



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 24, 2023

Chair Lee Tischer called the regular meeting of the Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners to order on October 24, 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, Commissioner Gene Strong, Commissioner Dan Cothren, Clerk of the Board Beth Johnson. Sheriff Mark Howie, Judge Heidi Heywood via phone, Public Works Director Chuck Beyer, HHS Director Chris Bischoff.

Flag Salute

Chair Lee Tischer led the flag salute.

Regular Meeting Agenda

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Cothren and Strong approving the regular meeting agenda for October 24, 2023. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Consent Agenda

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Strong and Cothren approving the consent agenda for October 24, 2023. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved. The consent agenda contained the following items:

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes of October 17, 2023
- B. Resolution No. 141-23 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 \$671.52
- C. Resolution No. 142-23 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 \$946.78
- D. Resolution No. 143-23 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 \$147.71
- E. Voucher Approval - \$ 437,742.63
- F. Voucher Approval – Transfer Batch - \$40,000.00

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

District Court

Request to Hire District Court Administrator Candidate at a Step 3

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Strong and Cothren to approve of hiring the District Court Administrator candidate at a Step 3. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Health & Human Services

Request to Add an Additional Community Health Advocate

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Cothren and Strong to approve of adding an additional Community Health Advocate position for the high school community; the amount of \$854.19 will come out of the Public Health Department via FPHS funds. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Increase the Health Communities Specialist from 0.8 FTE to 1.0 FTE

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Strong and Cothren to approve of increasing the Healthy Communities Specialist position from 0.8 FTE to 1.0 FTE. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Public Works

Interlocal Agreement with Lewis County for Various Road Work

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Cothren and Strong to enter in to an Interlocal Agreement with Lewis County for various work requested by Wahkiakum County. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Request to Transfer \$40,000 from Current Expense to the Solid Waste Fund

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Cothren and Strong to approve of the transfer of \$40,000 from Current Expense to the Solid Waste Fund. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Board of Equalization

Request Approval to Reconvene

It was **M/S/A** by Commissioners Cothren and Strong to approve of the Board of Equalization's Notice of Approval to Reconvene to hear property tax appeals. Vote: Aye – Strong, Tischer and Cothren. Unanimously approved.

Commissioner Reports

The Board discussed their work over the past week.

Budget Workshops
Tuesday, October 24, 2023

The Board held budget workshops throughout the day including Treasurer, Health & Human Services, Board of Equalization, Assessor, Prosecuting Attorney, and the Fair Board.

Executive Session

An Executive Session was held, per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss with legal counsel matters related to potential litigation; Dan Bigelow, Prosecuting Attorney, was present. The Board met in executive session for a period of 10 minutes, from 2:25 p.m. to 2:35 p.m.

Order of Adjournment

Chair Lee Tischer recessed the meeting at 3:40 p.m. to reconvene at 9:20 a.m., on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, to continue budget workshops.

Reconvene

The Board reconvened at 9:20 a.m. on Wednesday, October 25, 2023.

Present: Chair Lee Tischer, Commissioner Gene Strong, Commissioner Dan Cothren, Clerk of the Board Beth Johnson, Auditor Nicci Bergseng, Treasurer Tammy Peterson.

Budget Workshops
Wednesday, October 25, 2023

The Board held budget workshops, including Public Works, District Court, Sheriff and the IT Department.

Order of Adjournment

Chair Lee Tischer recessed the meeting at 12:33 p.m. to reconvene at 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, October 26, 2023, to continue budget workshops.

Reconvene

The Board reconvened at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 26, 2023.

Present: Chair Lee Tischer, Commissioner Gene Strong, Commissioner Dan Cothren, Clerk of the Board Beth Johnson, Auditor Nicci Bergseng, Treasurer Tammy Peterson.

Workshop
Columbia Land Trust
Community Forests / Grays River Watershed

Cherie Kearney and Ian Sinks from Columbia Land Trust; and Justin Hall, President of the Board of Nisqually Community Forest, were present to discuss Community Forestry with the Board. Following discussion, the Board agreed by consensus to continue to explore the topic of Community Forestry in the Grays River Watershed and propose a meeting with Pacific County to jointly discuss the topic.

Budget Workshops
Thursday, October 26, 2023

The Board held budget workshops; participants included the Chamber of Commerce, the Historical Society and the Town of Cathlamet Library.

Order of Adjournment

Chair Lee Tischer recessed the meeting to reconvene at 1:20 p.m., on Monday, October 30, 2023, to continue budget workshops.

Reconvene

The Board reconvened at 1:20 p.m. on Monday, October 30, 2023.

Present: Chair Lee Tischer, Commissioner Gene Strong, Commissioner Dan Cothren, Clerk of the Board Beth Johnson, Auditor Nicci Bergseng, Treasurer Tammy Peterson.

Budget Workshops
Monday, October 30, 2023

The Board held budget workshops including Noxious Weed Control, Johnson Park Board and the Wahkiakum Animal Advocates Group.

Order of Adjournment

Chair Lee Tischer recessed the meeting at 2:45 p.m. to reconvene at 9:20 a.m., on Tuesday, October 31, 2023, to continue budget workshops.

Reconvene

The Board reconvened at 9:25 a.m. on Tuesday, October 31, 2023.

Present: Chair Lee Tischer, Commissioner Gene Strong, Commissioner Dan Cothren, Clerk of the Board Beth Johnson, Auditor Nicci Bergseng, Treasurer Tammy Peterson.

Budget Workshops
Tuesday, October 31, 2023

The Board held budget workshops, including WSU Extension, Building & Planning, Superior Court and the Town of Cathlamet/swimming pool.

Commissioner Excusal

Commissioner Strong left the meeting at 10:00 am.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m. on Tuesday, October 31, 2023.

Attest: 
Elizabeth Johnson
Clerk of the Board

Approved: 
Lee Tischer
Chair of the Board