



FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING AND
PUBLIC HEARING
APRIL 6, 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.

7:00 p.m.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Commission Chairman Clint Didier called the Franklin County Commissioners' Regular Board Meeting to order at 7:00 p.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

7:00 p.m. **Potts and Associates Legislative Updates**

Zak Kennedy announced the deadline for bills in the fiscal committee was Friday. The ending date for the session is anticipated for April 25, 2021. The Legislature is finding it challenging to implement the incoming Federal money of almost two billion dollars.

Other items discussed included:

- Blake decision (illicit drugs possession), which the legislators continue to review.
- Transportation bills
- E2SHB 1152 Creating Comprehensive Public Health Districts
- ESHB 1241 Planning Under Growth Management Act
- ESHB 1332 Concerning Property Tax Deferral During Covid-19 Pandemic

7:29 p.m. Approval of Minutes

- *March 23, 2021 Commissioners Meeting Minutes approved as presented.*

7:30 p.m. **Coroner's Office Update**

Coroner Curtis McGary introduced himself and his staff, Chief Deputy Coroner Reuben Marquez and Nicole Lee Investigator. Throughout his PowerPoint presentation, he explained the duties and responsibilities of his position.

- A chart compared the 2019 versus 2020 on the manner of death.
- Area of jurisdiction was described as 1,265 square miles and population of 96,441.
- Goals and Accomplishments: American Board Medicolegal Death Investigator Certification, International Association of Medical Examiners and Coroner's Certification, obtained transport vehicle, and obtained TruNarc Field Drug Analyzer, Rapid Urine Drug Test
- Overcoming COVID-19 challenges in the workplace.
- Suicide by age chart
- 2020 Toxicology Report and goals to improve turnaround time for test results.
- Future Goals include establishing a budget line item for a death certificate review fee and purchasing a Randox machine.

Discussion ensued between the Commissioners and the Coroner.



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7:55 p.m. Public Hearing

Establishing the Franklin County Citizens' Commission on Salaries for Elected Officials

Human Resources Director Carlee Nave presented the Board with an ordinance to establish a commission addressing salaries for Elected Officials. Ms. Nave informed the Board that the state sets a minimum only; the commission would be responsible for the final set salary outcome. In the past, the Board has held the authority to set the salaries of other elected.

- Lawanda Hatch hoped the salary commission would not give more than what the county could afford.
- Steve Simmons was concerned about the special interest members on the salary commission and influencing the outcome.
- Steve Bauman inquired on how the salary commission would be established.
- John Logue was concerned with the employees setting their salaries.
- Michelle Andres opposed salary commission, stating it adds another layer of bureaucracy.
- Coroner Curtis McGary is in favor of a salary commission, however, he hoped that the commission would take into consideration the work performed by each elected.

❖ *With no other comments, Commissioner Didier closed the public hearing at 8:20 p.m.*

❖ *Commissioner Peck moved to approve Ordinance 04-2021. Commissioner Mullen seconded. Commissioner Peck noted that the process needed to be refined and that would be part of the packet. All approved and the motion carried.*

8:21 p.m. Public Comment

- Lawanda Hatch asked the Coroner if family could pay for quicker toxicology tests. Mr. McGary did not see this as an option at this time. Ms. Hatch also expressed her concerns on the redistricting process. She is in favor of a redistricting commission.
- Steve Simmons was concerned with the wind farms and encouraged the Commissioners to strongly, oppose windmills.
- John Logue thanked the Coroner for his presentation and his work.
- Richard Dorman opposed the dairy expansion. He was concerned that he was not able obtain water to his property but the neighbor did. He thanked the Board for having meetings on video for the public to view.
- Michelle Andres addressed the Board to get better at working together for the county.
- Justin Carey (via phone) opposed Planned Parenthood and he encouraged the Commissioners to find independence from federal money. He also asked that the Commissioners make their decisions based on the Constitution, not based on fear of a lawsuit or losing federal money.



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- Scott English (via phone) requested dust control from the county due to health issues his cattle are exhibiting.
- Kevin Hinen (via phone) supports the dairy expansion.
- Daniel Martinez is concerned with the dust on his vineyard crops causing a food safety problem. He requested dust control near his property.
- Steve Bauman thanked the Coroner for his professionalism while handling final protocol of a close family member. He approves of establishing a salary commission. Mr. Bauman also supports Case Vandermeulen's dairy expansion.

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8:48 p.m. **Approval of Fund Expenditure Warrants**

04/06/2021

Franklin County Commissioners:

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

Action: As of this date, 04/06/2021

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: 00369702 - 00369779 \$239,810.17
EFT Check Numbers: -

\$239,810.17

Fund Expenditures	Amount Issued
CURRENT EXPENSE	\$196,430.83
AUDITOR O & M	\$29,359.20
JAIL COMMISSARY	\$2,510.81
ENHANCED 911	\$2,701.61
COUNTY ROADS	\$55.09
VETERAN'S ASSISTANCE	\$227.32
ENDING HOMELESSNESS	\$1,430.67
BF MENTAL HEALTH	\$543.75
THE HAPO CENTER	\$2,500.77
FRANKLIN COUNTY RV PARK	\$1,371.67
MOTOR VEHICLE	\$2,678.45

In the amount of: \$239,810.17

The motion was seconded by: Ben Peck

And passed by a vote of: 3 to 0

Reviewed by the County Administrator: Keith

Matt Beaton
The attached vouchers have been approved by Auditor or Deputy:
Matt Beaton

Paola Mendoza
Vouchers Audited By:
Paola Mendoza

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 April 6, 2021 for payment totaling \$239,810.17. Commissioner Peck seconded and the motion carried.*



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8:49p.m. **Approval of Salary Clearing and Emergency Management Payroll**



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

April 6, 2021

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, April 6, 2021
moves that the following warrants be approved for payment.

<u>FUND</u>	<u>WARRANT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Salary Clearing Payroll:		
Net Payroll Checks	00369675-00369677	\$ 5,427.14
Net EFT Payroll Checks	00032667-00032929	\$ 458,424.92
Deduction and Contribution Checks	00369683-00369701	\$ 495,509.91
	Total	\$ 959,361.97
Emergency Mgmt Payroll:		
Net EFT Payroll Checks	00032663-00032666	\$ 7,978.92
Deduction and Contribution Checks	00369678-00369682	\$ 5,861.14
	Total	\$ 13,840.06
Grand Total All Payrolls		\$ 973,202.03

In the total amount of **\$973,202.03**

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

The attached payroll has been approved by Auditor or Deputy

Payroll Prepared by Peter Gadomski

❖ **Commissioner Mullen moved to approve Salary Clearing and Emergency Management Payroll totaling \$973,202.03. Commissioner Peck seconded and the motion carried.**



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8:50 p.m. **Approval of Consent Agenda**

1. Resolution 2021-073 Local Agency Agreement County Road Project 625 Guardrail Blanton, R-170, Columbia River Road
2. Resolution 2021-074 Local Agency Prospectus Safety-LED Signs Dynamic Signals Reflector Post 624
3. Resolution 2021-075 Mutual Use of Jail Facilities with Benton County and Rescind Resolution 2021-063
4. Resolution 2021-076 Metro Inter Local Agreement

❖ *Commissioner Mullen moved to approve the Consent Agenda 1-4. Commissioner Peck seconded. Commissioner Didier had a question on item #3. After discussion, the motion carried.*

8:52 p.m. **Administration Office Business**

Administrator Keith Johnson spoke on behalf of Public Works Director Matt Mahoney in response to a request from Representative Dan Newhouse in regards to federally funded projects for Franklin County. The outline deadline for projects is due by May 7, 2021. Mr. Johnson will discuss this further with Matt Mahoney.

9:02 p.m. **Public Comment**

- Lawanda Hatch continued with her comments on the redistricting process.

9:07 p.m.

❖ *Commissioner Mullen moved to terminate the employment contract with the County Administrator Keith Johnson effective immediately. Commissioner Didier seconded with discussion.*

❖ *Commissioner Peck moved to table the matter until next week. Commissioner Mullen seconded and the motion carried 2-1 with Commissioner Didier opposed.*

Commissioner Peck rebutted previous comments on the redistricting process.

Adjourn

With no further business to bring before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Chair

Clerk of the Board

Date