



## *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**  
**September 21, 2021**

Chair Gene Strong called the regular meeting of the Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners to order on September 21, 2021, 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, Public Works Director Chuck Beyer, Undersheriff Gary Howell.

### **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 September 21, 2021. 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 April 20, 2021. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved. The consent agenda contained the following items:

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes of September 14, 2021
- B. Resolution No. 119-21 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 \$57.18
- C. Voucher Approval - \$ 49,004.03
- D. Voucher Approval – Transfer Batch - \$ 28,348.00
- E. Voucher Approval – Transfer Batch - \$ 14,174.00

### **Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

## Public Works

### Ferry Service Closure on Monday, Oct. 4, 2021

This closure is to replace the failing radar system and to install heaters, in addition to the insurance inspection. It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Tischer and Cothren to authorize ferry service shut down on Monday, October 4, 2021, from 8:00 am. To 5:00 p.m. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

### Resolution Establishing Equipment Rental Rates for 2022

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Cothren and Tischer to adopt Resolution No. 120-21 a resolution establishing equipment rental rates for 2022. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

### Contract with Cummins Inc. for Ferry Main Engine Replacement

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Cothren and Tischer to approve a purchase contract with Cummins Inc. for the purchase of a QSL9-290hop keep cooled propulsion engine for the ferry, Oscar B. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

### Ferry Service Closure from November 2, 2021, to December 9, 2021

Clatsop County Public Works is performing ferry terminal maintenance work and dredging in West Port, requiring a ferry closure. It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Tischer and Cothren to approve of shutting down the ferry operations from November 2, 2021, through December 9, 2021, for West Port, Oregon ferry terminal maintenance work. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

## Chamber of Commerce

Stacey Lane, Chamber Director advised that the Chamber is very grateful to be the designated ADO (Associate Development Organization) for the county and she discussed their work regarding both economic development and tourism.

Potential options for staffing and managing the Community Center were discussed. The Chamber proposed an option to utilize the center as a pay- for-use work co-op during business hours with more community-oriented uses in the evenings. This would enable the center to create some revenue and have multiple uses.

Fall events were discussed, including Neewollah Days and Trunk or Treat and Parade.

The visitor center is complete and operational. The center has been busy with many visitors. Other projects include the waterfront park, Butler Street lot, heritage sign dedication, business loans and grants, free downtown Wi-Fi.

## Family Health Center Wahkiakum Clinic Report

Jim Coffee, CEO of the Family Health Center, updated the Board on the operations of the Cathlamet clinic. The clinic has hired a new Human Resources Director. They will be offering vaccines, including boosters when they are available. The clinic is stable, though there have been workforce issues during the pandemic. Vaccine refrigerators and freezer availability in the county were discussed.

**Work Session  
Non-Union Medical Benefits**

The county has had to consider other options for the non-union employee group as the Washington Counties Insurance Fund's Premera and Kaiser options both increased by over 50%. There are approximately 27 non-union employees at the county. Pacific and Lewis Counties both offer the state PEBB (Public Employees Benefits Board) plan. The PEBB plan is based upon the county of residence and additional surcharges may apply. PEBB rates are not yet available; dental and vision plans for non-union can remain with WCIF. The Board tabled the topic until early October in the hopes that the rates will be known then.

The PEBB plan would not be a viable option for the union employee group as composite rates are not available. In addition, WCIF can now only offer one option to union employees, either Premera or Kaiser, but not both.

**Commissioner Reports**

The Board reviewed their activities for the past week.

**Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

Attest:

  
Elizabeth Johnson  
Clerk of the Board

Approved:

  
Gene Strong  
Chair of the Board