



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 July 11, 2023

Chair Lee Tischer called the regular meeting of the Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners to order on July 11, 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 Mark Howie, Undersheriff Gary Howell, Treasurer Tammy Peterson, HHS Operations Manager Duncan Cruickshank, HHS Budget and Financial Manager Michelle Collupy, Auditor Nicci Bergsens, Public Works Director Chuck Beyer.

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 July 11, 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 July 11, 2023. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved. The consent agenda contained the following items:

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes of July 5, 2023
- B. Resolution No. 95-23 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 \$119.98
- C. Voucher Approval - \$878,451.86

Public Comment

A resident commented that they appreciated the Elk Hoof Disease update meeting.

New Business

Interlocal Agreement for Opiate Fund

To spend opiate abatement funds, Washington State's settlement requires that opiate abatement committees (OACs) be formed to act as a single point of contact for those who have questions about a region's abatement spending. This agreement creates the OAC and puts us in a subgroup of counties including Pacific and Grays Harbor.

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Strong and Cothren to approve of the Interlocal agreement for opioid Abatement Council Independent Subcommittee and to approve of the Regional Agreement of the Cascade Pacific Action Alliance Region Participating Governments. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Public Works

Ferry Deficit Agreement with the Washington State Department of transportation

The Washington State Legislature increased the state contribution to 85% of the ferry operating deficit or \$63,583.00 monthly. It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Cothren and Strong to approve of the Ferry Deficit Agreement GCB 3500 Amendment No. 2, with the Washington State Department of Transportation, increasing Washington State contribution for Wahkiakum County Ferry Operations to \$63,583.00 monthly. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Health & Human Services

Bid Acceptance for Exercise Equipment

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Strong and Cothren to approve of the bid from Promaxima for the exercise equipment, (in the amount of \$15,738.00). Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Fair Board Update

Patty Dursteler, Fair Manager, provided an update to the Boar and requested that the county clean out the drainage ditch near the fairgrounds to improve the drainage.

Commissioner Reports

The Board discussed their work over the past week.

Workshop
Johnson Park Budget Request

Denise Blanchard and other representatives from the Johnson Park Board were present to discuss their budgetary concerns. The Johnson Park Board requested \$15,000 from the county to address their budgetary shortfall. Discussion included proposed rental increases, reinstating membership fees and installing more ductless heat pumps to save on heating costs. Following discussion, the Board was in consensus to absorb the \$5,700 insurance costs from Johnson Park this year and to transfer in \$7,500 to Johnson Park.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

Attest: 
Elizabeth Johnson
Clerk of the Board

Approved: 
Lee Tischer
Chair of the Board