

RECORDED

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**Clatsop County
Board of Commissioners
Minutes
Wednesday, January 24, 2024**

REGULAR MEETING: 6:00 PM

FLAG SALUTE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Chair Mark Kujala

Vice Chair Courtney Bangs

Commissioner Pamela Wev

EXCUSED

Commissioner Thompson

Commissioner John Toyooka

AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Kujala requested the following additions to the agenda:

- Consent Calendar Item 5. Purchase of a 2023 Dodge Ram
- Business Agenda Item 8.a. Emergency Declaration
- Business Agenda Item 8.b. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Agreement

Motion made by Vice Chair Bangs, Seconded by Commissioner Wev to approve the agenda as amended.

Voting Yea: Chair Kujala, Vice Chair Bangs, Commissioner Wev

PROCLAMATION

1. Cascadia Earthquake Awareness Day Proclamation {Page 33}

Mike Neelon, Emergency Management Coordinator, presented information on the history and purpose of the proclamation, noting details about the last major earthquake in the County and anticipation of another major earthquake in the future.

Motion: Approve the Resolution and Order proclaiming January 26, 2024 to be Cascadia Earthquake Awareness Day and authorize the Chair to read, then sign the proclamation.

Motion made by Vice Chair Bangs, Seconded by Commissioner Wev.

Voting Yea: Chair Kujala, Vice Chair Bangs, Commissioner Wev

Chair Kujala read the proclamation.

1
2 **BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC**

3 There was no business from the public.
4

5 **CONSENT CALENDAR**

6 Item 5 was added to the Consent Calendar during Agenda Approval.

7 *Motion made by Vice Chair Bangs, Seconded by Commissioner Wev to approve the*
8 *Consent Calendar, as amended during Agenda Approval.*

9 *Voting Yea: Chair Kujala, Vice Chair Bangs, Commissioner Wev*
10

11 2. Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes 12-13-23 {Page 35}

12 3. Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes 9-13-23 {Page 41}

13 4. Adoption of the FY24-25 Budget Policies {Page 45}

14 5. Purchase of a 2023 Dodge Ram (added to the Consent Calendar during Agenda
15 Approval)
16

17 **COMMISSIONER'S LIAISON REPORTS**

18 Commissioner Wev reported that Medix had trained several people to work on their
19 ambulances and hoped to have all of their ambulances fully staffed by the end of the
20 year.

21 Vice Chair Bangs reported that the fire in Ilwaco had impacted Clatsop County residents
22 who worked and stored equipment across the river and noted that Clatsop Community
23 Action was a resource for anyone who had been impacted by the fire. Other assistance
24 could become available as the Emergency Management Department worked with
25 Pacific County. She also reported that she had received phone calls about the Olney
26 Fire Department. The County was communicating with the fire department's board and
27 she expected an update when information was available. She had also received phone
28 calls about the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). She hoped the Board of Forestry
29 would make a decision by March. She reported that the natural resources fundraiser for
30 local school districts raised over \$150,000 to support natural resource-based clubs. The
31 fundraising was well run and well attended, and the clubs provided leadership
32 opportunities for children. She announced that on January 31, 2024, the State Forester
33 would attend a listening session on the HCP. The Northwest Senior and Disability
34 Services rescheduled their meeting as they waited for a new contract to be approved.
35 The Childcare Grant Committee was working on a third round of grants for this year and
36 recruiting a grant manager.

37 Chair Kujala reported that he and County Manager Bohn met with the CFM Advocates
38 lobbying team to review priorities, the Westport Ferry access, affordable and transitional
39 housing, public safety, radio equipment, 911 operations, courthouse security
40 improvements, coastal resiliency, and Tongue Point economic development. He also

met with Olivia Palmer from the Daily Astorian to talk about the County's priorities and successes from the last year. He encouraged people to attend the listening session with the State Forester and share about the success of the active management of the forest and the benefits of timber harvest funds to law enforcement and special districts.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager Bohn reported that he and Commissioner Bangs met with school superintendents to learn about State funding for schools. He also reported that Staff had been working on the Evergreen Acres water system. Their work would continue as it had been challenging to provide potable water.

BUSINESS AGENDA

5. Budget Committee Appointments {Page 57}

Andrew Sullivan, Finance Director, stated the Board had two vacancies and recommended they be filled before the upcoming 2024-2025 budget cycle.

Commissioner Wev noted there was discussion at the work session about several committees with vacancies and the lack of applicants to fill those positions. She was happy that a young citizen, Clara Sroufe, expressed interest in serving on the Budget Committee. The County did not always receive applications for District 5.

Chair Kujala said Tita Montero had previously served on the Budget Committee and did a good job.

Vice Chair Bangs recommended this discussion be tabled until the next meeting since Commissioner Thompson was Commissioner of District 5 and she was absent.

Commissioner Wev responded that the budget meetings would begin soon and asked how tabling the discussion would impact Staff.

Motion: "I move that the Board appoint Tita Montero to fill the District 2 county-wide position, and Clara Sroufe to fill the District 5 county-wide position."

Motion made by Chair Kujala, Seconded by Commissioner Wev.

Voting Yea: Chair Kujala, Vice Chair Bangs, Commissioner Wev

6. Rural Health Coalition of Clatsop County {Page 66}

Jiancheng Huang, Public Health Director, presented the Staff report on the Rural Health Coalition.

Commissioner Wev advised against using the word "charter" because it typically relates to a local government, especially counties.

Vice Chair Bangs said she hoped the coalition would work on pediatric mental health.

1 Director Huang responded that the coalition had already started working together
2 on several initiatives, including mental health, and updates on their efforts would
3 be presented to the Commission.

4 Chair Kujala stated he did not have any objection to using the word "charter".

5 *"Approve of Clatsop County Department of Public Health participation in Rural*
6 *Health Coalition of Clatsop County as set out in the Coalition Charter and*
7 *authorize the County Manager to sign the Charter and any subsequent*
8 *amendments."*

9 *Motion made by Vice Chair Bangs, Seconded by Commissioner Wev.*

10 *Voting Yea: Chair Kujala, Vice Chair Bangs, Commissioner Wev*
11

12 7. Copeland Commons Predevelopment Funding Request {Page 71}

13 Elissa Gertler, Housing Manager, presented the Staff report on the request for
14 funds to support the Copeland Commons affordable housing project in downtown
15 Astoria. Staff recommended approval of the request.

16 Vice Chair Bangs asked how Astoria City Council felt about the project.

17 Manager Gertler understood the City was supportive and said the County had not
18 heard of any opposition.

19 Commissioner Wev said that as a member of First Presbyterian Church and
20 board member of Copeland Commons, she had a personal interest in the project.
21 However, she did not have any financial interest in the project.

22 *Motion: "Approve Pledge to Commit of \$125,000 of ARPA Funds to Support*
23 *Copeland Commons Predevelopment Funding Request, Conditional on OHCS*
24 *Funding Commitment."*

25
26 *Motion made by Vice Chair Bangs, Seconded by Commissioner Wev.*

27 *Voting Yea: Chair Kujala, Vice Chair Bangs, Commissioner Wev*
28

29 8a. Emergency Declaration

30 This item was added to the agenda during Agenda Approval.

31 County Manager Bohn stated that 47 households were on a private water system
32 that had been shut off. The system is regulated by the Oregon Health Authority
33 (OHA). However, the water system lacks resources so the County had been
34 assisting. In order to continue supporting the water system, Staff recommended
35 an emergency be declared so that the County could access State resources for
36 the community.

37 Chair Kujala asked for details about the condition of the other small water
38 systems in the County.

County Manager Bohn said the conditions varied among public and private water systems. The needs of other water systems were being addressed but it was possible that the County would have issues with another private water system. The State and County would need to start thinking creatively about the water systems before they fail, so Staff had been talking with OHA. Some grants might be available but the water systems do not have staff so the County planned to help the water systems find resources.

Vice Chair Bangs noted that several water districts lacked board members.

Commissioner Wev said that when special districts have issues, the County Manager must spend resources. She believed the Commission needed to address all of the County's special districts.

County Manager Bohn clarified that most special district statutes require a board be appointed and most of the water districts were privately owned.

Motion: "Approve the Resolution and Order declaring an emergency for the Evergreen Acres Water Services District and authorize the Chair to read, then sign the resolution."

Motion made by Vice Chair Bangs, Seconded by Commissioner Wev.

Voting Yea: Chair Kujala, Vice Chair Bangs, Commissioner Wev

Chair Kujala read the resolution.

8b.ARP Funding Agreement

This item was added to the agenda during Agenda Approval.

County Manager Bohn stated that Staff had been working with the new operator of the Evergreen Acres Water System to determine the scope of the repairs that are needed. Staff requested funding to help with the repairs. The operator would work with vendors and the County would provide funding for the invoices. He confirmed for Vice Chair Bangs that the County could not pay the vendors directly because the water system was not a County asset.

Vice Chair Bangs asked if the County could help with grant writing training for the small water districts.

County Manager Bohn responded that Staff could work with public partners to schedule a training but it would take some time to coordinate.

Motion: "Approve \$50,000 ARPA funding agreement with the operator (Jennifer Lynch) of the Evergreen Acres Water System and authorize the County Manager to sign the agreement and necessary amendments."

Motion made by Vice Chair Bangs, Seconded by Commissioner Wev.

Voting Yea: Chair Kujala, Vice Chair Bangs, Commissioner Wev

PUBLIC HEARINGS

8. Ordinance 24-02: Comprehensive Plan Goal 5 Updates {Page 73}

1 Chair Kujala said this was a continuation of the public hearing on the
2 Comprehensive Plan Updates.

3 County Counsel Pope conducted the second reading of the ordinance.

4 Gail Henrikson, Community Development Director, confirmed that no additional
5 information was available. She noted that Page 128 listed water districts and the
6 populations served by those districts.

7 Chair Kujala opened the public hearing and confirmed there were no public
8 comments. He closed the public hearing.

9 Commissioner Wev stated it was unusual in Oregon for the Goal 5 section of
10 Comprehensive Plans to have been prepared by someone other than a
11 consultant, so the County's Goal 5 section was very different from most
12 Comprehensive Plans. However, the updates included a lot of background
13 information prepared by Staff. The Comprehensive Plan could be useful as a
14 reference document.

15 Motion: "Adopt Ordinance 24-02."

16 Motion made by Vice Chair Bangs, Seconded by Commissioner Wev.

17 Voting Yea: Chair Kujala, Vice Chair Bangs, Commissioner Wev
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19 9. Solid Waste Ordinance amendment – Second Reading {Page 142}

20 Chair Kujala said this was a continuation of the public hearing on the Solid Waste
21 Ordinance.

22 County Counsel Pope conducted the second reading of the ordinance. He
23 confirmed for Chair Kujala no new information was available.

24 Chair Kujala confirmed there were no public comments and closed the public
25 hearing.

26 Motion: "Adopt Ordinance 24-04."

27 Motion made by Vice Chair Bangs, Seconded by Commissioner Wev.

28 Voting Yea: Chair Kujala, Vice Chair Bangs, Commissioner Wev
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30 **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

31 Commissioner Wev announced that Bob Westerberg had recently passed away. She
32 provided details about his service to the community and said his funeral was well-
33 attended by a variety of people impacted by his public service.

34
35 **ADJOURNMENT**

36 There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.
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1 Approved by,

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Courtney Bangs, Vice-Chair