BOCC Notable Minutes

Public Works/Road Department:

Public Works Deputy Director Jeff Hunter report followed with a discussion about possible grants available to construct a pedestrian crossing for the Lyle Sandbar activity site. (12/1)

Economic Development/Natural Resource Development Update:

Economic Specialist Richard Foster has been working with the Port of Klickitat on infrastructure; and, is following up on the Economic Development Authority Grant for the Columbia Gorge Regional Airport to fulfill the additional information requested and continues to be involved in the Childcare Committee. (12/1)

Sheriff Update:

Sheriff Bob Songer reported on three resent events. The first was about a Seattle couple’s vehicle that got stuck in the snow on U.S. Forest Service Road 23 in Skamania County. Klickitat County Air Wing Pilot Special Deputy Brad Damm was able to locate the vehicle and Skamania County Search and Rescue were able to rescue the couple. (12/22)

The second event stated that deputies reported on a burglary that ended in an arrest, noting the investigation continues and charges forthcoming. (12/22)

The third event was a report of domestic violence assault which also ended in an arrest recovering a large number of firearms which will be secured by the Sheriff’s Office throughout the court process. (12/22)

Citizen Comment:

County resident Gabriel Gilbert and White Salmon resident Lynn Mason stated concerns regarding the Sheriff’s Office Posse and Wildlife Management Programs. Mason’s concern included the Cougar population control. (12/22)

Public Hearings/Meetings/Bid Openings:

Granted and passed unanimously: Bonding Site Plan BSP 2020-02. Applicant: Columbia Gorge Regional Airport, Dallesport. (12/08)

Approved and passed unanimously: Short Plan SPL 2020-09. Applicant: Dancing Rock Ranch, Murdock. (12/8)

Consent Agenda:

Two public meetings were scheduled to consider approval. One, a short Plat in the Murdock vicinity: Applicant: Dancing Rock Ranch LLC (Mike Rockwell). The second, to consider approval of a Binding Site Plan in the Dallesport vicinity. Applicant: Columbia Regional Airport (Aryn Rassmussen). (12/1)

Resolution No. 14920 reappointed Norm Deo and Tim Urness to serve on the Columbia Gorge Regional Airport Board. (12/15)

Reimbursable Work Agreement (C35220) between Klickitat County (Public Works Department) and CGRA to provide vehicle repair as needed for five (5) years for the airport which will reimburse the county 100% of the costs. (12/15)

Resolution No. 17020 in the matter of extending the suspension of abatement nuisance cases through July 1. 2021, with the stipulation if the COVID-19 conditions improve the code enforcement activities can be resumed. (12/29)

Building Inspection & Code Compliance:

Building and Code Compliance Director Lynn Ward provided an overview the proposed amendments to Title 15 and Title 16, noting a public hearing has been scheduled for January 19, 2021. This includes next Code Cycle effective February1, 2021 which includes changes to the storage only clause for permit exemption. An official adoption of a ground snow load method, maximum time frames for permits to be valid. And, a proposal that Title 15.38 be moved to a separate Title. Title 15 is the local adoption of current Washington State Building Code Cycle with local amendments. (12/22)

Title 16 is the adoption of local codes for Factory Assembled Structures regulated through Washington State L & I. The hearing will be proposing a longer wait time validity typically applied to manufactured homes. (12/22)

Unfinished Business:

Continuing discussion regarding solar/wind development, and the Energy Overlay Zone. Planning Department Director Mo-chi Lindblad restated how energy projects are permitted. 1) Projects are allowed outright in the EOZ. 2) Projects outside the EOZ are subject to underlying zoning and required to go through the Conditional Use Permitting process. 3) State Energy Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC). Goldendale resident/former alternative energy consultant Dana Peck suggested the County have projects outside the EOZ go through the EFSEC. The Board indicated that further research and discussion is need. Commissioner Sauter was chosen to tour the facility for the Board. (12/08)

During the session on the 22nd, there were two (2) Programs approved and passed unanimously, six (6) Tax Levies approved and passed unanimously, a 2021 Budget adoption. Also, in the matter of adopting the 2021-2026 Capital Improvement Plan. (12/22)

Regular Meeting Workshop Extension:

A discussion regarding the final payments on loans for the Dallesport Wastewater Plant and Pioneer Center. (12/1)

Also, a brief discussion regarding the Yakama Nation Housing Authority’s development located in Wishram Heights. (12/1)

Note: There seems to be plenty of public pushback and concerns regarding the presence of solar energy projects in Klickitat County. Such as hazardous materials, fires or explosions, devaluation of surrounding properties and decommissioning of solar projects when project owners declare bankruptcy. (12/1)

Prosecuting Attorney’s Update:

A discussion was held regarding the Ninth District Court of Appeal and when a discussion was likely in the Glenwood case; Prosecutor David Quesnel stated the decision should come out in the spring. (12/15)

Miscellaneous Reports: *[P.S. This report has been relocated for further development regarding the Water Conservancy Board.]*

Approved and passed unanimously Resolution **No. 14520** in the matter of supporting the Board’s decision to consider an amendment to the preliminary approval from Mountain View Estates located in Dallesport: Applicant Greg Wallace, *as* *substantiaI,* requiring an application resubmittal to increase the lot size from 26 to 35. (12/1)

Water Conservancy Board Chairman Craig Stevens presented the Board’s 2020, annual report about projects and services provided to the county residents. Stevens thanked the Board for their continued support. Jacob Anderson stated he will be resigning at the end of the year. (12/15)

*What I have researched: [Prior to 01/01/2020, this Board was unknown to me.]*

* *The Anderson resignation was effective 12/31/2020.*
* *This Board operates under the following:*

**RCW**[**90.80.020**](http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=90.80.020)

**Water conservancy boards—Creation.**

1. The county legislative authority of a county may create a water conservancy board, subject to approval by the director, for the purpose of expediting voluntary water transfers within the county. [There is plenty more to this statute; please continue your own research.]

* *A replacement* has not *been appointed. Appointments are for 6-year terms. However, the initial appointment will have to complete Mr. Anderson’s term which expires July 31, 2021. Historically, the appointment has not been attached on a county commissioner district basis.*
* *New Board Commissioners must complete 32-hrs of training conducted by the Department of Ecology. This year the training program will be conducted February 22nd through the 25th. After that, 8-hrs of training per year is required. This is a volunteer appointment and serves without compensation except for travel costs.*
* *The Board’s regular meeting is scheduled for the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Currently, the meetings are conducted via ZOOM. In “normal times” they will be held in the County Courthouse in Goldendale.*
* *Craig Stevens is the current Chair. The other four (4) commissioners are; Scott Andrews, Jeff Andrews, Matt Graves and Kevin Kreps. The other Alternate is Dave McClure. There are water rights holders on the Board so, this requirement is satisfied.*

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P.S. I posed one additional question to Mr. McClure that he will have to look into before answering: *When "normal times" are re-established, will joining a meeting virtually continue to count for a quorum?*