

BOARD OF SKAMANIA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Meeting of November 26, 2013

The Board met at 9:20 a.m. on November 26, 2013 for a staff meeting at the Commissioner's Meeting Room, 240 NW Vancouver Avenue in Stevenson, with Commissioners Robert Anderson, Chair, Christopher Brong, and Doug McKenzie present. Discussion included receipt of State Forest Board dollars, repayment of loans, draft resolution regarding payment of publication costs, and an upcoming workshop at 1:30 p.m. today regarding emergency medical services, with no action taken.

The meeting recessed at 9:27 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. November 26, 2013 at the Commissioner's Meeting Room, 240 NW Vancouver Avenue in Stevenson, with Commissioners Robert Anderson, Chair, Christopher Brong, and Doug McKenzie present, opening with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mary Repar commented about a Planning Commission meeting regarding Critical Areas, and urged the Board to hold a public hearing to consider the Planning Commission's recommendation.

Gloria Howell thanked Commissioner Brong for his response letter to an Op Ed article by Bob Dingethal, Executive Director for the Gifford Pinchot Task Force regarding mining near Mount St Helens National Monument.

Commissioner Brong moved, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie and motion carried unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

1. Minutes of November 19, 2013.
2. Set a public hearing to consider an application from Chenoweth Forest and Farm Conservancy for a change of designation from Forest Land to Open Space Land.
3. Agreement with Department of Social & Health Services to provide Partnership for Success Grant funding for substance abuse prevention programs.
4. Agreement with Washington State Office of Public Defense to provide funding for improving the quality of public defense services.
5. Contract with Columbia Pacific Construction for snow plowing service for Forest Service 90 and 25 Roads for the 2013-2014 Season.

Commissioner Brong moved, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie and motion carried unanimously to approve vouchers for the period ending November 25, 2013 in the total amount of \$94,074.37.

Todd Murray, WSU Extension Agent reported on administration, 4-H, community development, natural resource, small farms, and home gardening.

The Board gave updates on their attendance at the Washington State Association of Counties Conference in Vancouver last week, which included a presentation by Dr. Eric Scorsone from Michigan State regarding the financial crisis in Detroit, federal and state issues, Title II and Title III allocations, an update on PILT funds and Land and Conservation funds, federal cooperation agency status training, and a proposal initiated by Commissioner Brong for the creation of a Skamania County Community Fund to be administered by the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington, with no action taken.

The meeting recessed at 10:19 a.m. and reconvened at 10:25 a.m., with Commissioners Anderson, Brong, and McKenzie present.

Department Heads presented the following reports:

- Karen Witherspoon, Community Development Director reported on general administration, planning information, environmental health information, and building and fire safety information.
- Kirby Richards, Community Health Director reported on behavioral health, public health, and developmental disabilities.
- Scott Pineo, General Services Director reported on department activities, facilities, events & recreation, human resources, risk management, senior services and information technology.
- Larry Douglass, Public Works Director reported on Engineering, County Road, ER&R, and Solid Waste.

Safety Committee reports:

- Report #2013-04. Commissioner Brong moved, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie and motion carried unanimously to agree with the Safety Committee's findings and recommendations.
- Report #2013-06. Commissioner Brong moved, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie and motion carried unanimously to agree with the Safety Committee's findings and recommendations.
- Report #2013-07. Commissioner Brong moved, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie and motion carried unanimously to agree with the Safety Committee's findings and recommendations.
- Report #2013-E-02. Commissioner McKenzie moved, seconded by Commissioner Brong and motion carried unanimously to agree with the Safety Committee's findings and recommendations.

The meeting recessed at 10:41 a.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m., with Commissioners Anderson, Brong, and McKenzie present.

The Board participated in a workshop with the Hospital District, Fire District #6, North Country Emergency Medical Services, the Sheriff and Prosecutor to discuss contracting for emergency medical services in the north county area. Discussion included the history of emergency medical services, services provided for ambulance transport, response time to calls, concern with access to the north county area during the winter due to snow, and the need to look at what is best for the north county area. Skamania County Prosecutor advised he would be moving forward with an Interlocal agreement for ambulance services in Emergency Medical District One with North Country Emergency Medical Services by the end of the year, absent other direction from the Board.

The meeting recessed at 2:55 p.m. and reconvened at 3:09 p.m., with Commissioners Anderson, Brong, and McKenzie present.

The Board participated in a workshop with Community Development to discuss recommended changes for the 2013 Zoning Code update, with no action taken.

The meeting recessed at 3:44 p.m. and reconvened at 4:05 p.m., with Commissioners Anderson, Brong and McKenzie present.

The Board participated in a 2014 Budget workshop, with no action taken.

The meeting recessed at 4:16 p.m. and reconvened at 5:30 p.m., with Commissioners Anderson, Brong and McKenzie present.

A public hearing was held to receive public comments and to consider adoption of the 2014 Preliminary Budget. Commissioner Brong gave an overview of the Preliminary Budget. Helen Paulus complimented Elected Officials and Department Heads for facing the financial problems of the County and making necessary decisions, and asked the Board to continue being frugal. The hearing was closed to public

comments. Commissioner McKenzie moved, seconded by Commissioner Brong and motion carried unanimously to adopt the 2014 Preliminary Budget as presented.

Commissioner Brong moved, seconded by Commissioner McKenzie and motion carried unanimously to set a public hearing for 5:30 p.m., Monday, December 23, 2013 to consider adoption of the 2014 Final Budget and to consider setting 2014 Current Expense and County Road Property Tax Levies.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

ATTEST:




Clerk of the Board

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAMANIA COUNTY, WASHINGTON**


Commissioner


Commissioner


Commissioner

Aye 3
Nay _____
Abstain _____
Absent _____