



# FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING  
JULY 14, 2020

The Minutes of the Board of Commissioners proceedings are not verbatim. Access to an electronic audio recording of meetings are available on the Franklin County website or upon request.

9:00 a.m.

## **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

Commission Chairman Robert Koch called the Franklin County Commissioners' Regular Board Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., in the Commissioners' Meeting Room in the Franklin County Courthouse located at 1016 North Fourth Avenue, Pasco, Washington.

**Commissioners Present:** Commission Chair Robert Koch and Chair Pro Tem Brad Peck present telephonically, and Member Clint Didier was present in Commissioners room and telephonically.

Commissioner Koch acknowledged that Commissioner Didier did not comply with the Governors orders by being in the Commissioners room.

Upon the request of Commissioner Peck, Attorney Shawn Sant reviewed the Governor's proclamation and the Open Public Meetings Act General Guidance from the Attorney General.

***Revision. The proclamation language stating that meetings are "not conducted in-person" applies to the governing body members as well. Remember, the purpose of the temporary proclamation is to enhance social distancing and reduce person-to-person opportunities for virus transmission. This means board members will not want to place themselves or their agency staff in a position that potentially puts them in physical contact with each other in preparation for or during OPMA meetings. Such contacts could occur, for example, when staff are setting up a meeting room where some board members or the clerk would attend in person, or when board members attend in person even if the public does not. It is possible many governing bodies, even prior to the proclamation, had already arranged for all governing body members to attend remotely during the outbreak in order to implement social distancing.***

Mr. Sant advised the Board on this matter according to written documents. He continues to stand by his recommendations in order to keep the county safe from any possible actions.

Commissioner Didier questioned why the Administrator and Clerk of the Board were able to be in the Commissioners room. Mr. Sant responded that there are special provisions for those facilitating the meetings.

After a brief discussion, Commissioner Didier believed he was not out of compliance, however, for the good of the county he did remove himself to his office in order to continue business.

- ❖ ***Commissioner Koch recessed the meeting at 9:18 a.m. for ten minutes for Commissioner Didier to set up in his office remotely. Commissioner Koch reconvened the meeting at 9:29 a.m.***



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9:29 a.m. **Public Comment**

- Administrator Keith Johnson read a letter sent in by Justin Carey. He was concerned with the citizens of Franklin County and their 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment rights that are being violated. He urged the Commissioners to stand up to the Governors' unconstitutional mandates.
- John Logue voiced his concerns about county transparency and not being able to see the Commissioners through modern technology. He is also concerned with the big box stores being able to open while small businesses cannot open with the same guidelines.
- Lawanda Hatch disagreed with the definition that a meeting is an action. "Meetings" means meetings at which action is taken. "Action" means the transaction of official business. She was also concerned about redistricting she deemed illegal and the lack of a salary commission to adjust the Commissioners salaries. She encouraged the Board to obtain a redistricting and salary commission.
- Jeffery Robinson voiced his concerns about the constant ridicule of electeds'. He called for the meetings to maintain professionalism and shut down name-calling, as it is inappropriate.
- Commissioner Peck wanted to clarify a comment from last week's meeting. A quorum of Commissioners discussing issues constitutes action under the law. The action is not the meeting; however, the discussion is considered action.

9:42 a.m. **Approval of Minutes**

- ❖ *June 16, 2020, 2020 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes were approved as presented.*
- ❖ *June 23, 2020 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes were sent back for verbatim action on a section discussing travel policy.*
- ❖ *June 30, 2020 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes were approved as presented.*
- ❖ *July 2, 2020 Special Commissioners' Meeting Minutes were approved as presented.*

*Left Blank Intentionally*



FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING  
JULY 14, 2020

9:47 a.m. Approval of Salary Clearing and Emergency Management Payroll



1016 N 4th Ave, Pasco,  
WA 99301  
509-545-3502

July 14, 2020

Franklin County Commissioners:

Vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer by RCW 42.24.080, expense reimbursement claims certified by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing, which has been sent to the board members.

Action: As of this date, July 14, 2020 PECK BRAD PECK Telephonically moves that the following warrants be approved for payment.

<u>FUND</u>	<u>WARRANT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
<b>Salary Clearing Payroll:</b>		
Net Payroll Checks	00361685-00361688	2,905.60
Net EFT Payroll Checks	00027468-00027737	461,217.07
Deduction and Contribution Checks	00361694-00361714	495,103.41
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 959,226.08</b>
<b>Emergency Mgmt Payroll:</b>		
Net EFT Payroll Checks	00027464-00027467	\$ 7,842.39
Deduction and Contribution Checks	00361689-00361693	5,846.81
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 13,689.20</b>
	<b>Grand Total All Payrolls</b>	<b>\$ 972,915.28</b>

In the total amount of **\$972,915.28** (\$959,226.08 + 13,689.20)

The motion was seconded by [Signature] and passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

[Signature]  
The attached payroll has been approved by Auditor or Deputy

[Signature]  
Payroll Prepared by Rosa Gomez

❖ *Commissioner Peck moved to approve Salary Clearing and Emergency Management Payroll totaling \$972,915.28. Commissioner Didier seconded and the motion carried.*



**FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**REGULAR MEETING  
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9:47 a.m. **Approval of Fund Expenditure Warrants**

07/14/2020

Franklin County Commissioners:

Vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer by RCW 42.24.080, expense reimbursement claims.

Action: As of this date, 07/14/2020

*Peck* **BRAD PECK Telephonically.**

Move that the following warrants be approved for payment:

Certified by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing, which has been sent to the board members.

Warrants \ Check Numbers:	00361717 - 00361788	\$374,747.65
EFT Check Numbers:	00000532 - 00000536	\$8,372.30
		<u>\$383,119.95</u>

<u>Fund Expenditures</u>	<u>Amount Issued</u>
CURRENT EXPENSE	\$121,917.38
JAIL COMMISSARY	\$17,821.74
ENHANCED 911	\$986.50
COUNTY ROADS	\$152,895.70
SOLID WASTE	\$1,071.23
RENTAL CAR EXCISE TAX	\$7,000.00
ENDING HOMELESSNESS	\$1,006.00
THE HAPO CENTER RENEW & REPLAC	\$226.81
THE HAPO CENTER	\$2,819.80
FRANKLIN COUNTY RV PARK	\$10,918.47
MOTOR VEHICLE	\$66,456.32

In the amount of: \$383,119.95

The motion was seconded by *Didier*

And passed by a vote of: 3 to 0

Reviewed by the County Administrator: *Jeff Burckhard*

Jeff A Burckhard  
The attached vouchers have been approved by Auditor or Deputy:  
Jeff Burckhard

*Peter Gadomski*  
Vouchers Audited By:  
Peter Gadomski

❖ **Commissioner Peck moved to approve Fund Expenditures audited and certified by the auditing officer for warrants prepared for the week of July 14, 2020 for payment totaling \$383,119.95. Commissioner Didier seconded and the motion carried.**



# FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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## 9:48 a.m. Approval of Consent Agenda

1. Resolution 2020-151 Agreement PSC-ARC-SO-DO-00 between Benton Franklin Human Services and Arc of Tri-Cities
2. Resolution 2020-152 Professional Services Contract Between Joseph White And Franklin County District Court
3. Resolution 2020-153 Clerk's Office Staffing Structure Change

❖ *Commissioner Peck moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Didier seconded and the motion carried.*

## 9:50 a.m. Administration Office Business

- Administrator Keith Johnson reviewed the status of the CARES Act Allocation with the Board. Mr. Johnson submitted the agreement to the Department of Commerce last week, and is waiting on the final signatures prior to the allocation of funds. There are several groups requesting reimbursement for personal protection equipment (PPE) and other items that are required in response of the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Benton Franklin Juvenile Justice Center requested approximately \$30,000 for technology upgrades and PPE supplies.
  - Franklin County Jail and Court system requested approximately \$150,000 for technology upgrades and PPE supplies.
  - Franklin County itself is requesting \$100,000 for technology upgrades, PPE supplies and modifications to offices.
  - Benton Franklin Health District has a funding gap after FEMA funds and State Disaster funds of approximately 3.3 million dollars total. Franklin County proposes to pay 1 million dollars towards the gap.
  - It is proposed to leave a contingency of \$90,000 for others who may have additional funding needs.
  - Mr. Johnson recommended using the remainder of approximately \$3,927,400 for economic recovery.
- Mr. Johnson brought forth four proposals for Social Media contract. The four included; Focal Point by Derrick Nelson, Artmil by Dennis Miller, Stevenson Advertising by Kathy Balcum and Tri-Cities Public Relations by Mike Paoli. Mr. Johnson recommended the Board to give him authorization to move forward with a contract for Mike Paoli.
- Mr. Johnson discussed the COVID-19 testing site at HAPO Center with the Board and the public concerns that have risen in regards to the close proximity to the Ballot drop boxes. The COVID-19 testing site will be moved further away from the ballot drop box in order to accommodate voters.



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10:19 a.m. Public Comment

- Lawanda Hatch agreed that moving the COVID-19 testing site would also accommodate more vehicles for the testing process. She voiced her opinion of whether a discussion constitutes as action in a meeting.
- Ana Ruiz Peralta requested that bi-lingual capacity be included in the Social Media firm.
- Mike Knudsen requested the Commissioners meetings be accomplished using the vast free technology available. He prefers to see the people who are talking in the meeting.
- Ana Ruiz Peralta agreed with Mr. Knudsen’s comment on seeing the Commissioners through the web is preferred and the capacity to do so is available and beneficial.
- Attorney Shawn Sant clarified what constitutes actions by reading RCW 42.32.020 paragraph 3 in which discussions are considered an action.
- Commissioner Peck informed the Board that One America, and others are suing Yakima County over their voting process and he acknowledged that Franklin County is set up similarly.
- Commissioner Didier reported of a County in Colorado that stood its ground and opened with disregard to the law. He hoped Franklin County would take a stance and support equality and fairness to the small businesses in order to open like the big box stores.

**Adjourn**

With no further business to bring before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date