BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AUGUST 18, 2026

MEETING MINUTES

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, August 18, 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. Commissioner Ron Ihrig, Commissioner Todd Andrews and Commissioner Lori Zoller were present.

9:30 AM PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Public Works Director Jeff Hunter and County Engineer Seth Scarola updated the Board on department operations and upcoming projects. Director Hunter presented a request for hiring freeze exception form for the Emergency Management Coordinator/Manager due to the current employee retiring. The Board agreed to move forward with advertising of the position.

9:45 AM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR ROBB VAN CLEAVE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

County Administrator Robb Van Cleave updated the Board on 9-1-1 Dispatch and the Commissioners Chambers.

9:52 AM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Community Development Director Scott Edelman updated the Board on the top 5 Code Compliance cases and the Community Development project list, status and work plan.

Long Range Planner Evan Evangelopoulos provided a presentation regarding the update of the Comprehensive Plan for Klickitat County.

10:31 AM ELECTION UPDATE AUDITOR HEATHER JOBE

Auditor Heather Jobe provided an update on the certified primary election.

10:41 AM Chairman Ihrig called a 15-minute recess, reconvening at 10:56 AM.

10:57 AM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Ihrig announced the Board would be going into executive session with Legal Counsel in accordance with RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i) to discuss threatened and pending litigation for 10 minutes, ending at 11:07 AM. The Board will recess for lunch following the executive session.

LUNCH RECESS

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

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

All three Commissioners were present.

BUSINESS AGENDA

- **Approved (M/Zoller, S/Andrews. Passed unanimously):** To remove the election update at 4:00 PM and to add a discussion of moratoriums for data centers, under unfinished business.

COMMISSIONER MEETING MINUTES

- **Approved (M/Zoller, S/Andrews. Passed unanimously):** Approval of Commissioner meeting minutes for August 11th, 2026, as presented.

CITIZEN COMMENT
Kathy Moco
Gabrielle Gilbert

CONSENT AGENDA
Approved (M/Zoller, S/Andrews. Passed unanimously): Approval of the Consent Agenda with 5 items.
1. Thomas Reuters Westlaw Contract **(C16226)**
2. **Resolution No. 06226** in the matter of providing a grant to the White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District to enhance economic development opportunities
3. Letter of Support for Columbia Cascade Housing Corporation
4. Behavioral Health Carelon Participation Agreement Amendment #10 **(C16326)**
5. Award and Execute a two-year service contract 2026-2028 for the Generator Preventative Maintenance (P.M.) of the Klickitat County Facility generators **(C16426)**

PAYROLL WARRANTS
- **Approved (M/Zoller, S/Andrews. Passed unanimously):** Approval of Payroll Benefit Warrants in the amount of $374,412.83 for the date ending August 17, 2026.

PAY ESTIMATES
- **Approved (M/Zoller, S/Andrews. Passed unanimously):** Approval of Pay Estimate # 2 for Bundle Preventive Maintenance Deck and Expansion Joint Repair CRP 376 and CRP 377 in the amount of $131,699.83.

1:12 PM Budget Manager Heather Gallagher updated the Board on the proposed date for the first discussion of the 2027 budget. The Board agreed to schedule a budget workshop for September 10, 2026, at 9:30 AM in the Commissioners Chambers.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
Commissioner Zoller presented a document containing information, educational materials and a policy statement regarding moratoriums on data centers.

1:42 PM Chairman Ihrig called an 18-minute recess, reconvening at 2:00 for the Board of Health meeting.

2:00 PM BOARD OF HEALTH

2:32 PM Chairman Ihrig reconvened the regular meeting.

The Board had a discussion with Director Erinn Quinn and Board of Health member Sunday Sutton regarding the Board of Health By-Laws Workshop that was cancelled.

2:41 PM MOTION TO RECESS
- **Approved (M/Andrews, S/Zoller. Passed unanimously):** Approval to recess until 6:00 PM for the Public Works Public Hearing regarding the Dallesport Wastewater Rates, to be held at the Dallesport Community Center. Following the rate hearing, the Board will participate in a Question and Answer session. The Board will then recess until Thursday, August 20, 2026, at 9:00 AM for a Workshop.

6:00 PM PUBLIC HEARING
The Board reconvened the regular meeting at the Dallesport Community Center for the Dallesport Water Rate Hearing.

In attendance: All three Board members were present, Public Works Director Jeff Hunter, County Engineer Seth Scarola, Deputy Director of Finance and Administrative Services Pam Beierle, Senior Accountant

Lindsey Garcia, County Administrator Robb Van Cleave, Clerk of the Board LeeAnn Burgin, and many Dallesport Community members.

Chairman Ihrig called the Public Hearing to order regarding the Dallesport Wastewater Rates to order.

Director Jeff Hunter provided a brief overview of the proposed rate increase and recommended a projected 10% increase.

Public Testimony
Leo Walton
Colton and Samantha Smith
Mark Peppel
Robert Brown
Howard Johnston
Kim Green

Director Hunter and the Board clarified questions of the public testimony.

- **Approved (M/Zoller, S/Andrews. Passed unanimously):** To close the Public Hearing to further public testimony and leave written testimony open until Friday, August 21, 2026 at 5:00 PM and reconvene the Public Hearing on Tuesday, August 25, 2026, at 1:30 PM

7:03 PM Chairman Ihrig called a 15-minute recess, reconvening at 7:18 PM.

Commissioner Q &A.
The Board held a question-and-answer discussion regarding educational presentations, Community Council agendas, on-site Ecology visits and findings, and the roles of the County and PUD. The Board discussed having the Community Council provide quarterly reports to ratepayers regarding system operations and logistics.

The Board discussed the bidding process, whether bids resulted in cost savings, and the community's interest in understanding potential hazards and related issues.

The Board also discussed prior sewage spills and information provided by KPUD regarding the certificate holder.

The Board discussed a community benefit program and long-range planning related to bringing businesses, including data centers, into industrial areas.

8:01 PM MOTION TO RECESS
- **Approved (M/Andrews, S/Zoller. Passed unanimously):** Approval to recess until 9:00 AM, on Thursday, August 20, 2026 for a workshop.

August 20, 2026
Workshop

9:00 AM Chairman Ihrig called the workshop to order to have discussions with Resources Legacy Fund, Hilary Lundgren and the WA State Insurance Commission Office.

In Attendance: All three Board members were present, Public Works Director Jeff Hunter, County Engineer Seth Scarola, Emergency Management Manager Frank Hewey, Deputy Director of Facilities Rick Milliren, Deputy Director of Finance and Administrative Services Pam Beierle, Building Inspector Gene Klejelski, Resources Legacy Fund Hilary Lundgren, WA State Insurance Commission Office David Forte, and other Klickitat County citizens.

In Attendance: All three Board members were present, Public Works Director Jeff Hunter, County Engineer Seth Scarola, Emergency Management Manager Frank Hewey, Deputy Director of Facilities Rick Milliren, Deputy Director of Finance and Administrative Services Pam Beierle, Building Inspector Gene Klejelski, Resources Legacy Fund Hilary Lundgren, Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner David Forte, and other Klickitat County citizens.

Senior Policy Advisor David Forte provided a presentation on changes in insurance, including how the perception of risk can affect insurance availability and policy nonrenewal. The Board discussed the Washington FAIR Plan as an insurer of last resort and the pathway to insurability. The Board also discussed the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS), the transition of wildland fires into urban fires, and science-based mitigation measures to help protect homes from ignition. Additional discussion included a system-based approach to protecting homes and eligibility requirements for certification.

9:58 AM RECESS

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

1:00 PM Chairman Ihrig called the workshop to order to have discussions regarding critical areas.

In attendance: All three Commissioners were present, Senior Planner Lori Anderson, Community Development Director Scott Edelman, Trout Lake citizens Pat Arnold, Jeremy, Pat Connelly, Goldendale citizens Adam Fahlenkamp, Lori Whilhite and many other Klickitat County citizens.

The Board held a discussion with citizens regarding critical areas and the types of resources they believe should be considered in Klickitat County. Citizens shared their reasons for living in the County and their perspectives on the importance of protecting the area's natural resources. Discussion included birds, fish, trees, insects, predators, and other wildlife and environmental resources. The discussion provided the Board with an opportunity to hear from members of the public regarding their concerns and priorities related to critical areas.

2:46 PM ADJOURN

- **Approved (M/Zoller, S/Andrews. 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.

09.01.2026

Approved: Ron Ihrig
Chairman of the Board

Date