



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 October 3, 2023

Vice Chair Dan Cothren called the regular meeting of the Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners to order on October 3, 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. Undersheriff Gary Howell, Public Works Director Chuck Beyer, Building Inspector/Planner Dave Hicks, WSU Extension Agent Carrie Backman, Treasurer Tammy Peterson, HHS Accounting/Budgeting Manager Michelle Collupy.

Flag Salute

Vice Chair 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 October 3, 2023. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Consent Agenda

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Strong and Tischer approving the consent agenda for October 3, 2023. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved. The consent agenda contained the following items:

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes of September 26, 2023
- B. Resolution No. 130-23 a resolution authorizing the expenditure of funds from the Emergency Medical Services Cumulative Reserve Fund for the payment of vouchers properly chargeable to said fund in the amount of \$2,379.01
- C. Resolution No. 131-23 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 \$1,385.15
- D. Resolution No. 132-23 a resolution authorizing the expenditure of 164.90 from the Contingent Liabilities Cumulative Reserve Fund for the payment of claims related to medical expenses for a LEOFF member
- E. Voucher Approval - \$195,078.05
- F. Voucher Approval – Transfer Batch - \$138,140.00

- G. Notice of Public Hearing: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at 9:45 a.m. for an ordinance amending RCWC 9.94.020-030 providing modifications to access to the Wahkiakum County Clerk's records of the court

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

New Business

Proclamation: Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Vice Chair, Dan Cothren, read aloud the Proclamation proclaiming the month of October as Domestic Violence Month. It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Strong and Tischer to proclaim October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Public Works

Resolution Setting Equipment Rental Rates

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Strong and Tischer to approve Resolution No. 133-23 a resolution establishing the equipment rental rates for 2024. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Building & Planning

Contract Change Order with Midway Underground for the Clinic Retaining Wall Project

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Tischer and Strong to approve of the Change Order #1 with Midway Underground, regarding the Clinic Retaining Wall Project. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Courthouse Tree Removal Project – Bid Acceptance and Public Works Contract

Three responsive bids were received, with Nielson's Maintenance being the low bid. It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Strong and Tischer to approve of the low bid from Nielson's Maintenance in the amount of \$29,999.00 plus tax and to approve of the Small Works Contract with Nielson's Maintenance. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Health & Human Services

Request to Hire a Public Health Nurse at a Step 3

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Tischer and Strong to approve of Health and Human Services hiring the Public Health Nurse III at a Class 11, Step 3. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

District Court

Agreement for the Language Access and Interpreter Reimbursement Program

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Strong and Tischer to approve of allowing Judge Heywood (or any subsequent presiding judge) to sign the Interagency Agreement between Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts and Wahkiakum District Court for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and any similar agreements for subsequent years. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

WSU Extension

Update on WSU Extension Projects and Grants

Carrie Backman, WSU Extension Agent, was present to provide an update on the various Extension programs including the Master Gardener program, the Marine Resource Committee and the 4-H program.

Commissioner Reports

The Board discussed their weekly reports.

Recess/Reconvene

The Board recessed at 10:04 p.m. to reconvene at 4:00 p.m. for the work session with WSU Dean Wendy Powers.

Work Session

Present: Chair Lee Tischer (via phone), Commissioner Dan Cothren, Clerk of the Board Beth Johnson, WSU Extension Agent Carrie Backman, Wendy Powers, Dean of WSU College of Agricultural, Human and Natural Resource Sciences.

WSU Dean Wendy Powers met with the Board to discuss the Extension Program and the challenges faced in the county.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Attest: 
Elizabeth Johnson
Clerk of the Board

Approved: 
Lee Tischer
Chair of the Board