

ASOTIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

July 24, 2023

Regular Meeting

The Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Asotin, State of Washington, met this date. Present was, Chris Seubert, Chairman, Brian Shinn, Vice-Chair, and Charles Whitman, Member.

Regular meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.

(1)

Seubert added a discussion with representatives from Whitcom to the agenda.

(2)

Shinn moved to approve the minutes of July 17, 2023, as written. Whitman seconded, motion carried.

(3)

Commissioners discussed the lapse in dispatch service over the Fourth of July weekend with Whitcom representatives Bill Tensfeld, Whitman County Emergency Management Director, and Wendy Berrett, Executive Director of Whitcom Regional Dispatch Center. The Commissioners sent Whitcom a letter on July 11, 2023, detailing questions regarding the service issues. During the outage, emergency dispatch service to Asotin County was disrupted. Fire Chief Noel Hardin and Assistant Fire Chief Mike Hohman handled the situation by monitoring the scanner for fires, and Lewiston dispatchers helped with medical calls. The problem was no one from Whitcom or Whitman County informed them about the technical issues. Tensfeld noted that Whitcom could've done better communicating and that everything was going smoothly earlier that week, but problems arose right before the holiday weekend. The consensus was to carry on, instead of delaying the project until November or December. Berrett noted that updates were provided at executive board meetings, but "we just didn't go far enough." An upgrade in 2014 was completed without any problems, and this project was supposed to be similar.

Open to the Public

(4)

Russ Pelleberg, Public Works Director

(5)

Pelleberg asked the Commissioners for permission to change the Stormwater Utility Clerk's hours from 32 to 40 per week.

Shinn moved to approve. Whitman seconded, motion carried.

Pelleberg presented the Consultant Agreement for Engineering Services between Asotin County and Keller Associates, Inc. If approved, Keller will provide Engineer of Record services for the County.

Shinn moved to approve. Whitman seconded, motion carried.

Karst Riggers, Building Official

(6)

Riggers presented Conditions Use Permit 23-12, Kayel Properties, LLC for property located at 1423 Highland Ave, Clarkston. The applicant is looking to demolish the existing residence to construct commercial storage units which requires a conditional use permit. The applicant is also looking to construct duplexes on the property (does not require a conditional use permit) so that the neighborhood maintains more of a residential feel. During the public hearing concerns were raised regarding increased traffic. Riggers noted that storage units do not create much in the way of increased traffic. The Planning Commission recommends approval

Whitman moved to approve. Shinn seconded, motion carried.

Riggers presented the Ordinance for Shoreline Management Act Periodic Review: Findings of Fact and Adoption of Revisions. Ordinance 23-28, an Ordinance Concerning the Shoreline Master Program Periodic Review Required by RCW 90.50.080(4). The new master's program includes Asotin, Columbia, and Garfield counties along with The cities of Clarkston and Asotin, and the Town of Starbuck. The entities went in together and hired a consultant to complete the review and make the state-mandated changes.

Shinn moved to approve. Whitman seconded, motion carried.

Michelle Peters, President/CEO Visit Lewis Clark Valley

(7)

Peters gave an update on the final tourism figures from 2022. The State of Washington figures indicate a 36.5% increase in visitor spending in Asotin County from 2021 to 2022. The average expenditure for overnight visitors is \$131 per day, the third highest in the state. The spending generated \$1.7 Million in local tax revenues.

Jerry Chavez EDFP, President/CEO Valley Vision

(8)

Chavez spoke with Commissioners about Valley Vision's annual report and strategic plan. Valley Vision has been active in the areas of business attraction and retention. They have retained an industry-leading consulting firm to deliver 35 qualified leads in the valley's target demographics which should result in 5 serious leads in the next 12 months.

Other Action Items

(9)

Miscellaneous

- Addendum A to the Indigent Defense Legal Services Contract With John Perry was presented. The amendment adds an additional year to the original contract term.

Whitman moved to approve. Shinn seconded, motion carried

- The Contract for Legal Services for Indigent Persons in Asotin County Superior Court between Asotin County and Kimberly S Traver for Juvenile defense services was presented.

Shinn moved to approve. Whitman seconded, motion carried

- Dianna Kottkey's request for reappointment to the Public Facility District Board was presented.

Whitman moved to approve. Shinn seconded, motion carried

- With the grant funds received Whitman moved to create a full-time Veterans Service Officer position. Shinn seconded, motion carried.

Committee Reports

(10)

Open to the Public

(11)

Media

(12)

July 24, 2023 - Asotin County Commissioner's Regular Proceedings - Continued

Claims approved and ordered paid:

# 001	Current Expense	\$ 29,039.38
# 101	County Road	\$ 8,306.79
# 104	County Fair	\$ 3,567.88
# 109.001	Emergency Services Communications Capital	\$ 33.27
# 115	DUI County	\$ 1,009.41
# 126	Building & Planning	\$ 8,446.22
# 127	Emergency Svcs Communication	\$ 45.00
# 128	Hotel/Motel Tourism	\$ 34,043.48
# 129	Community Services	\$ 7,002.37
# 143	American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)	\$ 280.92
# 310	Capital Projects Jail	\$ 301.00
# 410	Regional Landfill	\$ 2,403.58
# 460	Regional Stormwater	\$ 35,275.70
# 460.003	Stormwater Clarkston Capital	\$ 132.78
# 501	Equip Rental & Rev	\$ 79,784.71
# 502	Central Services	\$ 7,768.05
# 663	Cemetery District	\$ 76.33
# 664	Public Facilities District	\$ 3,188.50
		\$ 220,705.37

The following voucher (warrant) numbers are approved for payment:

28207 through 328319 for a total of \$220,705.37.

The following voucher (warrant) numbers and direct deposit are approved for Payroll:

28059 through 328064 and 22996 through 23044 for \$48,668.78.

Board adjourned at 10:30 a.m. until their next scheduled meeting at 9:00 a.m. on July 31, 2023.

Chris Seubert, Chairman

July 31, 2023

Stacey Harman, Clerk of the Board