



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

August 8, 2023

Chair Lee Tischer called the regular meeting of the Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners to order on August 8, 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, Public Works Director Chuck Beyer, Building Inspector/Planner Dave Hicks, HHS Director Chris Bischoff, Sheriff IT/DEM Beau Renfro.

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 August 8, 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 August 8, 2023. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved. The consent agenda contained the following items:

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes of August 1, 2023
- B. Resolution No. 105-23 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 \$15,285.21
- C. Resolution No. 106-23 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 \$1,631.80
- D. Voucher Approval - \$135,840.14
- E. Voucher Approval - Transfer Batch - \$72,459.63
- F. Voucher Approval - Transfer Batch - \$26,890.13
- G. Voucher Approval - Transfer Batch - \$15,910.11
- H. Voucher Approval - Transfer Batch - \$19,968.00
- I. Voucher Approval - Transfer Batch - \$5,664.00

Public Comment

A Fair Board member commented that the fair starts next week and encouraged local support.

Building & Planning

Replacement Retaining Wall and Concrete Driveway at Clinic Building

The retaining wall installed at the clinic has been leaning and crumbling and needs to be replaced. The concrete driving surface also needs to be replaced. A request for quotes was made and the lowest bid received was from Midway Underground in the amount of \$69,750 plus tax; there are funds available in the Capital Improvement Fund. It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Strong and Cothren to approve of the replacement of the retaining wall and concrete driveway and to accept the quote from Midway Underground. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Shoreline Permit: Bjork Dock

Bernard Bjork has applied for a Shoreline Permit to build a 30' dock and landing at 56 Miller Point Road in Rosburg. The Planning Commission recommends approval of the permit. It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Cothren and Strong to approve of the Bjork Dock Shoreline Permit. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Public Works

Public Assistance Grant with WA State Military Department for November 2022 Winter Storm Damage

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Cothren and Strong to approve of entering into a Public Assistance Grant Agreement #D23-212 with the Washington State Military Department for reimbursement of winter storm damage expenses between November 3 and November 8, 2022, and to appoint Chuck Beyer as the Applicant Agent. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Health & Human Services

Contract with the Department of Ecology for Solid Waste Enforcement Funding

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Strong and Cothren to approve of the Chair's signature on contract SWMLSWFA-2023-WaCoPH-00122 between Wahkiakum County and the Department of Ecology for Solid Waste Enforcement activities. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Contract with Workforce Southwest Washington for Employment Services Funding

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Cothren and Strong to approve of the Chair's signature on the Workforce Southwest Washington reimbursement Contract WSW-23-04 from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Contract Amendment with Molina for Funding for Mental Health Services

Molina has agreed to compensate HHS for the client care provided in 2023 using the same proportional share formula that all MCOs used in 2021 to a new cap of \$1,250,000. This now brings all MCOs to the same negotiated amount. It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Strong and Cothren to approve of the Chair's signature on the Molina 'Amendment to the Provider Services Agreement.' Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Commissioner Reports

The Board discussed their assignments and meetings over the past week.

Recess/Reconvene

The Board recessed until 10:20 a.m.

Work Session

Information Technology Services / Creation of IT Department / IT Director

Present: Chair Lee Tischer, Commissioner Gene Strong, Commissioner Dan Cothren, Clerk of the Board Beth Johnson. Sheriff Mark Howie, Undersheriff Gary Howell, Public Works Director Chuck Beyer, Building Inspector/Planner Dave Hicks, HHS Director Chris Bischoff, Sheriff IT/DEM Beau Renfro, Assessor Falon Hoven, Auditor Nicci Bergseng, IT Committee member Jess Reddon, Chief Civil Deputy Joannie Kuhlmeier, Payroll & Benefits Administrator Morgan Blix, Treasurer Tammy Peterson.

The IT Committee proposed the creation of an independent IT Department; as the IT Manager currently is under the Public Works Department.

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Strong and Cothren to move to separate the IT function from the Public Works Department and to establish an independent IT Department that directly reports to the County Commissioners; the IT department will be accountable to the commissioner sitting on the IT Technology Committee, effective August 1, 2023. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.


The IT Committee then proposed a job description revision, including title revision and salary alignment for the IT Manager position.

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Cothren and Strong to approve of the revision and salary realignment of the IT Manager position, now titled IT Director, effective September 1, 2023. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Attest: 
Elizabeth Johnson
Clerk of the Board

Approved: 
Lee Tischer
Chair of the Board