

**Klickitat County
Board of Commissioners
Minutes – Meeting of Tuesday, January 5, 2021**


Topic	Agenda Item - Comment/Disposition
	Call to Order/Roll Call
Morning Workshop Session – Tuesday, January 5, 2020	Interim - Chairman David M. Sauter called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. Commissioners present: David M. Sauter, Jacob L. Anderson and Dan Christopher.
	Workshop Session Agenda
First Order of Business: Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the 2021 Calendar Year	<p>9:30 AM – Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the 2021 Calendar Year</p> <p>Approved (M/Anderson, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously): Resolution No. 00121 in the matter of reorganization of the Klickitat County Board of Commissioners and the election of David M. Sauter to serve as Chairman. Approved (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously): Jacob L. Anderson to serve as Vice-Chairman for 2021, calendar year.</p> <p>A discussion followed regarding the different Boards and Committee appointments for the Commissioners.</p>
	Workshop Session Agenda
Public Works/Road Department Update	<p>10:00 AM – Public Works Department Update</p> <p>Attendance: Public Works Director Gordon Kelsey in the Chambers, Public Works Deputy Director Jeff Hunter in the Chambers, various county employees and residents via telephone.</p> <p>Public Works Director Kelsey reviewed the operations of his department, noting they work with citizens to solve issues that arise and will continue to be open to citizens, followed by an update of the Public Works funds.</p> <p>A discussion was held about the current maintenance and road construction projects, winter road condition reports and the county road crew reports for local road repairs.</p> <p>Director Kelsey advised the Klickitat Valley Hospital requested to use the Fairgrounds as a COVID-19 vaccination administering drive-through location, the Board was in support.</p> <p>Questions and answers were provided regarding the Klickitat County Firearms Training Facility.</p>
Economic Development/Natural Department Update	<p>10:30 AM - Department Update/Report:</p> <p>Attendance: Economic Development/Natural Resource Director Dave McClure, Economic Development Specialist Richard Foster in the Chambers, various county employees and residents via telephone.</p>

	<p>Director McClure started his update with a discussion about the new Natural Resource Specialist replacing Jacob Anderson’s vacant position. Director McClure requested and received verbal approval to allow the new Natural Resource Specialist to work remotely in the west end as well as Goldendale. The Board was in support.</p> <p>A Natural Resource update followed, including water flow management for the local rivers and upcoming grant amendments.</p> <p>Director McClure reported on Economic Development projects; a discussion was held regarding Klickitat County Public Economic Development Authority (KCPEDA) Board members and scheduling an upcoming meeting. Director McClure advised of new developments in Dallesport, followed by the projects that have been recommended for funding by the KCPDA Board.</p> <p>A discussion was held about Klickitat County sponsoring a Small Business Development Center (SBDC) in partnership with Washington State University and Skamania County Economic Development Council; Economic Specialist Richard Foster provided a background on the functions of an SBDC.</p> <p>A discussion followed regarding tourism funds and appointed members to the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee; followed by a discussion about parcels of County-owned land in Dallesport and the Klickitat Mill site.</p> <p>A Working Washington 3.0 update from Specialist Foster was given. The funds are expected to be deposited to the businesses accounts soon. Commissioner Sauter stated concerns regarding the Working Washington Small Business Grants, noting legislators were not in session when the appropriations were made for the Coronavirus Relief Grants. The Governor was able to direct where the money was spent. Now that the legislators are back in session appropriations could go through a different process. He questioned the chances of our local businesses receiving the funds.</p>
	<p>A discussion resumed regarding the different Boards and Committee appointments for each Commissioner.</p>
Lunch Recess	<p>The Board recessed for lunch at 11:33 AM.</p>
	<p>Call to Order/Roll Call:</p>
<p>Regular Meeting for Tuesday, January 5, 2021</p>	<p>Chairman Sauter reconvened the meeting at 1:00 PM. Commissioners present: David M. Sauter, Jacob L. Anderson and Dan Christopher.</p>
	<p>Agenda:</p>
<p>Business Agenda</p>	<p>Approved (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously): the Business with one (1) add-on under New Business.</p>
	<p>Approval of Commissioner Meeting Minutes</p>
<p>Approval of Meeting Minutes</p>	<p>* Approved (M/Anderson, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously): the Klickitat County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes for December 29, 2020.</p>

<p>Comments will be limited to seven (7) minutes per individual</p>	<p>Citizen Comment:</p> <p>White Salmon Valley Metropolitan Pool District President Lloyd DeKay provided an update on the White Salmon Pool, stating an engineering firm was hired in 2020, and an architectural firm has now been hired to move forward allowing the crews to work together.</p> <p>Goldendale resident Russ Hanson, a member of C.E.A.S.E inquired about the solar farm projects in the area, stating his opposition to allowing more solar farms to be built in Klickitat County.</p> <p>White Salmon resident Gabrielle Gilbert stated she would like the Commissioners to be available in the west end of the County. Ms. Gilbert stated concerns with the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine and requested the vaccine be made available to the grocery store employees as well as other employees engaging directly with the public regularly. Ms. Gilbert inquired about affordable housing and addressed Commissioner Christopher’s campaign funding request letter.</p> <p>Lynn Mason from White Salmon welcomed the new Commissioner’s and wished everyone a Happy New Year. Ms. Mason inquired about the notifications for the Northwest Natural Gas outage in the Gorge last week, followed by a discussion about the Department of Emergency Management’s emergency notification system and ways to sign up to receive notification messages. Department of Emergency Management Director Jeff King advised the outage was sent out as an emergency notification and steps on how to get signed up to receive the notifications.</p> <p>West end resident Thomas Woodward inquired about a development in the Husum / BZ Corner area and would like to know about Klickitat County’s vegetative management plan in regards to developments.</p> <p>Greg Wagner member of C.E.A.S.E inquired about the distance setbacks from neighboring properties that abut the Avangrid Renewable Solar Farm in Bickleton; Mr. Wagner asked the Commissioners to enact a six (6) month moratorium on solar projects.</p> <p>Goldendale resident Rocel Demmick inquired if the Commissioners and the Planning Department will be available to do a question and answer forum about the solar farm projects in Klickitat County.</p> <p>White Salmon resident Gabrielle Gilbert requested the Commissioner’s remain accessible to west end constitutes.</p>
	<p>Consent Agenda:</p> <p>* Approved (M/Anderson, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously): the Consent Agenda with three (3) items.</p> <p>1) Resolution No. 00221 in the matter of appointing Jacob Anderson and Dan Christopher to the Klickitat County Public Corporation Board of Directors. The</p>

	<p>appointment shall coordinate with and not exceed their current term of office on the Board of Commissioners. January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2024.</p> <p>2) Letters and Resolution No. 00321 in the matter of appointing individuals to the Klickitat County Public Economic Development Authority Board for a term beginning January 1, 2021, and concluding December 31, 2021.</p> <p>3) Requests from Offices and Departments to allow employees to carry over vacation hours over the cap of 160 hours into 2021, to be used by June 30, 2021.</p>
	<p>New Business:</p>
	<p>Approved (M/Anderson, S/Christopher. Passed unanimously): Request from the Commissioner’s Office for authorization to purchase a Latitude 7410 laptop, and 24 USB-C hub monitor from Dell through the Klickitat County Information Technology Department at a cost of \$2,714.13 plus applicable sales tax at 7.5 %, \$203.56, for a total purchase price of \$2,917.69.</p>
	<p>Elected Official Report/Update:</p>
<p>Prosecuting Attorney’s Update</p>	<p>Attendance: Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel, various county employees and residents via telephone.</p> <p>Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel advised on the large criminal case backlog that is happening due to the COVID-19 Pandemic closures.</p> <p>Prosecutor Quesnel stated the backlog is so significant there will be criminal offenses that require dismissal, Prosecutor Quesnel expressed his concern and noted it is not an ideal situation.</p>
	<p>Board Pending:</p>
<p>Issues as determined by the Board of Commissioners</p>	<p>Commissioner Christopher requested if the Board is in agreement to say the Pledge of Allegiance before each meeting and would like to work with the Information Technology Department to have a Facebook Page for each Commissioner and each Department. The Board stated this will require further discussion. The Board held a discussion regarding the Open Public Meetings Act and the honor system that is currently followed.</p> <p>(M/Christopher, S/Anderson): Whereas, the Klickitat County Energy Overlay Zone was created to help streamline energy project development; Klickitat County's current Energy Overlay Zone regulations were predominantly created with wind power in mind, with minimal regard to large scale solar development. Therefore, I believe it is the County legislative body's responsibility to its people, to make sure our county codes, regulations and policies are current and up to date in regards to large-scale solar project development. Therefore, I move that we intact an emergency three (3) month moratorium on all large-scale solar developments located west of Highway 97, while the County makes any needed updates to our current regulations.</p> <p>Chairman Sauter called for Board discussion; the location of the Knight Road substation was discussed, followed by Commissioner Sauter advising the purpose and origination of the current Energy Overlay Zone (EOZ) and the Conditional Use Permit</p>

	<p>Application process, noting a Conditional Use Permit process includes a public process.</p> <p>Commissioner Anderson stated that due to the substation being outside the EOZ he felt the Conditional Use process would be the appropriate avenue for any solar projects hooking up to the substation. He further clarified that the goal is to keep the process local rather than have developers use the State Siting Process</p> <p>A vote was taken and Chairman Sauter and Commissioner Anderson opposed the motion. Commissioner Christopher voted in favor, the motion failed.</p>
	<p>Commissioner Anderson reported thirty-three (33) businesses have been awarded \$12,500 in Working Washington III Grant Funds.</p>
	<p>At 2:07 PM Chairman Sauter announced that the Board would be convening into Executive Session with Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel in accordance with RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss pending litigation. Chairman Sauter noted that the session would last for ten (10) minutes. At 2:17 PM it was announced the Executive Session would be extended ten (10) minutes. At 2:27 PM it was announced the Executive Session would be extended ten (10) minutes. At 2:37 PM it was announced the Executive Session would be extended ten (10) minutes. At 2:47 PM it was announced the Executive Session would be extended five (5) minutes.</p> <p>The Board convened back into Regular Session at 2:52 PM. No action was taken.</p>
	<p>The Board had a discussion regarding why the Courthouse has remained closed to the public during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Prosecutor Quesnel advised, the County's insurance provider has made it clear that it will not cover any claims or liability issues if there is a violation of the law. The Prosecutor further stated that all lawsuits have been upheld to the Governor's mandates. Chairman Sauter commented that the Board decided to be compliant with the law. Further discussion followed concerning case law relevant to COVID-19.</p>
<p>Adjournment (3:07 PM)</p>	<p>Approved (M/Christopher, S/Anderson. Passed unanimously): There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned. No workshops scheduled.</p>
	<p>* Reference Document on File</p>
	<p>Please Note: The Board of Commissioners' minutes are action minutes. A digital recording is on file as part of the official record and available on file BOCC-Meeting 1-05-21.</p>


 Approved: **David M. Sauter**
 Chairman of the Board



01.12.2021
 Date