



Wahkiakum Board of County Commissioners

District No. 1 Commissioner: Lee Tischer, Chair

District No. 2 Commissioner: Daniel L. Cothren

District No. 3 Commissioner: Gene Strong

MINUTES Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners Regular Meeting March 14, 2023

Chair Lee Tischer called the regular meeting of the Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners to order on March 14, 2023, 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 Lee Tischer, Commissioner Gene Strong, Commissioner Dan Cothren, Clerk of the Board Beth Johnson, Public Works Director Chuck Beyer, Building Inspector/Planner Dave Hicks, Undersheriff Gary Howell, Auditor Nicci Bergseng, Treasurer Tammy Peterson.

Flag Salute

Chair Lee Tischer led the flag salute.

Regular Meeting Agenda

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Cothren and Tischer approving the regular meeting agenda for March 14, 2023. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Consent Agenda

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Strong and Cothren approving the consent agenda for March 14, 2023. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved. The consent agenda contained the following items:

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes of March 7, 2023
- B. Resolution No. 37-23 a resolution authorizing the expenditure of \$1,957.06 from the Contingent Liabilities Cumulative Reserve Fund for payment of accumulated annual leave to Katya Peterson and for payment of county share of FICA/Medicare
- C. Resolution No. 38-23 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 \$2,379.01
- D. Resolution No. 39-23 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 \$1,044.27
- E. Resolution No. 40-23 a resolution authorizing the expenditure of \$164.90 from the Contingent Liabilities Cumulative Reserve Fund for the payment of claims related to medical expenses for a LEOFF member

- F. Resolution No. 41-23 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 \$13,522.94
- G. Voucher Approval - \$888,459.37

Public Comment

A Columbia Street resident commented on increased traffic and speed on Columbia Street. He supported speed humps, flashing speed signs and increased patrol presence.

A second Columbia Street resident also commented on the safety issues on Columbia Street including the increased traffic since the speed was decreased on SR-4. He requested a traffic camera in the area.

Building & Planning

Final Approval of Sunnyfield Heights Subdivision

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Strong and Cothren to approve of the final Sunnyfield Heights Subdivision as submitted on the final as built. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Public Works

Call for Bids for Landscape Maintenance of County Owned Properties

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Cothren and Strong to approve of the call for bids for landscape maintenance services for 2023 through March 31, 2025. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Auditor / Payroll

Budget Amendment for Hiring of GIS Tech/Cartographer I

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Strong and Cothren to approve of the use of funds from GIS Analyst / Cartographer II for GIS Tech/Cartographer I. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Department of Natural Resources Timber Report

Padraic Callahan, St. Helens District Manager and Steve Ogden, Assistant Regional Manager, were in attendance to provide a timber report.

The Fir Real Sorts 2023 sale is conservatively expected to generate approximately \$1.191M for the county. There are two smaller lump sales for this year, as well. The Green Thomas sale is almost complete and should provide a total of approx. \$109,000. The Unibrow Sale has just become active and will provide approximately \$372,000 to the county. Total timber revenues for 2023 will be approximately \$1.672M for the county.

The 2024 Pollo Locho Sorts sale is estimated to be approximately \$1.5M and there is another small lump sale that might be available next year. The 2025 sale, Ten Fir Sorts, is located in Skamokawa and there is not yet an estimate on it. New roads will need to be constructed and some rock material will be reutilized from a nearby abandoned road.

The markets appear to be softening, but the hope is that there will not be a large fall in the market as housing is still in need. Some mills are operating on a daily quota as they are getting full, however, sales still appear to be holding. Staffing levels at the DNR are returning to normal.

Commissioner Reports

The Board provided their weekly reports.

Work Session Shoreline Master Program Administrator

The Board discussed options and issues with potentially contracting out the Shoreline Administrator duties versus a county employee performing the work. No decisions were made at this time, discussions will continue at a later date.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Attest: 
Elizabeth Johnson
Clerk of the Board

Approved: 
Lee Tischer
Chair of the Board