



## *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 19, 2021**

Chair Gene Strong called the regular meeting of the Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners to order on October 19, 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, HHS Community Services Manager Julie Johnston, Sheriff Mark Howie, Undersheriff Gary Howell, Auditor Nicci Bergseng.

### **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 19, 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 October 12, 2021
- B. Resolution No. 129-21a 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 \$2,232.30
- C. Resolution No. 130-21 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 \$156.64
- D. Voucher Approval - \$ 192,100.62

### **Public Comment**

There were no public comments

## **Sheriff's Office**

### Hire Deputy 1 at a Step 3

There are two new hire deputies; one candidate is a lateral transfer, and they would like to hire this person at a Step 3. It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Tischer and Cothren to hire a Deputy 1 at a Step 3. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

## **Wahkiakum Animal Advocates Group (WAAG)**

### Request for Funding

Rebecca Hompe, President; Anita Orchin, Treasurer; and Jenny Martin, Secretary, were present to discuss the WAAG organization with the Board. WAAG is a 501c3 non-profit organization that was incorporated in February 2020. Hompe reviewed some of their statistics for this year which included the spaying/neutering of ninety cats, 143 calls to WAAG, and 979 volunteer hours that have been donated to the community. They requested an annual financial contribution of \$2,500 to help support and grow their services in the county. Sheriff Mark Howie spoke in appreciation of the group and advised that to replace their services would require at least a part-time animal control officer at a significant cost to the county. The Board also spoke in appreciation of the group and will address the request during their budget workshops.

## **Superior Court**

### Interagency Reimbursement Agreement

This contract will provide for reimbursement of funds related to the Blake decision. It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Cothren and Tischer to sign the Interagency Reimbursement Agreement #IAA22191 with the Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

## **District Court**

### Agreement for Consultant Services for Probation Services

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Tischer and Cothren to approve of the Agreement for Consultant Services between Kirsten Cain and Wahkiakum County, in the amount of \$1,800 per month, effective January 1, 2022. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

## **Health & Human Services**

### Contract Amendment B with Washington State Department of Commerce – Emergency Solutions Grant

This amendment deobligates funds that were not used by the county. It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Cothren and Tischer to approve of the Chair's signature on Contract #20-4613C-127 Amendment B between the Washington State Department of Commerce and the Wahkiakum County Health and Human Services Department. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Contract with Washington State Department of Commerce – Eviction Rent Assistance Program

These grant funds provide rental and utility assistance since March 2020. It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Tischer and Cothren to approve of the Chair's signature on Contract #21-4619C-128 between the Washington State Department of Commerce and the Wahkiakum County Health and Human Services Department in the amount of \$234,788 from October 1, 2021, through June 30, 2023. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

**Commissioner Reports**

The Board reviewed their assignments for the past week.

**Commissioners**

Washington Counties Insurance Fund

Commissioner Strong will now be serving as the Interim Executive Director for the Washington Counties Insurance Fund until a new director is hired.

**Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

Attest:

  
Elizabeth Johnson  
Clerk of the Board

Approved:

  
Gene Strong  
Chair of the Board