Wahkiakum County for the purpose of borrowing funds. Vote: Aye – Tischer and Cothren; Commissioner Letham recused himself from the vote. Motion passes.

Public Works

Certification of County Road Levy to the County Road Administration Board (CRAB)

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Letham and Tischer to authorize the Chair’s signature on the County Road Levy Certification to the County Road Administration Board for 2026. Vote: Aye – Tischer, Letham and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Sheriff

Personal Services Agreement with Incident Management Partners, LLC for update of CEMP

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Tischer and Letham to approve of the Personal Services Agreement between Wahkiakum County and Incident Management Partners, LLC for the update of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. Vote: Aye – Tischer, Letham and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Health & Human Services

Laboratory Services Agreement with Millenium Health, LLC

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Tischer and Letham to approve of the Laboratory Services Agreement with Millenium Health, LLC. Vote: Aye – Tischer, Letham and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Commissioners

Animal Service Agreement with Wahkiakum Animal Advocates Group (WAAG)

Amy Coleman, WAAG President, and Jenny Martin, Vice President, were present to provide an update. The year 2025 was their busiest year yet, with 360 calls from the community: an increase of 50% from 2024. In addition, 16 calls were received from the Sheriff’s Office last year, a 33% increase. WAAG acquired 28 animals from the Sheriff’s Office last year, only 6 of which required holds; the rest required long-term foster homes and adoption services. This was a 367% increase from 2024.

Other topics of discussion included pet food donations, financial aid program for spay, neuter and medical assistance and the trap-neuter-release program. Overall, demand for animal welfare services in the county is increasing rapidly. To continue serving the community, in 2026 WAAG will shift towards more preventative focused programs, such as financial aid for spays and neuters, the trap-neuter-return program and community education.

A Cathlamet resident spoke in support of WAAG and commented on the increasing number of abandoned animals in the county over the years.

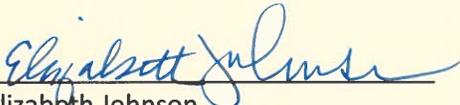
It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Tischer and Letham to approve of the Chair's signature on the Animal Service Agreement with the Wahkiakum Animal Advocates Group, that provides \$2,000 in funding in 2026. Vote: Aye – Tischer, Letham and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Commissioner Reports

The Board provided their weekly reports. Commissioner Tischer provided updates on the legislative session and the status of pending bills. He also commented on the Town of Cathlamet's new stormwater treatment charges. Following discussion, Commissioner Mark Letham will now serve as the liaison to the Johnson Park Board. Commissioner Cothren discussed the upcoming Board of Natural Resources meeting where Wahkiakum County's timber sale will be on the agenda, and he has registered to provide testimony at the meeting. Cothren continued to discuss timber related issues.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

Attest: 
Elizabeth Johnson
Clerk of the Board

Approved: 
Daniel L. Cothren
Chair of the Board