



**BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS**
KLICKITAT COUNTY SERVICES BUILDING
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**JULY 14, 2026
MEETING MINUTES**

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, July 14, 2026 beginning at 9:30 AM in the Board of County Commissioners Chambers at the Klickitat County Services Building, 115 W Court St. Goldendale, Washington 98620. All three Commissioners were present.

9:30 AM DEPARTMENT UPDATE - PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Director Jeff Hunter and County Engineer Seth Scarola updated the Board on Consent Agenda items, Payment Approvals/Progress Payments/Change Orders, 2025 Construction Program, 2025 Road Design, East and West End Maintenance Projects, Upcoming Facilities Work/Events, Emergency Management, Solid Waste, Republic Services, Major Collectors, and a Dallesport Rate Public Hearing in Dallesport, August 18th at 6:00 PM.

10:14 AM DEPARTMENT UPDATE - COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR ROBB VAN CLEAVE

County Administrator Robb Van Cleave updated the Board on an equipment estimate from Avidex.

Budget Manager Heather Gallagher requested to be added to New Business for a Resolution of the supplemental budget.

10:18 AM - PROSECUTING ATTORNEY REBECCA CRANSTON

Prosecuting Attorney Rebecca Cranston requested and received approval to change the advertisement for the Deputy Prosecuting Attorney position level to a I-III. Attorney Cranston discussed the Public Records Officer position.

10:24 AM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Ihrig announced the Board would be going into Executive Session with Legal Counsel to discuss threaten and pending litigation as allowed and in accordance with RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). The Board will be in Executive Session for 20 minutes until 10:44 AM. At 10:44 AM Chairman Ihrig extended Executive Session for 10 minutes until 10:54 AM.

10:55 AM RECESS

- **Approved (M/Andrews, S/Zoller. Passed unanimously):** To recess until 1:00

1:00 PM CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All three Commissioners were present.

BUSINESS AGENDA

- **Approved (M/Zoller, S/. Passed unanimously):** Approval of the three (3) additions to the agenda. Ihrig added 2 items under New Business, A discussion on Letter of Support for Republic Services for the Seattle RFP and an update with Budget Manager Heather Gallagher. Chairman Ihrig added an Executive Session with County Administrator Robb Van Cleave.

COMMISSIONER MEETING MINUTES

- **Approved (M/Zoller, S/Andrews. Passed unanimously):** Approval of Commissioner meeting minutes for July 7th, 2026 as presented
- **Approved (M/Zoller, S/Andrews. Passed unanimously):** Approval of Amendment to commissioner meeting minutes for June 23rd, 2026 as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- David Harris
- Rodger Nichols
- Gabrielle Gilbert
- Sheri Bosque
- Andrew Smith
- Gene Klejeski

CONSENT AGENDA

Approved (M/Zoller S/Andrews Passed unanimously): Approval of the Consent Agenda with five (5) items.

1. GEOCOMM GIS Data Maintenance Services Project Agreement **(C14526)**
2. Behavioral Health Professional Services Agreement—Merle **(C14626)**
3. Klickitat County Health Department Food Worker Card Agreement **(C14726)**
4. ~~Klickitat County Health Department Consolidated Contract 25-27 Amendment #14~~
5. Approve and sign the two original copies of the Washington Military Department Homeland Security Grant Program Agreement Number E26-333. **(C14826)**
6. Approval of Change Order No.1 For the Klickitat County Courthouse Exterior Wall and Stucco Repair Project in the Amount of \$12,997.00. **(C14926)**

PAYROLL WARRANTS/PAYROLL CERTIFICATION

- **Approved (M/Zoller, S/Andrews. Passed unanimously):** Approval of Accounts Payable Warrants in the amount of \$290,738.34 and Payroll/Benefit Warrants in the amount of \$943,021.26 for the date ending July 13, 2026.

NEW BUSINESS

Budget Manager Heather Gallagher updated the Board on the quarter 2 supplemental requests. Gallagher requested and received approval to advertise the public hearing August 4th, 2026 at 1:30 PM in regards to the quarter 2 supplemental.

- **Approved (M/Zoller, S/Andrews. Passed unanimously):** Approval of Resolution No.

05426 in the matter of setting a Public Hearing.

Public Health Director Erinn Quinn provided a further explanation about the details of Consent Agenda item #4 Klickitat County Health Department Consolidated Contract 25-27 Amendment #14.

- **Approved (M/Andrews, S/Zoller. Passed unanimously):**
Approval of the contract (C15026)

The Board agreed to sign the Letter of Support for Republic Services.

1:42 PM - RECESS

Chairman Ihrig called for a 10-minute recess reconvening at 1:52 PM

Clerk of the Board, LeeAnn Burgin requested and received approval to draft a resolution for the re-appointment of David McNeal to serve on the Board of Equalization for additional three (3) year term. The resolution will be on the July 21st, 2026 Consent Agenda.

2:10 PM CLOSED SESSION – COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR ROBB VAN CLEAVE

Chairman Ihrig announced the Board would be meeting in Closed Session with Robb Van Cleave 30 to discuss R.C.W 42.30.140 (4)(a) Collective bargaining sessions with employee organizations, including contract negotiations, grievance meetings, and discussions relating to the interpretation or application of labor agreement; The Board will be in closed session for 20 minutes ending at 2:30 PM. At 2:30 PM The Board extended the closed session for 20 minutes ending at 2:50 PM.

2:50 PM RECESS

Approved (M/Andrews, S/Ihrig. Passed unanimously): To recess until Thursday, July 16th at 9:30 AM for a workshop

WORKSHOP THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2026

9:36 AM - Chairman Ihrig called the meeting to order.

In attendance: All three Commissioners were present. Forest Supervisor Johanna Kovark, Deputy Forest Supervisor Nic Granum, Public Affairs Officer Beth Kennedy, District Ranger Erin Black, Public Affairs Officer Joanie Schmidgall, and Klickitat County citizen Andrew Smith.

9:37 AM - FOREST SERVICE

District Ranger Erin Black Reported Tom Shultz has been elected as Fire Chief. Top priorities include, safety, wildfire response, and expanding timber production. Black also discussed the ongoing re-organization of the agency to meet critical needs and strengthening regions, closing of the regional office located in Portland, protecting communities as well as increasing timber production in Trout Lake, and the success and benefits of the fire service and DNR agreement of mutual aid during fire season. The forest service anticipates new changes over the next year across regional and national offices.

Forest Service Supervisor Kovarik discussed with the Board a few high-level upcoming projects. The first project being an assessment of the spirit link tunnel to focus on safety and

other long-term solutions as well as protection of wildlife. Kovarik also highlighted that Johnston Observatory is anticipated to be opened in spring of 2027 with help from WSDOT. Kovarik answered questions about commercial berry picking and past public safety concerns specifically with huckleberries. Kovarik also discussed regulation changes, transparency in plans, and record requests.

Deputy Forest Supervisor Nic Granum discussed management plans, under burning and thinning of forest and lands throughout Klickitat scenic area, seasonal employees recently hired, consistency reviews, public restrictions in forest areas, and funding and additional resources.

11:00 AM – RECESS

Chairman Ihrig called for a recess reconvening at 1:00 PM

- **Approved (M/Andrews, S/Zoller. Passed unanimously)**

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

1:04 PM Chairman Ihrig called the meeting to order.

In attendance: Chairman Ron Ihrig and Commissioner Todd Andrews, County Administrator Robb Van Cleave, Assessor Billi Bare, Public Works Director Jeff Hunter, Auditor Heather Jobe, Treasurer Greg Gallagher, and Klickitat County citizen Andrew Smith. Commissioner Lori Zoller was absent.

Commissioner Andrews discussed Public Defense Reform and GMA-planning counties.

Commissioner Ihrig opened the conversation of airport tax, defense attorney paramotors, road tax, meeting with Chamber of Commerce regarding ordinances, green energy pros and cons for Klickitat County, funding for jails, and meeting with legislators.

Public Works Director Jeff Hunter discussed gas tax, WASAC, clean energy associations, and an upcoming workshop with Resources Legacy Fund, August 20th, 2026.

Assessor Billi Bare and Treasurer Greg Gallagher expressed interest in assets, priority bills, and clean energy sales tax. Gallagher discussed tiff bills, tax refunds, and surrounding counties experiences with tax shifts.

2:00 PM ADJOURN

- **Approved (M/Andrews, S/Ihrig. Passed unanimously)**

*Reference Document on File. The Board of Commissioners' minutes are action minutes. A digital recording is on file as part of the official record. Please Note: All Commissioner meetings and workshops are open to the public to attend.



Approved: Ron Ihrig
Chairman of the Board





Date