

BOARD OF SKAMANIA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Skamania County Courthouse
240 NW Vancouver Ave. Lower Level, Room 18
Stevenson, WA 98648

Minutes for Meeting of June 16, 2020

The Commissioners business meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. on June 16, 2020 at the Commissioners' Meeting Room, 240 NW Vancouver Avenue in Stevenson, with Commissioners Richard Mahar, Tom Lannen and Robert Hamlin, Chair present.

The Pledge of the Allegiance was led by Debbie Slack, Clerk of the Board/FMC.

There was no public comment.

The Board acknowledged receipt of a written comment submitted by Mary Repar, County resident regarding COVID-19 testing and the reopening of Skamania County.

Commissioner Lannen moved, seconded by Commissioner Mahar to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

1. Minutes of meeting for June 9, 2020
2. Liquor License application for added privilege for Carson General Store
3. Modification #5 for Stewardship Agreement with USDA Forest Service for noxious weed control in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and in the National Scenic Area
4. Contract with National Institute for Jail Operations

Discussion of the consent agenda included the Board discussing if the National Institute for Jail Operations contract was for required training. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Mahar moved, seconded by Commissioner Lannen and the motion carried unanimously to approve vouchers in the amount of \$73,421.17 with \$26,997.77 being Current Expense, covering warrants numbers 177152 through 177207.

Commissioner Lannen moved, seconded by Commissioner Mahar and the motion carried unanimously to approve a new job description for a Real Estate Excise/Tax Revenue Deputy in the Treasurer's Office.

The Board reported on meetings they attended. Commissioner Mahar reported on taking a tour of the Skamania Lodge with Ken Daugherty, Manager. He also reported that the Fair Board postponed Gorge Grass festival, but the Fair is still being planned. He also was in attendance for calls with Representative Gina Mosbrucker regarding COVID-19, Washington State Association of Counties regarding COVID-19 and updates from Governor Jay Inslee regarding COVID-19. Commissioner Lannen was also in attendance to tour the Skamania Lodge. He also reported on a Fire Preparedness ZOOM meeting, a meeting call with the Department of Natural Resources Undersecretary, Vickie Christensen, Forest Service Chief, and other County and Forest Service representatives. Commissioner Hamlin attended a call with Representative Mosbrucker, a Forest Service recreation call, and a call with Steven Dunkin of the Department of Commerce. He reported on meeting with Staff to discuss hiring for Human Resources and Commissioners office. He also spoke with community partners regarding CARES funding. The Board also discussed Gorge Commission interviews, Risk Pool costs, health care costs and funding from sale of surplus property to be used for land acquisition. Commissioner Hamlin also reported on talking to Bob Wittenberg of the Underwood Parks and Recreation District about remodeling of the Community Center kitchen, solar panels and COVID -19.

The Board met for Department Head reports.

- Kirby Richards with Community Health brought the Board up to date on COVID-19 testing, including that 733 test kits are available, 156 tests out of 159 tests were negative and 3 tests pending. She also reported that there is not test rationing at Community Health at this point and the turnaround time for testing takes an average of 4 days for results. She also reported on Phase 3 conditions, and asked that people wear masks, wash hands and avoid congregate groups.
- Tim Elsea, Public Works Director/County Engineer reported on COVID-10 signs to be laminated for offices, cloth masks to be supplied for offices, and KN95 masks for vehicles. He also said plexiglass for sneeze shields will be delivered by July 24th. Tim also reported on the Home Valley restrooms project. There was a roof leak that got some of the new work to get wet. Buildings and Grounds will work on that after the contractor is finished. He also reported on the new panic system and delivered RFP to several departments and the Sheriff's office for review. He reported on Information Technology COVID-19 preparations. He asked the Board if the play structure at Hegewald Center could re-open with signage regarding social distancing and no sanitization. The Board agreed to open the play structure. He also reported Salmon Falls and Drano Lake toilets will be open this week.

The meeting recessed at 10:15 a.m. and reconvened at 11:00 a.m. with Commissioners Richard Mahar, Tom Lannen and Robert Hamlin, Chair present.

The Board met in a workshop to discuss policies and procedures regarding re-opening County facilities to the public. A draft policy was sent to departments for comment. A Phase 3 Safe Start Plan Template was discussed. It was discussed that each Elected Official and each Department should create their own plan for re-opening. Guidelines versus policy was discussed, as well as Labor and Industries requirements.

The meeting recessed at 11:28 a.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m. with Commissioners Richard Mahar, Tom Lannen and Robert Hamlin, Chair present.

The Board meet for Title III application presentations. Pat Bond, Undersheriff presented the Search and Rescue project application. The request is for \$69,503. Ann Lueders, Skamania County EMS Superintendent presented an application for Skamania County EMS and Rescue in the amount of \$45,882. Dan Richardson, of Underwood Conservation District presented a project application for the Firewise Program in the amount of \$32,264.04. Shawn Ford of North Country EMS presented an application for North Country EMS in the amount of \$82,820.

The meeting recessed at 2:13 p.m. and reconvened the same day at 3:00 p.m. with Commissioners Richard Mahar, Tom Lannen and Robert Hamlin, Chair present.

The Board met in a Financial Management workshop to discuss CARES and FEMA funding. The meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m. Heidi Penner, Financial Management Administrator reported that the County can contract with the EDC to pass CARES funding along to businesses. That process was discussed, as well as payroll tracking, VPN, CARES funding for FEMA match, and possible contractor for IT work. Requests for funding from the Port, EDC, and PUD were discussed. The Board decided to have a workshop to discuss the CARES/FEMA funding every Tuesday for one month.

The meeting recessed at 4:24 p.m. and reconvened the same day at 4:50 p.m. with Commissioners Richard Mahar, Tom Lannen and Robert Hamlin, Chair present.

The Board met in an Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i), litigation with Adam Kick, Prosecutor and Tim Elsea, Public Works Director for 30 minutes. At 5:20 p.m. the Chair announced they would need 10 more minutes. AT 5:30 p.m. the Chair announced they would need 5 more minutes. The session ended at 5:35 p.m.

The meeting recessed at 5:41 p.m. and reconvened on Thursday, June 18, 2020 with Commissioners Richard Mahar, Tom Lannen and Robert Hamlin, Chair present.

The Board met for the purpose of holding interviews for a vacancy on the Gorge Commission representing Skamania County. Three interviews were scheduled, but none candidate dropped out. The Board interviewed Louise Johnston. The Board asked questions of the candidate concerning renewable energy, climate change, sustainable harvest, community engagement, land acquisition by the Forest Service, and her interest in serving on the Commission.

The meeting recessed at 9:59 a.m. and reconvened the same day at 10:17 a.m. with Commissioners Richard Mahar, Tom Lannen and Robert Hamlin, Chair present.

The Board held an interview with Tamara Kaufman for a vacant position on the Gorge Commission representing Skamania County. The Board asked her interest in serving on the Commission, community engagement, rural commercial properties, renewable energy, GMA stream buffer, economic development, housing, and time commitment are serving on the Commission.

The Board met in an Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(h), qualifications of an applicant/candidate for appointment to an elective office for 20 minutes. The session started at 10:51 a.m. and ended at 11:13 p.m.

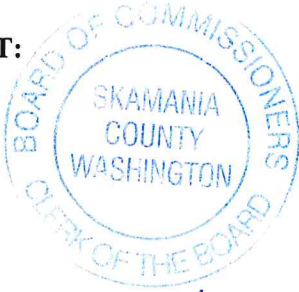
Commissioner Mahar moved, seconded by Commissioner Lannen to appoint Tamara Kaufman to the vacant position on the Gorge Commission representing Skamania County. Discussion included the candidate being well qualified, and willing to engage. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting recessed at 11:12 a.m. and reconvened the same day at 11:58 a.m. with Commissioners Richard Mahar, Tom Lannen and Robert Hamlin, Chair present.

Commissioner Lannen moved, seconded by Commissioner Mahar and the motion carried unanimously to approve a letter to Congresswoman Jaime Herrera Beutler in support of adding a new bicycle/pedestrian pathway to the Bridge of the Gods.

The meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

ATTEST:



Debbie Shaw

Clerk of the Board

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAMANIA COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Chris Hale

Commissioner

J. M. Lamm

Commissioner

David [unclear]

Commissioner

Aye	<u> </u>
Nay	<u> </u>
Abstain	<u> </u>
Absent	<u> </u>