



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 16, 2023

Commissioner Dan Cothren called the regular meeting of the Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners to order on May 16, 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 via phone, Commissioner Gene Strong via phone, Commissioner Dan Cothren, Clerk of the Board Beth Johnson. Sheriff Mark Howie, Undersheriff Gary Howell, HHS Director Chris Bischoff.

Flag Salute

Commissioner Dan Cothren led the flag salute.

Regular Meeting Agenda

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Strong and Tischer approving the regular meeting agenda for May 16, 2023. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Consent Agenda

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Tischer and Strong approving the consent agenda for May 16, 2023. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved. The consent agenda contained the following items:

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes of May 9, 2023
- B. Resolution No. 73-23 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 \$8,850.22
- C. Resolution No. 74-23 a resolution authorizing the expenditure of funds from the Criminal Justice Cumulative Reserve Fund for the payment of vouchers properly chargeable to said fund in the amount of \$262.07
- D. Resolution No. 75-23 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 \$99.99
- E. Voucher Approval - \$197,307.04

Public Comment

A Puget Island resident commented on attending the recent meeting of the Grays River Habitat Enhancement District and he advised that an older Soil Survey Book has historical photos of the area.

A western county resident spoke about a number of issues in the Altoona-Pillar Rock Road area, including the high amount of development and traffic on the road and that the road is too steep and narrow. She also urged the county to guide development in vulnerable areas.

Ron Wright, representing Wahkiakum High School Mecha Mules group, advised that the group participated in the International Sea Perch competition in Maryland; they placed first place in both the video and written reports categories, and they were overall Grand Champions.

Discussion ensued regarding development issues throughout the county, including a large amount of short platting, unpermitted construction, and loss of timberland to residential purposes. Following discussion, the Board agreed to hold a work session to continue discussing these issues.

New Business

Support Letter for Hwy 101 and SR-4 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Project

The US Department of Transportation is offering competitive grant funding for the installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at publicly accessible sites across the nation as part of a new initiative entitled the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure discretionary Grant Program. Energy Northwest is collecting letters of support from potential site hosts along US Highway 101 and State Route 4, with a proposed charging station in the PUD parking lot in Cathlamet.

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Tischer and Strong to approve of the letter supporting Energy Northwest's efforts to install EV charging stations along US Highway 101 and State Route 4. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Health & Human Services

Accept Bid for Construction of Two Outbuilding and Gravel Gazebo Pad

Health and Human Services would like to accept the bid received from Conframe Construction in the amount of \$87,936.30 for the construction of the two small outbuildings and a gravel pad on the Elochoman campus. Chris Bischoff, HHS Director, advised that they will be receiving more funding from the Health Care Authority for the recruitment and retention of behavioral health staff.

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Strong and Tischer to approve of the bid from Conframe Construction LLC for the construction of the buildings and gravel pad. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Commissioner Reports

The Board provided their weekly reports.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Attest: 
Elizabeth Johnson
Clerk of the Board

Approved: 
Lee Tischer
Chair of the Board