



Wahkiakum Board of County Commissioners

District No. 1 Commissioner: Lee Tischer
District No. 2 Commissioner: Daniel L. Cothren
District No. 3 Commissioner: Gene Strong, Chair

MINUTES Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners Regular Meeting August 23, 2022

Chair Gene Strong called the regular meeting of the Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners to order on August 23, 2022, 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 Gene Strong, Commissioner Dan Cothren, Commissioner Lee Tischer, Clerk of the Board Beth Johnson, Auditor Nicci Bergseng, Treasurer Tammy Peterson, HHS Financial Manager Michelle Collupy, HHS Director Chris Bischoff.

Flag Salute

Chair Gene Strong led the flag salute.

Regular Meeting Agenda

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Cothren and Tischer approving the regular meeting agenda for August 23, 2022. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Consent Agenda

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Tischer and Cothren approving the consent agenda for August 23, 2022. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved. The consent agenda contained the following items:

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes of August 16, 2022
- B. Resolution No. 119-22 a resolution authorizing the expenditure of \$4,054.40 from the Contingent Liabilities Cumulative Reserve Fund for payment of accumulated annual leave to Ginger Hake and for payment of county share of FICA/Medicare
- C. Resolution No. 120-22 a resolution authorizing the expenditure of funds from the Inter Local Cooperation Cumulative Reserve Fund for the payment of vouchers properly chargeable to said fund in the amount of \$1,249.84
- D. Voucher Approval - \$ 427,767.76
- E. Holiday Closure: Labor Day – Monday, September 5, 2022

Public Comment

Nicci Bergseng, Auditor, and Tammy Peterson, Treasurer, reported that the county's annual financial audit has just concluded for 2021. They advised that working closely with each other, as well as working with the CPA that they were allowed to budget for this year was advantageous and provided for a very smooth audit process. The audit is available online and anyone with questions can contact them. The Board spoke in appreciation of their work that resulted in a positive audit.

A fair Board member commented that the county fair went well and had a high attendance rate.

New Business

Vacancies on the Grays River Habitat Enhancement District

After many years with a lack of board candidates, this board is beginning to become more active. There are currently two people on the board, one of which will be stepping down; the remaining board member was never officially appointed to the vacancy by the county commissioners. Therefore, the county commissioners need to make three appointments to fill this board until the next election. Five letters of interest were received for the board vacancies. The Board would like to set up interviews with the candidates for mid-September.

Auditor

Addition of Part-Time Payroll Assistant Position to 2022 Budget

The Auditor, Nicci Bergseng, is requesting to add this part-time position for transitional training. It is expected to be approximately 30 to 35 hours per month and there will be no added cost to the budget due to unanticipated personnel changes.

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Tischer and Cothren to approve of the Payroll Assistant position being added to the 2022 budget. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Health & Human Services

WorkForce Southwest Washington Reimbursement Contract for Employment Services

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Cothren and Tischer to approve of the Chair's signature on the Workforce Southwest Washington Reimbursement Contract WSW-22-08 from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Commissioner Reports

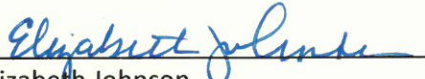
Commissioner Tischer reported on several items from his past week, including the 6-day closure of the Lewis & Clark Bridge that will occur next year, as well as other major road repair projects in the region. The Encumbered Lands Committee intends to lobby for a \$9M appropriation this biennium for the three small timber counties of Wahkiakum, Skamania, and Pacific. Lastly, the office relocation workgroup is developing a plan and will obtain cost estimates to present to the Board. Another workgroup will form to develop a plan and cost estimates to address the exterior of the building and the landscaping.


Commissioner Cothren discussed the acquisition process for timberlands, as well as other timber related issues.

Commissioner Strong advised that the application for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 7001 was submitted and that nine letters of support were received and submitted.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:08 a.m.

Attest: 
Elizabeth Johnson
Clerk of the Board

Approved: 
Gene Strong
Chair of the Board