



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 28, 2023

Chair Lee Tischer called the regular meeting of the Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners to order on March 28, 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, Sheriff's IT/DEM Beau Renfro, HHS Budget/Finance Manager Michelle Collupy, Public Works Director Chuck Beyer, Sheriff Mark Howie, Undersheriff Gary Howell, Auditor Nicci Bergseng, Treasurer Tammy Peterson, HHS operations Manager Duncan Cruickshank, HHS Director Chris Bischoff.

Flag Salute

Chair Lee Tischer led the flag salute.

Regular Meeting Agenda

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Cothren and Strong approving the regular meeting agenda for March 28, 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 28, 2023. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved. The consent agenda contained the following items:

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes of March 21, 2023
- B. Resolution No. 47-23 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 \$3,870.73
- C. Resolution No. 48-23 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 \$652.55
- D. Voucher Approval - \$61,016.96
- E. Voucher Approval – Transfer Batch - \$50,000.00

Public Comment

A west end resident commented that a gravel road in the Deep River Valley area has declined due to a recent logging operation in the area.

Treasurer

Disbursement of PUD Privilege Tax

\$55,651.34 was received from the state of Washington for PUD Privilege Tax; the Town of Cathlamet will receive \$5,760.28 and the Current Expense Fund will receive \$49,891.06. It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Cothren and Strong to approve of the distribution of the PUD Privilege Tax to the Town of Cathlamet and to the Current Expense Fund. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Public Works

Acceptance of Bid for 2023 Roadside Mowing

Only one bid was received for 2023 roadside mowing; the bid was from Bush Whackers, LLC in the amount of approximately \$66,089.36 based on 944.94 pass miles of mowing. It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Strong and Cothren to accept the bid from Bush Whackers, LLC. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Sheriff's Office

Request for Bids for Inmate Communications System

It is expected that there will be no cost to the county for this service. It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Cothren and Strong to allow the use of the Wahkiakum County bid process to solicit proposals for the upgrade of the Sheriff's Office inmate communication system. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Health & Human Services

Request for Bids for Electrical updates in the Hope Center Annex

HHS has funding for this project. It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Cothren and Strong to approve of the bid process for electrical work at the Hope Center Annex. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Request for Bids for Walking Paths and Tree Removal at the Elochoman Campus

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Strong and Cothren to approve of the bid process for the walking path at the Elochoman Campus. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Washington Counties Insurance Fund

Bobby Jackson, WCIF Executive Director, was present to provide an update to the Board. Currently, 42 employees are enrolled in medical plans through Premera, 60 in Delta Dental, 32 in Willamette Dental, 88 in Vision Service Plans, 91 enrolled in life & disability, 4 in CDH plan and 6 in Metlife plans. Pet insurance options will be offered beginning in May. WCIF currently has a presence in 33 of 29 counties in the state. Jackson discussed the strategy to grow the business in 2023 which will result in lower costs for participants. The annual benefit summit will be held in April. WCIF is celebrating their 65th anniversary this year.

Commissioner Reports

The Board reviewed their work over the past week.

Executive Session

Per RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) to Evaluate Applicant Qualifications

Chair Lee Tischer announced that the Board will enter Executive Session to evaluate applicant qualifications at 10:01 a.m. for a period of 5 minutes.

Present: Chair Lee Tischer, Commissioner Dan Cothren, Commissioner Gene Strong, Clerk of the Board Beth Johnson.

Reconvene

Chair Lee Tischer reconvened the regular meeting at 10:06 a.m.

Commissioners

Appointment to the Planning Commission

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Strong and Cothren to appoint Stacey Lane to the Planning Commission for District No. 1, through December 31, 2025, and to appoint Patrick Doumit to the Planning Commission for District No. 2, through December 31, 2024. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Work Session Opioid Settlements


The Board discussed the options to meet requirements for the opioid settlements. We must participate in an Opioid Action Council (OAC). An annual report and expenditure reports are required and must be posted for the public access. There are several options to meet these administrative and reporting requirements, but all counties in the OAC must agree. The Great Rivers Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization will be providing a proposal to perform the services.

Following discussion, it was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Tischer and Cothren to appoint Commissioner Strong as the representative for the county (for the Opioid Action Council). Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

Attest: 
Elizabeth Johnson
Clerk of the Board

Approved: 
Lee Tischer
Chair of the Board