



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 October 11, 2022

Chair Gene Strong called the regular meeting of the Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners to order on October 11, 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, Sheriff Mark Howie, Undersheriff Gary Howell, Public Works Director Chuck Beyer, HHS Director Chris Bischoff, Treasurer Tammy Peterson.

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 October 11, 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 October 11, 2022. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved. The consent agenda contained the following items:

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes of October 4, 2022
- B. Resolution No. 142-22 a resolution authorizing the expenditure of funds from the County Properties Cumulative Reserve Fund for the payment of vouchers properly chargeable from said fund in the amount of \$2,204.25
- C. Resolution No. 143-22 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 \$15,435.83
- D. Voucher Approval - \$795,243.46

Public Comment

A Skamokawa resident commented on the problems with phone service in Skamokawa and urged other residents to contact the Washington State Utilities Commission to report the phone outages.

Sheriff Howie commented on the proposal to add a second IT employee; stating that if the position is filled internally, then it would not result in an increase to benefits, as the benefits are already being paid. The Board questioned the amount of overtime the position might obtain.

Public Works

Acceptance of Generator Quote for Health & Human Services Vaccine Storage

A generator is needed for Building #2 at the Elochoman Campus for vaccine storage. This will also require the installation of a fuel tank, which is not included in this bid amount.

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Tischer and Cothren to accept the Renaud Electric proposal for the installation of a 10kw generator to serve Building #2 at 42 Elochoman Valley Road in the amount of \$17,690.00 plus sales tax. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Closeout Agreement for Federal Highway Administration Funds Transfer Agreement – Steamboat Slough Road

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Cothren and Tischer to approve of the Chair's signature on the Closeout of the funds transfer Agreement Amendment No. 2 with the Western Federal Lands Highway Division in the amount of not to exceed of \$57,254.00. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Courthouse Elevator

The cost of monthly elevator maintenance was discussed. The Public Works Director, Chuck Beyer, will research the requirements for elevator maintenance and determine if we are able to call for bids for the minimum elevator maintenance required.

County Road Update

The new bridge on Risk Road has been completed and the road is now open. Paving will begin on Elochoman Valley Road potentially next week.

Department of Natural Resources

Timber Report

Padraic Callahan, St. Helens District Manager, and Steve Ogen, Assistant Regional Manager for state uplands, were present to give an updated timber report to the Board.

Fir Real Sorts is the 2023 sort sale; it is expected to be sold in February 2023. Pollo Locho is the 2024 sale and it is conservatively estimated to bring in \$1.5M in revenue for the county. In addition, there are two smaller sales, Green Thomas and Unibrow, that are both sold under contract, but it is unknown when the harvest will happen; it could be anytime through 2024.

Commissioner Cothren discussed his concerns with the DNR's proposal to lease state trust lands for the carbon credit market. Ogden advised that the DNR is proposing to put 10,000 acres of operable western state lands into lease for the carbon markets, with leases potentially up to 50 years long. The timber stands chosen will likely be ecologically special, stands with unstable slopes or stands that can provide erosion protection. Economic impacts will also be considered. The first phase will not occur in the Pacific Cascade Region, and he felt that there would be little to no candidate stands in Wahkiakum County. The map of the candidate stands will be made available later this week. The next stage of the carbon project will involve a significant outreach effort.

Ogden also commented on this year's fire season which had a late start. There are currently four large incidents in the Pacific Cascade Region, including a very new fire that has come onto state lands in Clark County.

The Encumbered Lands bill was also discussed. They are actively looking for lands to purchase in Wahkiakum, Pacific and Skamania Counties, utilizing the \$5M budget that was appropriated.

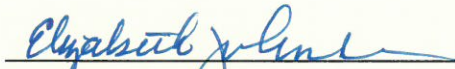
Commissioner Reports

The Board gave brief reports.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

Attest:



Elizabeth Johnson
Clerk of the Board

Approved:



Gene Strong
Chair of the Board