BOCC Notable Minutes

* 03/02
* 03/09
* 03/16

Public Works/Road Department:

Public Works Deputy Director Jeff Hunter’s report was followed by a discussion regarding an interlocal agency agreement with local entities to use the Klickitat County Firearms Training Facility, the board was in support. (03/16)

Economic Development/Natural Resource Development Update:

Director Dave McClure requested guidance about submitting a proposal for funding to Senator Murray regarding projects at the Columbia Gorge Regional Airport. The Board advised they would like to see the Airport project move forward as well as other projects in the area. 903/09)

Sheriff Update:

Citizen Comment:

Public Hearings/Meetings/Bid Openings:

Consent Agenda:

Building Inspection & Code Compliance:

Unfinished Business:

Miscellaneous Reports:

Prosecuting Attorney’s Update:

Board Pending:

*Observation noted:*

*The issue of solar projects and their current locations continues to be huge topics for discussion with the Board. However, the Goldendale Pump Storage Project remains in the mix especially in regards to if, and/or how much of this power will be locally. Or, is this to supply California-for-profit? Same question needs to be applied to solar and wind projects to get a full picture of who truly benefits, and who profits in relation to who is paying for these projects and what is it guaranteeing to the County in tax revenue? What kind of tax breaks and how much we are we allowing? (03/16)*

Regular Meeting Extension on Thursday, March 11, 2021:

**This was a continued discussion regarding short-term rentals (STR), Recreational vehicle (RV) placement permits, and nuisance abatement.**

Building and Inspection and Code Compliance Director Lynn Ward provided an overview of proposed changes including but not limited to;

* Retitling the Code Enforcement Officer position to be retitled as a Code Compliance representative or liaison who would receive the complaints, process and log the complaints, and forward the complaint to the appropriate department(s) to work with the violations. Each department would shoulder the responsibility directly for what is under their jurisdiction. Commissioner Dan Christopher stated he liked Director Ward’s proposed changes.

Commissioner Jake Anderson stated he would like input from the other directors, noting that a lot of work will be shifted to other departments. *(It might be prudent to remember that at this time, there is no Code Compliance Officer, and no activity in regards to abatement, compliance or complaint processing since Frank Hewey was terminated last year.)*

Planning Director Mo-chi Lindblad advised how planning violations are handled between Planning and Code Compliance, noting that a liaison person/position would be helpful.

Public Works Director Gordon Kelsey explained how complaints concerning road approaches have been handled.

Environmental Health Director David Kavanagh agreed that having a liaison is key dealing with multi nuisance/code issues involving multi departments. Plenty discussion ensued. Director Kavanagh noted that departments do not currently charge for their time in code/nuisance cases, but if the workload increases this may become an issue.

Director Lindblad stated that there is no process in place to make people comply with the County Ordinance. The main issue being there is no means to take action against violations or non-compliance. Director Ward noted that the ending part in the process is broken.

The Board discussed how to use a Nuisance Board of Appeals as a hearing board for cases that have not become compliant. The Nuisance board would make recommendations for fines, time frames, possible solutions, and provide the county with wider citizen involvement. This would be similar to the City of Goldendale utilizing a nuisance Board of citizen volunteers.

The board discussed the situation of people living in unpermitted structures and options to help bring them into compliance.

* Chairman Sauter noted that Director Ward should check with the Prosecutor regarding the Appeal Board’s authority to issue fines. Director Ward.

The Board reached a consensus to send the draft revisions to the Prosecutor for review. Director Ward will schedule a follow-up workshop when she is ready. *(Would the Board go so far as to use a collection agency, in conjunction with the liens it may impose?)*

The Board discussed the temporary placement of RVs and hardship permits.

* The discussion expressed concerns with #5 water and the requirement to have a road approach built to County standards. It was noted that such an approach can cost $15,000 and people will not be able to afford that and will not be in compliance. Additional nine (9) issues regarding required expectations involving temporary structures.

There were continuing discussions regarding Short Term Rentals, and the quagmire with Zoning Ordinances, ADU permit conditions, Critical Areas Ordinance, the Comprehensive Plan, and various Sub Area Plan updates. Director Lindblad has been given time to consider how she would like to move forward and schedule a workshop when ready.

The discussion continued regarding solar energy projects.

* Too much information and activity for this report to focus on. It would perhaps, be wise to the BOCC Minutes on the Klickitat County website.