BOCC Notable Minutes

* (02/02)
* (02/09)
* (02/16)
* (02/23)

Economic Development/Natural Resource Development Update:

Economic Development Specialist Richard Foster reported on the Columbia Gore Regional Airport Project, noting the importance of the infrastructure the County was requesting and working with the granting agency to come to an agreement on the hanger locations. (02/09)

Director Dave McClure reported on development and businesses in the Dallesport area. (02/09)

Commissioner Anderson requested information regarding the property in Dallesport area. (02/09)

Legislative Update:

Commissioner Dan Christopher asked Legislative Lobbyists Zak Kennedy (via teleconference) requested information regarding a bill to remove tools from the police is moving forward which will negatively impact rural Sheriff Departments. (02/023)

**Sheriff’s Department:**

Sheriff Bob Songer provided a complete update on the Klickitat County sheriff’s Office Community Policing Programs, noting the volunteer Air Wing Pilots group consists of seven (7) pilots. And, for the entire year 2020, the Pilots flew a total of 11,145.4 hours of volunteer flight time, noting they also pay their fuel, maintenance and rental costs totaling $1,008,216.00. (02/09)

Comparatively, The East Wing County Posse has 38 deputies; the Central Posse has 87 deputies; the East Posse has 16 deputies and two (2) Posse Auxiliary Members. In addition to the Posse, there are ten (10) volunteer Reserve Deputies carrying out law enforcement duties. (02/23)

Chairman David Sauter stated that a Dallesport resident has raise the issue of speed control in Dallesport, specifically on Third Avenue, and requested that radar signs be installed to bring attention to the driver’s speed? (02/23)

Sheriff Songer thanked the Department of Emergency Management Director Jeff King who is the Search and rescue Coordinator for the County, followed by a report of successful rescues in 2020. (02/23).

Citizen Comment:

Plenty of continuing discussion from the public regarding solar panel projects, C.E.A.S.E. (Citizens educated About Solar Energy) and the Board/Planning Department regarding proposed solar projects at the Lund Hill and Under Canvass locations and just in general in reference to the EOZ, SEPA, etc. (02/02)

Debbie Wagner member of C.E.A.S.E., Russ Hanson in Goldendale, Greg Wagner also a member of C.E.A.S.E., and resident Dave Barta continue to challenge the solar farm projects from as many directions as possible including concerns about kids playing in the street with the additional traffic; requesting Commissioner Sauter and Anderson align themselves with C.E.A.S.E.; requesting additional review regarding the Energy Overlay Zone by the Board; requesting the board to intact a Moratorium on Solar Projects; inquiring about 2 acres of battery storage is allowable regarding the Final Environmental Impact Statement made 17 years ago, and does the wind farms allow for such a large batter storage area? Also, questioning if the Natural Resource Advisory Committee has been reconstituted? (02/09)

Additionally, one request from Laborers Union 335 Political and Legislative Director Deken Letinich, is encouraging the board to consider moving forward with the upcoming Solar Project and Pump Storage Projects. (02/09) & (02/23)

Elaine Harvey from Goldendale raised concerns regarding possible environmental impacts caused by the Goldendale Pump Storage Project and hoe it may impact the Tribal Cultural Resources in the area, and the salmon in the Columbia River. (02/09)

Elaine Harvey is from the Rock Band again, stating the impact they have had to endure with all the changes and devastation that the green energy projects have Brought. (02/23)

More concerns and comparisons continue to be raised by citizens, including Greg Wagner, Sheri Bousquet, Elaine Harvey and Rocil Demmick. (02/16)

Rocil Demmick, Greg Wagner, Elaine Harvey, Jennifer DeCent, and Shari Bouquet continue to ask questions, receive information, and state their concerns or support for solar farms in the County (02/23)

Goldendale resident Loren Meager requests the Gun Range surplus the brass from the Gun Range to support the Gun Range. 02/23)

Building Inspection & Code Compliance:

The Board held a regular meeting extension: Workshop Session for Thursday, February 11, 2021, whereas discussions continued regarding short-term rentals that carried over into discussions of the current Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Ordinance. Discussions also involved the permitting process, the differences between ADUs and short-term rental units and restrictions, definitions and how they are related to the Conditional Use Permit process. Director Mo-chi Lindblad provided further clarifications and interpretations. (02/09)

Discussions followed regarding tiny homes and RVs and whether they are considered short-term rental and how the Code requires an L & I sticker in order to issue a permit. The discussion included comparisons between White Salmon and Skamania County’s Ordinances. Then, temporary structures and permitting were brought up for discussions. (02/09)

The discussions continued regarding options to address the use of recreational vehicles as a year-round place of residence. Of course, the Building Department cannot issue placement permits on any structure that does not have a HUD identification sticker. The Planning Department and the Building Department would have to cooperate to create placement permits, Title 19 would need to be amended with a requirement that they be an annual requirement. (02/09)

The extension discussed code compliance and nuisance abatement, and it was noted that ¼ of complain cases involved people living in unpermitted RVs. What are the legalities of using the road crew to do cleanup work which extended to the observation that most complaints in the future will be environmental. Of course, the discussion turned to the costliness of doing abatement especially when asbestos is an issue. And, it was reiterated that the County can only place a lien on a property for costs, only. So, where is the recovery of costs obtainable? (02/09)

Unfinished Business:

Update from the Lyle community Council; Council Member Vern Harpole brought forth a resolution proposal to granting access to the Lyle Sand Bar. And, stated a historical perspective on the issue. (02/23)

Prosecuting Attorney David Quesnel reported on entities that are not willing to grant access and will not support the public accessing the Lyle Sand Bar. (02/23)

Board Pending:

Commissioner Jacob Anderson was selected by the Board to be the liaison in a long-term attempt by the County to repair their relationship Yakama Nation. (02/02)

Elected Official Report:

Regular Meeting Extension for Thursday, February 25, 2021, the Board was scheduled to toured the two (2) solar energy projects located in Prineville, OR. The meeting was reconvened at 10:30 AM at the Invenergy Prineville Solar Energy Project. Three Commissioners were present. Seven (7) County Department employees and twelve (12) members from the Klickitat County public were also in attendance. Some of the County members were in support and some were opposed to solar projects. They also toured the Avangrid Gala Solar Energy Project in Prineville, OR. The tour ended approximately at 3:30 PM. (02/23)