



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
May 2, 2023

Chair Lee Tischer called the regular meeting of the Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners to order on May 2, 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, Undersheriff Gary Howell, Public Works Director Chuck Beyer, Sheriff Mark Howie, 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 May 2, 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 May 2, 2023. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved. The consent agenda contained the following items:

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes of April 25, 2023
- B. Resolution No. 64-23 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
- C. Resolution No. 65-23 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 \$287.45
- D. Resolution No. 66-23 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
- E. Resolution No. 67-23 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 \$1,775.40
- F. Voucher Approval - \$ 81,183.38

Public Comment

An East Sunny Sands resident questioned the status of communications with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding future beach nourishment.

A Skamokawa Fire District Commissioner advised that it has been several months since they have been billed for fuel from the county, as the billing software is in need of an upgrade.

A Puget Island resident questioned the status of a recent crime investigation in Skamokawa involving stolen vehicles and other stolen items.

New Business

Appointment to the Planning Commission

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Strong and Cothren to appoint Donna Beaupre to the Planning Commission, effective through December 31, 2024. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Auditor's Office

Resolution to Cancel Outstanding Warrants

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Cothren and Strong to adopt Resolution No. 68-23 a resolution cancelling outstanding claim warrants (in the amount of \$2,508.04). Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Extension Office

Resolution to Close Steamboat Slough Road

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Cothren and Strong to adopt Resolution No. 69-23 a resolution for the closure of Steamboat Slough Road and Brooks Slough Road on Saturday, May 20th, from 9:00 a.m. to noon (for the Great White Tail Run). Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Contract Amendment with Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife – Marine Resources Committee

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Strong and Cothren to approve of the Chair's signature on Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife Contract 21-18590, Amendment 2 for \$5,762.97 unused funding to be returned to the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Marine Resources Committee Update

Shari Parker, Extension Office Grants Coordinator, discussed the current status of several MRC projects and tasks and discussed the open period for MRC grant applications.

Public Works

Certificate of Good Practice from the County Road Administration Board

The CRAB Board has approved the Certificate of Good Practice for Wahkiakum County. This certifies that the county has submitted all reports required by law or regulation and that the county has reasonably complied with provisions of law relating to county road administration and with the standards of good practice.

Amendment to Professional Engineering Services Contract with Exeltech – East Valley Road SR-4 Intersection
It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Strong and Cothren to approve (Amendment A) for the additional classification rates for subconsultant Gibbs & Olsen. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Health & Human Services

Proclamation – Mental Health Awareness Month

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Strong and Cothren to proclaim the month of May as Mental Health Awareness Month in Wahkiakum County. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Contract with FreeDoc for Digital Archive Software

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Cothren and Strong to approve of the Contract between FreeDoc and Wahkiakum County for digital archive software and implementation (in the amount of \$26,780). Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Amendment to Consolidated Homeless Grant Contract

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Cothren and Strong to approve of the Chair’s signature on Contract #22-46108-33, Amendment C, between the Washington Department of Commerce and Wahkiakum County Health and Human Services Department to de-obligate \$18,799.00 from the award. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Board of Health

In light of Mental Health Awareness Month, Chris Bischoff, HHS Director; Liz Kimble, Mental Health Therapist IV/Clinical Services; and Pam Hongel, Chemical Dependency Counselor III, discussed the substance abuse and mental health services provided by the Health & Human Services Department. Discussion ensued and included the implications of the Blake decision and possible scenarios that may occur if a legislative fix does not occur before the sunset of the current legislation.

Commissioner Reports

The Board discussed their work over the past week.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

Attest: 
Elizabeth Johnson
Clerk of the Board

Approved: 
Lee Tischer
Chair of the Board