



**FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**MARCH 2, 2021**

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 Clint Didier 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 Clint Didier, Chair Pro Tem Rocky Mullen and Member Brad Peck

9:01 a.m. **Approval of Minutes**

*January 12, 2021 Commissioners Meeting Minutes*

*February 16, 2021 Commissioners Meeting Minutes*

❖ *Commissioners' Meeting Minutes were approved as presented.*

9:02 a.m. **Closed Record Hearing- Zone Change 2020-02 Kohler Rezone**

AHBL Contract Planner Nicole Stickney Provided background information on the ZC 2020-02 and SEPA 2020-04 request. The parcel to be re-zoned is located within the "Columbia River West Area" as identified in the Comprehensive Plan; the land use designation is "Rural Shoreline". There is a small sliver of land on two parcels that carries the AP-20 zoning designation. The re-zoning application was advertised to the public via adopted public notice procedures and the Planning Commissioner, after an open record public hearing recommends approval of the application.

❖ *After discussion, Commissioner Mullen moved to approve Zone Change 2020-02 under the Ordinance 01-2021. Commissioner Peck seconded and the motion carried.*

9:15 a.m. **Appeal Hearing-Denial of Short Plat 2021-03 Melissa Kelly**

AHBL Contract Planner Nicole Stickney gave a background on the denial for Short Plat 2021-03-Melissa Kelly. Ms. Stickney discussed the legalities of the zoning of AP-20. The Board may determine to approve the short plat as proposed, based on their authority to deem a specific case of residential subdivision as appropriate.

• *After discussion and hearing from Melissa Kelly on the matter, Commissioner Peck asked Ms. Stickney to read the Findings of Fact and authorization of the Board to approve this proposal. Commissioner Peck moved to approve Resolution 2021-043 as presented. Commissioner Mullen seconded. After discussion, the motion carried.*

9:38 a.m. **Presentation on the Franklin County Comprehensive Plan Update**

AHBL Contract Planner Nicole Stickney explained that she would be bringing a series of small presentations on the Comprehensive Plan before the Board. In the first presentation, she talked about the background and refreshed the Commissioners on the purpose of the Comprehensive Plan.



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In doing so, she addressed the areas of; intent, comprehensive plan, the elements, public input, population and the legislative process. Ms. Stickney discussed the Urban Growth Areas, which included; Ag resource – Quincy Fields, Ag resource- Prime Irrigated Land and Ag resource Prime Drylands. The final steps for the adoption of an Ordinance for the Comprehensive Plan Update includes; Aviation Consultation, SEPA Review, 60-day Commerce Review, Public Hearings and Planning Commission Recommendation.

## 10:04 a.m. **Public Comment**

- Taylor agreed with the dismissal of Administrator. He had concerns on the dominion machines.
- Jeff Robinson had concerns of the motion for dismissal of the Administrator, and did not understand why. He had concerns about his public request of records and the Franklin County website.
- Steve Bauman informed the Board that there is a new state order for energy requirements that will add between twelve to fifteen thousand dollars to every single home built in Franklin County. There is also a concern with the use of natural gas in our area. He hoped the Commissioners would take into consideration the land the State purchased on the east side of Pasco that owners have no intention to develop when the Comprehensive plan is being developed. Mr. Bauman would like to improve the county website and get on an email list.
- George Dockstader congratulated Commissioner Peck and Commissioner Mullen on their positions. Mr. Dockstader had concerns on the county website, and would like to be on an email list. He would like to see evening meetings as well. He was concerned with infrastructure and bridges. Mr. Dockstader would like to see an expansion on R-1 zoning.

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10:20 a.m. **Approval of Fund Expenditure Warrants**

03/02/2021

Franklin County Commissioners:

Vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer by RCW 42.24.080, expense reimbursement claims.  
 Action: As of this date, 03/02/2021 *Brad Peck*  
 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:	00368711 - 00368796	\$547,353.95
EFT Check Numbers:	00000749 - 00000752	\$9,056.26
		<u>\$556,410.21</u>

Fund Expenditures	Amount Issued
CURRENT EXPENSE	\$285,921.41
AUDITOR O & M	\$688.09
ELECTION EQUIP REVOLVING	\$5,728.32
CRIME VICTIMS WITNESS	\$3,398.41
ENHANCED 911	\$9,222.42
COUNTY ROADS	\$226,184.87
ENDING HOMELESSNESS	\$12,397.68
BF MENTAL HEALTH	\$616.25
THE HAPO CENTER	\$938.46
FRANKLIN COUNTY RV PARK	\$3,304.02
MOTOR VEHICLE	\$8,010.28

In the amount of: \$556,410.21

The motion was seconded by: Brad Peck  
*Approved Telephonically*

And passed by a vote of: 3 to 0

Reviewed by the County Administrator: *Matt Beaton*  
 The attached vouchers have been approved by Auditor or Deputy:  
 Matt Beaton

*PAV*  
 Vouchers Audited By:  
 Paola Mendoza

[www.co.franklin.wa.us/auditor](http://www.co.franklin.wa.us/auditor)

❖ *Commissioner Mullen moved to approve Fund Expenditures audited and certified by the auditing officer for warrants prepared for the week of March 2, 2021 for payment totaling \$556,410.21. Commissioner Peck seconded and the motion carried.*



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10:21 a.m. **Approval of Consent Agenda**

1. Resolution 2021-044 AVCaptureAll Subscription Agreement Amendment
2. Resolution 2021-045 Smarsh Agreement-Cell Phone Archiving Service
3. Resolution 2021-046 Amendment II to Sheriff's Support Collective Bargaining
4. Resolution 2021-047 Intra-budget Transfer of \$25,000 in the Sheriff's Office
5. Resolution 2021-048 Contract with R&B Fleck for Medical in Corrections

❖ *Commissioner Mullen moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Peck seconded with discussion and the motion carried.*

10:22 a.m. **Administration Office Business**

- Administrator Keith Johnson discussed sending a Letter to Congressman Newhouse Regarding Snake River Dams.

❖ *The Commissioners were in consensus to send the letter.*

- Horse Heaven Wind Farm-Scout Clear Energy is proposing a wind farm in the Horse Heaven Hills area. The Commissioners discussed the matter

❖ *Commissioner Mullen abstained from the decision to send a letter due to perceived conflict of interest. Commissioner Peck and Commissioner Didier would like to move forward with a letter in objection to the Wind Farm.*

- Hanford Communities would like to send a letter expressing their support for the Department of Energy's efforts to continue evaluating its high-level radioactive waste (HLW) interpretation.

❖ *The Commissioners were in consensus to authorize the Commissioner Chair Didier to sign the letter on behalf of Franklin County.*

10:33 a.m. **Public Comment**

- Michelle Andres had concerns on the breaching of Snake River Dams. Guy Norman is a main contact to address this matter. Ms. Andres is strongly opposes bill 4205 and opposed to the wind farms as well.
- Lawanda Hatch is opposed to wind farms.

10:39 a.m. **Additional or Unfinished Business**

- Administrator Keith Johnson discussed Ethics Policy and would need to be discussed further with our bargaining units. Mr. Johnson is also reaching out to MRSC to learn how to move forward on this.

❖ *Renewal of Membership to the Columbia Basin Development was approved by the Commissioners.*



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## 10:45 a.m. **Public Comment**

- Jeff Robinson expressed his concerns with Potts and Associates and the manner in which they report the legislative bills to the Commissioners.
- Leanne expressed her concerns with children not being able to go to school. She suggested that the Board look into what is happening to these children and the negative effects it is having on them. She also encouraged sports activities to resume as well.

Commissioner Peck thanked Leanne for coming before the Board and sharing her concerns. He agreed with her statements and suggested that the School Board is the avenue to address this matter.

Commissioner Mullen also agreed with her comments and was willing to support her as she addresses the School Board to reopen schools.

Commissioner Didier suggested that Leanne run for a School Board position in the future.

- Steve Bauman encouraged the Commissioners to ask questions of Scout Clear Energy, such as what is the cost of the machine, maintenance, the replacement and longevity of the windmill. He would like to see more evening Commissioner Meetings.
- Commissioner Mullen suggested allowing the Electeds' to come in during a Commissioners Meeting to give us a brief update, concerns or even an acknowledgement of outstanding work of employees.
- ❖ *Commissioner Mullen made a motion to suspend the hiring of the position in the Administration Office. Commissioner Didier seconded and the motion carried 2:1 with Commissioner Peck opposed.*

## 11:01 a.m. **Public Comment**

Michelle Andres let the previous public comment person know that the School Board meetings are at 6:30 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays in Pasco

## 11:02 a.m. **Executive Session**

RCW 42.30.110 (1) (i) to discuss with legal counsel: litigation or potential litigation.

Commissioner Didier recessed into Executive Session at 11:02 a.m., for up to 10 minutes to discuss with legal counsel regarding litigation or potential litigation. The following were invited to attend; Commissioner Didier, Commissioner Mullen, Commissioner Peck, Administrator Keith Johnson, Attorney Shawn Sant, Attorney Jennifer Johnson, and Clerk of the Board Karin Milham.

Commissioner Didier reconvened the Regular Meeting at 11:12 a.m. with no action taken.



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11:12 a.m. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Peck spoke of the Assistant Administrator position and opposed the delay in hiring. Commissioner Mullen addressed his thoughts on delaying the hiring of this position.

Commissioner Didier would like to see all Commissioners converse with Dr. Person, encourage her to emphasize the importance of opening our schools. Commissioner Mullen agreed with Commissioner Didier on opening schools and expressed concerns from the public on the limited attendance to outdoor school sports with large venues. Commissioner Peck agreed that Dr. Person needed to communicate her position as a professional to the School Board but felt it was not the Commissioners place to influence or pressure School Boards to take action.

**Adjourn**

With no further business to bring before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date