

BOARD OF SKAMANIA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Skamania County Courthouse
240 NW Vancouver Ave. Lower Level, Room 18
Stevenson, WA 98648
Minutes for Meeting of July 20, 2021

The Commissioners' business meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at the Commissioners' Meeting Room, 240 NW Vancouver Avenue in Stevenson, with Commissioners Richard Mahar, Robert Hamlin, and T.W. Lannen, Chair present.

The Pledge of the Allegiance was led by Emily Stevenson, Noxious Weed Program Manager.

There was no public comment.

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

1. Minutes of June 15, 2021
2. Liquor License renewals for Home Valley General LLC and Crooked Acres Vineyard LLC
3. Appointment to the Homeless Housing Council for Christopher Cline, Position #2
4. Appointment to Homeless Housing Council for Sheska McLean, Position #3
5. Approve revised By-Law and Mission Statement for Klickitat-Skamania Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board to reflect current terminology
6. Amend 2021 Crushed Rock Contract with Granite Construction Company to include a 7.7% tax rate
7. Amend 2021 Crushed Rock Contract with Farwest Portable Crushing to include a 7.7% tax rate
8. Amend 2021 Crushed Rock Contract with James Dean Construction, Inc. to include a 7.7% tax rate

Commissioner Lannen confirmed that Consent Agenda Items 6-8 were amended to include the sales tax left off the original contract. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Mahar moved, seconded by Commissioner Hamlin and the motion carried unanimously to approve vouchers for the period dated July 20, 2021, in the total amount of \$438,616.68 with \$82,837.88 being Current Expense, covering warrant numbers 182448 through 182553.

Commissioner Hamlin moved, seconded by Commissioner Mahar and the motion carried unanimously to approve payroll for the period July 1-15, 2021, in the amount of \$619,442.97 with \$374,485.70 being Current Expense. This covered payroll warrant numbers 43286 through 43305, and direct deposit numbers 69937 through 70117.

The Board met with Emily Stevenson, Program Manager of the Noxious Weed Department for updates. Emily reported on the field season, reporting that her crews are understaffed by three positions this year. She also reported they are treating old sites and that Geraniums are invasive and common in the Gorge area and they are prioritized by the Forest Service Botanist. She also reported the heat wave was an issue for her crews and she cancelled the work crew during those times. She participated in several meetings including Noxious Weed State Board Committee, South Gifford Pinchot Collaborative, Gorge Cooperative Weed Management area, and Skamania County Weed Board.

The Board reported on various meetings they attended. Commissioner Hamlin reported on meeting with a landowner at Blue Hole to discuss homesteaders and/or campers on nearby property. He also attended a subcommittee meeting on the Bridge of the Gods. There will be repairs to the bridge taking place from November 2021 through March 2022 that will result in traffic modifications at times. Commissioners Hamlin also met with the Wind River Trust group, and a MCEDD Loan Administration Board meeting. Commissioner Mahar reported on the weekly media call with Governor Inslee, climate change and COVID 19 were discussed. He also attended a weekly status meeting with Washington State Association of Counties. Mask mandates, and American Rescue Plan funding were discussed. Commissioner Lannen reported on meeting with Carl Hopple and Phil Dodd regarding the Wind River Business Park. He also had discussion on Human Resource issues, Good Neighbor Authority, and American Forest Resource Council. He also heard from constituents regarding trash along trails and alongside of roads. He also reported on the "Wildfire Sign".

The Board met for Department Head reports.

- Tamara Cissel, Community Health Deputy Director submitted a report on Behavioral Health, Public Health, Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities. Tamara also reported on vaccination statistics, data sharing with Oregon regarding COVID-19, and the "Care-A-Van" that will be administering vaccinations at the county fair. A planning meeting regarding the Care-A-Van will be held on Thursday. She reported the van will be staged by the walking bridge at the fairgrounds with all three of the vaccinations being offered. They include Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer and Moderna. She also reported on operational infrastructure.
- Tim Elsea, Public Works Director/County Engineer submitted a report on Engineering, County Road, ER & R, Solid Waste, Planning, Environmental Health, Building & Fire Safety, Information Technology, Buildings and Grounds and Wind River Business Park. He also reported a bat was taken to the veterinarian to test for rabies. He reported on a meeting he attended in Cook/Underwood to discuss traffic studies. He will continue traffic studies. Striping preparation, final inspection of the Dollar General business in Carson, hazardous waste day were reported on. He also reported on short- and long-term planning, and an Interlocal agreement for building inspections with the City of Bingen. He reported the Win CAMS system has been switched over on the new servers and the new laptops are still on schedule to be dispersed by the end of July. There was water testing done at the Wind River Business Park with a clear test. He reported on the Elevator project with invoices being paid that week.

The meeting recessed at 10:25 a.m. and reconvened the same day at 11:03 a.m. with Commissioners Richard Mahar, Robert Hamlin, and T.W. Lannen, Chair present.

The Board met for a workshop with the Financial Management Office, Elected Officials and Department Heads to discuss County Finances. Heidi Penner, Financial Management Administrator reported on revenue and expenditures for June 2021. She also reported on the Current Expense carryover projection for year end. Emily Stevenson, Noxious Weed Project Manager reported because she had less staff than budgeted for her revenues and expenditures will be less this year. Robert Waymire, County Auditor reported he is going through budgets he has received from departments for 2022 and the deadline is August 9th to have budgets to him.

The meeting recessed at 11:06 a.m. and reconvened the same day at 11:32 a.m. with Commissioners Richard Mahar, Robert Hamlin, and T.W. Lannen, Chair present.

The Board met in a workshop to discuss Commissioners Office budgets for 2022 with Heidi Penner, Financial Management Administrator. She reported she added \$2,000 to the Commissioners' budget for travel expenses and removed any revenue from copies as the Prosecutor's Office handles Public Records requests. A half time Administrative Assistant was added to the payroll spreadsheet for Commissioners'

budget. Other budgets were discussed. There were no changes to the Civil Service budget. When they were discussing External Services budget the Board discussed if ARPA funds could be used to fund any of the outside entities that receive money from the County. It was suggested maybe the Food Bank could be funded that way. Operating Transfers and Non- Departmental Revenues were discussed. Secure Rural Schools funding has not yet been reauthorized and may not be put in the 2022 Budget. Other funding sources discussed were encumbered lands revenue, and State Forest Board funds. Cumulative Reserve Insurance fund was discussed, and the Board agreed that \$700,000 should be budgeted for 2022. Contingent Liability will remain the same. All other Special Revenue funds will remain the same, except Title III funding has not been reauthorized with the SRS funds. America Rescue Plan Act funds were discussed, and processes needed to report and the funds.

The meeting recessed at 12:11 p.m. and reconvened the same day at 1:25 p.m. with Commissioners Robert Hamlin, Richard Mahar, and T.W. Lannen, Chair present.

The Board met for Forest Service Updates with Erin Black, Mt. Adam's District Ranger and Rebecca Hoffman, Mt. St. Helen's National Volcanic Monument Manager. Erin reported there are no current fires in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest but there is public use restriction in place including no campfires. She also reported the Industrial Precaution Level is 2 at that time. She reported on timber sales in the Forest. She mentioned that three foresters were hired to layout sales. She also talked about road work on Forest Service Roads 90 and 88 with emergency federal funding. She also reported on the Big Hollow Fire area closure, and trail work. She reported the Department of Natural Resources issued a Press Release closing the East side of DNR Lands but indicated there was no momentum to close Forest Service lands at the time. Erin also reported for Rebecca who was delayed by another meeting but submitted a written report which included a timed ticket process for Ape Cabe, and infrastructure issues at the Johnston Ridge Observatory that are delaying the opening. It was also reported was that Erin and Rebecca are working on lifting the Big Hollow Fire Closure by having trails cleared the trailhead up and operational. IT is hoped the closure is lifted by the end of July. There are plans to start road work on Forest Road 99e this summer or fall. This road is an administrative road that comes off the Windy Ridge Recreation site and ends at the parking lot that is referred to as the researchers parking lot. Access to hiking and vehicles will be closed Monday through Friday from at noon. It will be open over the weekend for access.

The meeting recessed at 1:49 p.m. and reconvened the same day at 2:30 p.m. with Commissioners Robert Hamlin, Richard Mahar, and T.W. Lannen, Chair present.

The Board met for Washington Gorge Action Program updates with Curt Gray, Emily Pinheiro, and Chris Cline attending team members of the Stevenson Food Bank. They were attending for Executive Director, Leslie Naramore who was not able to attend. Curt Gray reported on the Treasury Rental Assistance Program, and an Eviction Rental Assistance Program, Emily Pinheiro reported on grocery deliveries with Senior Services and COVID outreach. Chris Cline reported on the Cooling Shelter and success stories.

The meeting recessed at 3:02 p.m. and reconvened the same day at 3:15 p.m. with Commissioners Robert Hamlin, Richard Mahar, and T.W. Lannen, Chair present.

The Board met in an Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) Performance of a public employee for 20 minutes. At 3:40 p.m. the Chair announced they would need 10 more minutes. At 3:53 p.m. the Chair announced they would need 5 more minutes. At 3:57 p.m. the Chair announced they would need 30 more minutes. At 4:27 p.m. the Chair announced they would need 10 more minutes. The session ended at 4:27 p.m. with no action taken.

The meeting recessed at 4:37 p.m. and reconvened the same day at 5:30 p.m. with Commissioners Robert Hamlin, and T.W. Lannen, Chair present.

The Board held a Public Hearing to take public comment and consider for approval, Resolution 2021-20. Supplemental Budget #2 for the 2021 Budget. Debbie Slack, Financial Management Coordinator/Clerk of the Board gave a staff report. She reported the amount of \$83,327.19 would be needed for Current Expense supplementals not covered by increased revenues or other budget offsets. A change in a BARS number for ARP funds was reported. There was no public comment and no Board questions or deliberations. Commissioner Hamlin moved, seconded by Commissioner Lannen and the motion carried unanimously to approve Supplemental Budget #2 for the 2021 Budget.

The Board held a Public Hearing to take public comment and for final review and approval of Title III projects for funding for the 2021-2022 contract period. There was no staff report, and no public comment. The Board discussed a spreadsheet that included amounts that each Commissioner would award. The amounts were averaged out and the following amounts were discussed. The total amount to award was \$206,773.82.

- Sheriff Search and Rescue - \$63,000
- North Country EMS - \$67,000
- Underwood Conservation District - \$30,000
- Skamania County EMS - \$46,773.82

Commissioner Hamlin moved to approve the amounts listed above for the 2021-2022 contracts. Commissioner Lannen seconded the motion. Discussion included: Commissioner Lannen stated the total asks for the funding was \$240,937.81. Also, it was mentioned the amount funded for Title III for 2021-2022 was reduced by 5%. The motion carried unanimously. Debbie Slack, Financial Management Coordinator/Clerk of the Board let the Board know the contract would be ready for the Boards approval on the following weeks agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

ATTEST:



Debbie Slack

 Clerk of the Board

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
 SKAMANIA COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

J. W. Lannen

 Commissioner

[Signature]

 Commissioner

[Signature]

 Commissioner

Aye 3
 Nay 0
 Abstain 0
 Absent 0